



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 17 December 2014

## **HMIC Report – Crime Inspection**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) undertook their Crime Inspection of Cambridgeshire Constabulary ("the Constabulary") in September 2014. HMIC's report '*Crime Inspection 2014 – Cambridgeshire Constabulary*' was published on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
- 1.2 The inspection looked at how effective the Constabulary is at cutting crime, specifically:
  - at preventing offending and reducing crime;
  - at investigating offending; and
  - at tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 1.3 The fieldwork for the crime inspection was assessed under effectiveness pillar of HMIC's Police Effectiveness Efficiency Legitimacy (PEEL) programme. The PEEL assessment draws together all the information HMIC has discovered through inspections, monitoring and consultation in the previous 12 months. HMIC use this evidence to produce an assessment of how police forces have performed, which in some areas will include a graded judgment of 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires improvement' or 'Inadequate'.

### **2. Cambridgeshire Constabulary Findings**

- 2.1 The findings for the Constabulary were extremely positive, and graded as 'Good' in each of the three key areas inspected (as given at 1.2 above).

## 2.2 Key findings were that:

- The bedrock of policing in Cambridgeshire rests firmly with safer neighbourhood teams in six policing districts which retain a strong identity with the county and its communities.
- The Constabulary has developed sophisticated joint working arrangements with the County Council, District Councils and the Unitary Authority to support victims who are vulnerable or repeatedly targeted.
- Through a strong focus on the most vulnerable and individuals with a propensity to cause most harm in society, the Constabulary is making Cambridgeshire a safer place.
- That the Constabulary is skilled at tackling criminality at all levels.
- The Constabulary has a longstanding track record of excellent victim care. 'Protecting those who will be hurt or hurt again' is one of the Chief Constable's principles and this resonates soundly with front line staff.
- The Constabulary's policing style (based on threat, risk and harm) is geared to identifying early indicators of victimisation and speedy redress. This is universally welcomed by partners as the best method of supporting residents and preventing unnecessary criminalisation of perpetrators. Partners believe the police are the most adept at identifying these indicators and consider the service they provide to communities is first class.

2.3 As part of their inspection, HMIC also took the opportunity to consider how well police forces dealt with domestic abuse. This followed on from HMIC's domestic abuse inspections of all police forces in 2013 and 2014. HMIC recognised the progress made by the Constabulary in this area, noting that *"The crime inspection found evidence that Cambridgeshire had improved its approach to investigating domestic abuse and protecting victims."*

2.4 HMIC also note that they found an inconsistent approach to investigation plans and their supervision, and made the following recommendations that the Constabulary, should within three months of the report being published:

2.4.1 Develop and commence the implementation of an action plan to improve the quality of investigations which will ensure that:

- (a) investigating officers, especially within neighbourhood teams, are aware of the standard required and have the professional skills and expertise to fulfil their duties;
- (b) supervisors know what is expected of them in driving up standards;
- (c) the right resources are targeted in the right areas; and
- (d) there is appropriate monitoring and oversight of investigative quality and timeliness.

2.4.2 In addition, within six months of the report being published the Constabulary should ensure that there are methods in place to share learning and good practice across the Constabulary.

### 3. Response to the HMIC Report

- 3.1 The Constabulary accepts the recommendations made by HMIC and will be progressing these through the Business Crime Area, under Detective Superintendent Kevin Vanterpool. Progress against the recommendation will be monitored by the Constabulary's Operational Review Panel.
- 3.2 Recommendations made by HMIC following the Domestic Abuse Inspection continue to be delivered against through the Domestic Abuse Action Plan agreed with HMIC in September 2014.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	HMIC Report ' <i>Cambridgeshire Crime Inspection 2014 – Cambridgeshire Constabulary</i> ' <a href="http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/cambridgeshire-crime-inspection-2014.pdf">http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/cambridgeshire-crime-inspection-2014.pdf</a>
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