



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 02 October 2014

HMIC Report – Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to report to the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (“the Constabulary”) response to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary’s (HMIC) Report ‘*Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time*’. This report and the minutes of the Board meeting will enable the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) to fulfil his statutory duty under Section 55 of the Police Act 1996 to comment on the HMIC report and send published comments to the Home Secretary, with a copy to HMIC.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the contents of this paper.

3. Background

3.1 Between January and April 2014, HMIC carried out inspection fieldwork across all 43 police forces in England and Wales. This inspection, called ‘Making best use of police time’ (now known as ‘Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time’) assessed three areas of police work these being:

- how well Forces are preventing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- how Forces respond to reports of crime, including investigating crime and bringing offenders to justice; and
- how well Forces are freeing up the time of their staff so they can focus on core policing functions

2. National Context

- 2.1 HMIC published a national report covering the findings from their inspection of all 43 police forces, accompanied by a data sheet showing individual force level findings. In addition, HMIC wrote to both the Chief Constable and the Commissioner outlining the finding specifically relating to the Constabulary. It is worth noting that some items noted in the data sheet appear to contradict their written findings sent to the Chief Constable and the Commissioner, and this is being queried with HMIC.
- 2.2 As a result of the 43 police force inspection, HMIC made 40 recommendations at a national level - not all of which applied to the Constabulary. Some of the recommendations related to specific Forces; some related to the introduction of common systems and processes at a national level, which will require joint work between the Home Office, the College of Policing and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 2.3 The HMIC report received significant national media attention, particularly the HMIC criticisms of Forces in a number of areas:
- the significant variation in the way in which Forces approach police attendance in response to calls from the public
 - the fact that almost half of all Forces were unable to provide details of the reported crimes that they had attended
 - in some Forces crime reported over the telephone showed little evidence of being investigated and call-handlers in some forces were encouraging victims to carry out their own investigations.
 - almost half of all Forces were unable to tell inspectors either the number of named suspects yet to be arrested, or the number of suspects who had failed to answer police bail
 - most Forces only have a basic understanding of their demand and the performance and workload of their officers and staff
 - Officers using inadequate technology and IT systems

3. Cambridgeshire Constabulary Findings

- 3.1 The findings for the Constabulary were overwhelmingly positive, in contrast to some of the national findings. The HMIC found that the Constabulary has:

Preventing crime

- an effective approach to preventing crime and a strong preventative policing ethos, driven by Chief Officers and supported by the Commissioner.

Attending crimes and incidents

- an attendance policy, which is based on an assessment of threat, risk and harm, which was effective and well understood by staff.
- clear policies and procedures to enable it to consistently identify vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

- clear, robust arrangements to manage its outstanding named suspects and offenders, and a very well managed Integrated Offender Management scheme.

Freeing up time

- a good understanding of demand, and as being at the leading edge in its approach to the use of new technology.

4. Response to the HMIC Report

4.1 The Constabulary will assess all 40 recommendations and will be formulating an agreed response to each. Progressing recommendations will be carried out through an action plan, which will be owned by the Deputy Chief Constable and shared with the Commissioner.

4.2 Areas where actions are likely to be progressed are:

- Increased use of E-CINS as a multi-agency case management database;
- More formalised crime prevention training for frontline staff;
- A review of systems to consider monitoring of levels of attendance at reports of crime;
- Consideration of how the Constabulary can better understand how staff are spending their time.

5. Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the contents of this paper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	<p>HMIC Report 'Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time'</p> <p>HMIC Letter to Chief Constable Parr with local findings from 'Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time'</p> <p>HMIC Data Return 'Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time'</p>
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