



Police and Crime Commissioner  
**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH**  
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Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

**HMICFRS Report: An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.**

Under Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, as Police and Crime Commissioner I am pleased to provide my formal response to the report by HMICFRS entitled 'An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.'

Both the Chief Constable and I welcome the publication of this report and the Chief Constable's response to the recommendations is shown at Appendix 1.

Thankfully homicides in Cambridgeshire are rare, but we are not complacent.

The Constabulary works closely with the collaborated Major Crime Unit to ensure that organisational learning is taken forward at the appropriate level.

The partnership arrangements in Cambridgeshire are designed to ensure that lessons can be learned more widely, where appropriate. This includes through the Safeguarding Boards and the High Harms Board which I chair, focusing on serious violence, the Harm to Hope drugs strategy, Violence Against Women and Girls, and serious and organised crime. It is at this meeting that we also take a strategic oversight of the learning which comes from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Locally my office works closely with partners to ensure this learning informs future commissioning arrangements. A number of recently funded posts raising awareness of domestic abuse and offering support were directly introduced as a result of learning from DHRs. This includes a specialist post within Peterborough Women's Aid reaching out to members of our Lithuanian Community.

Further upstream, in response to a number of DHRs involving adult children taking the lives of their parents, I have commissioned an early intervention programme to tackle Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse. This programme is not only showing groundbreaking reductions in police demand but aims to challenge behaviours before they become ingrained.

I hope this response, and that of the Chief Constable, provides reassurance regarding the commitment of both myself and Cambridgeshire Constabulary to homicide prevention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Darryl Preston', written in a cursive style.

**Darryl Preston**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

Enc - Appendix 1 – Cambridgeshire Constabulary's response to HMICFRS report 'An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.'

**Cambridgeshire Constabulary's response to HMICFRS report 'An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.'**

**Recommendations:**

**Recommendation 1**

By 1 December 2023, the Home Office should make sure that forces can provide it with relevant, detailed information on each homicide either via the online portal or through another secure method. The Home Office should update its guidance to police forces accordingly.

**Force response:** This recommendation is for the Home Office.

**Recommendation 2**

By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations.

This will help the force to:

- better understand the pattern of death reports across the force area, drawing on force data and information gathered by other organisations, including the NHS and local authorities; and
- identify any linked series of death reports.

**Force response:** Cambridgeshire Constabulary is collaborated with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary (BCH) and our homicide work is carried out by the collaborated Major Crime Unit (MCU). Within this department work has already been completed to produce reports showing this data and information and will continue to be reviewed and progressed to ensure effective prevention work in this area.

MCU will be increasing the frequency of reporting to BCH from an annual to quarterly basis. Previously MCU had prepared and circulated an annual product which reported on trends over the preceding 12 months. This has been reviewed and

deemed not to be agile enough to influence any force level tactical activity, therefore to better support forces the reporting will be increased to quarterly with the product providing key detail and context. Reporting will consist of analytical commentary and identification of emerging trends for homicide offences.

Across Cambs we currently have a wide network of partnership engagement around prevention and vulnerability that not only elicit community focused data and perspective but also drive partnership activity. MACE meetings, Clear Hold Build leadership, initiation of a new CE Hub and Prevention and Vulnerability Hubs as well as four separate DA and stalking intervention programmes ensure that we have farsighted strategies across the partnership for reducing serious harm and, crucially, we have mechanisms in place that emulate best practice from the Homicide Prevention Framework.

While the subordinate tactical activity won't be rehearsed here, data is captured, analysed and shared around all of the above areas but in particular around CE, DA (in dedicated perpetrator assessment panels) and our Op Guardian habitual knife crime cohorts. This data is also used to support a wealth of initiatives under Safer Streets including the training of door-staff, CCTV operatives and taxi personnel to reduce and eliminate violence against women in the night time economy. Our ability to link series of events is enhanced by additional scrutiny in our Prevention and Vulnerability Group which provides an additional layer of strategic oversight to ensure and promote pattern identification across five key groups of high harm offenders.

Additionally, Cambridgeshire are currently devising a new Homicide Prevention Strategy that both distils existing preventative activity in this area and gives clear guidance on the planned future steps that can and will be implemented as part of our coordinated strategy to reduce homicide within thematic or demographic areas. The above analytical reports will be pivotal parts of informing this iterative process of evaluation and strategic and tactical (preventative) policing response.

### **Recommendation 3**

By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.

**Force response:** Work is currently underway regionally to ensure an effective approach is in place with a single approach for the collaboration looking to being agreed by the end of 2023.

Homicide rapid debriefs will be undertaken by MCU resources, in partnership with Cambridgeshire and our external partners. A single searchable repository is now available for existing homicide debrief reports and it will be extended to include near miss debrief material. As more debrief (and learning opportunity) material will be generated, MCU will be re-introducing the Organisational Review Meeting due to the anticipated increase in both near miss and homicide rapid review material. This will allow MCU to be in a much better position to present and share learning across BCH.

Furthermore, Cambridgeshire work with partners through the High Harms Board led by the Assistant Chief Constable to ensure that incidents and learning are reviewed and acted upon to reduce serious violence and homicide as set out within the Forces Corporate Plan.

Within our Homicide Prevention Strategy within Cambridgeshire, we will ensure a continued breadth of governance - both internal and partnership – that will allow for the widest possible engagement and input. This will include – and already includes - DASV, Child and Adult Safeguarding, CE Governance and Prevention and Vulnerability Group to ensure we absorb feedback and learning from all areas of DA, VAWG, Rapid Reviews, Child Death Overview Panels, DHRs and Safeguarding Child Reviews – and crucially, be in a position to tasked out and track how this learning is being implemented.

The above strategy will complement our existing Vulnerability, Prevention, Offender and Victim / Witness strategies. They are further strengthened by our sudden death

policy and Inquest Management protocol that ensure organisational learning and risk are distilled at as early a stage as possible from fatal incidents within Cambs.

Our Crime Standards Delivery Group and Prevention and Vulnerability Groups also allow for a high-level forum for assessment of the progress of our Serious Violence Duty - led by a senior member of police staff. They also allow for the scrutiny of, and extraction of learning from, our investigative performance within missing from home, DA and other violent and vulnerability related crime and our identification and response to risk through the use of civil and protective orders.