



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 25 February 2016

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY – 'PEEL: POLICE EFFECTIVENESS 2015 (VULNERABILITY)' REPORT

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Business Coordination Board ("the Board") with the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) Report 'PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2015 (Vulnerability)'. This report 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 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 HMIC undertook their Effectiveness (Vulnerability) Inspection of Cambridgeshire Constabulary ("the Constabulary") in July 2015. HMIC's report 'PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2015 (Vulnerability) – Cambridgeshire Constabulary' was published on 15 December 2015.

3.2 As part of its annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), HMIC's effectiveness programme assessed how well the Constabulary keeps people safe and reduces crime. Within this programme, HMIC's vulnerability inspection examined the overall question, 'How effective are forces at protecting from harm those who are vulnerable, and supporting victims?'

- 3.3 HMIC considered how the Constabulary responds to and supports missing and absent children and victims of domestic abuse, and assessed how well prepared the Constabulary is to respond to and safeguard children at risk of sexual exploitation.
- 3.4 The inspection looked at four areas:
- How well does the Constabulary identify those who are vulnerable and assess their level of risk and need?
 - How well does the Constabulary respond to vulnerable victims?
 - How well does the subsequent police action and work with partners keep victims safe?
 - How well does the Constabulary respond to and safeguard specific vulnerable groups (missing and absent children & victims of domestic abuse); and how well prepared is it to tackle child sexual exploitation?
- 3.5 The inspection also followed up HMIC's 2014 domestic abuse inspection, and reviewed the Constabulary's progress on implementation of its action plan following that inspection.

4. Cambridgeshire Constabulary Findings

4.1 HMIC reported that:

"Cambridgeshire Constabulary is generally good at identifying vulnerable people and often responds well initially to meet the needs of victims who are vulnerable. However, there are important areas, particularly in respect of its service to victims of domestic abuse, where improvement is needed to ensure the police response is fully effective and that vulnerable people are protected from harm and kept safe."

4.2 Given the areas for improvement identified, HMIC graded the Constabulary as 'Requires Improvement' as regards the overall question 'How effective is the force at protecting from harm those who are vulnerable, and supporting victims?'

4.3 Key findings, by HMIC, to the question: '**How well does the Constabulary identify those who are vulnerable and assess their level of risk and need?**' were that:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary is effective in identifying vulnerable victims and assessing their needs.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary is good at identifying repeat and vulnerable victims when they first contact the police.
- The Constabulary's approach to assessing levels of risk faced by a victim, and what is needed to keep them safe, is effective.
- In terms of providing services that best meet the victim's needs, Cambridgeshire Constabulary understands the requirements of some vulnerable groups better than others. For example, the Constabulary has a good understanding of the needs of people who are vulnerable because of domestic abuse, based on a good mix of local analysis and reference to national guidance. However, the Constabulary needs to improve its

response in terms of taking positive action to deal with offenders and safeguard victims.

4.4 Key findings to the question: **'How well does the force initially respond to vulnerable victims?'** were that:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary generally responds well to vulnerable victims. It has clear and well understood systems in place to ensure that the police response to the nature of the victim's vulnerability is appropriate, and reflects the victim's needs.
- Safeguarding is properly considered from the point of the initial report and throughout the investigation.

4.5 Key findings to the question: **'How well does the force investigate offences involving vulnerable victims and work with partners to keep people safe?'** were that:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary has invested to improve the investigation of crimes against vulnerable people and how they are kept safe. However, HMIC found that this is an area where further improvement is needed to improve its service to the public.
- The Constabulary is generally good at identifying victims of crime; assessing their vulnerability and providing support that meet victim's rights under the code.
- HMIC was impressed by the Constabulary's development of a victim's hub
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary has established an effective Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), which brings principal professionals together to ensure information is shared, analysis takes place and decisions made to safeguard children and vulnerable adults as quickly as possible.

4.6 Key findings to the question: **'How well does the force respond to and safeguard specific vulnerable groups (missing and absent & victims of domestic abuse), and how well prepared is it to tackle child sexual exploitation?'** were that:

- The Constabulary has improved the way it manages the risks to children. Since May 2015, all children and young people are categorised as missing and not absent, which ensures that any report of a child going missing receives immediate investigation.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary has made a good start in ensuring that it is well prepared to tackle child sexual exploitation, and the constabulary demonstrates strong leadership in preparing its response to child sexual exploitation.
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary has existing safeguarding procedures in place to support children at risk of child sexual exploitation.
- The Constabulary has worked constructively with partner organisations to raise awareness and develop joint approaches. This has been strengthened by the experience and learning from child sexual exploitation special operations, together with the combined missing and child sexual

exploitation team co-located with partners and a joint child sexual exploitation Constabulary and partnership action plan.

4.7 In relation to domestic abuse, the inspection report found that:

“Although domestic abuse does not feature as an explicit threat on the constabulary’s control strategy, which identifies the forces highest risks, it is clearly a priority for the constabulary and it has made good progress in its action plan to improve this area of work following the HMIC domestic abuse inspection in 2014.”

4.8 HMIC did however have concerns that the Constabulary may not be consistently dealing with domestic abuse offenders in the most appropriate way, to prevent reoffending and protect victims.

5. HMIC Recommendations

5.1 Concern was expressed in the report around the Constabulary’s response to the investigation and safeguarding of domestic abuse victims, as it was felt that the Constabulary may not be consistently dealing with domestic abuse offenders in the most appropriate way, to prevent reoffending and protect victims.

5.2 To address this cause for concern, HMIC recommended that the Constabulary should immediately take steps to improve its response in the following areas:

- the use of body-worn video cameras by officers attending incidents of domestic abuse;
- the use of voluntary attendance at police stations for perpetrators of domestic abuse and in cases of breaches of orders;
- the use of domestic violence protection orders to safeguard victims; and
- the capacity within the domestic abuse investigation unit to provide an effective service.

6. Areas for Improvement

6.1 As an area for improvement, HMIC identified within the report that:

- The constabulary should improve its compliance with its duties under the code of practice for victims of crime specifically in relation to victim personal statements.

7. Response to the HMIC Report

7.1 The report, and the recommendation and areas for improvement identified within the report, have been noted and accepted by the Constabulary.

7.2 Following the hot debrief of the inspection findings in July 2015, the Constabulary took immediate action to address areas for improvement, with the Chief Constable setting out a clear expectation that when attending a domestic incident, body worn video will be worn and switched on, unless there are good reasons not to. A default position in domestic abuse cases was also set, that offenders should be arrested – with voluntary interviews only considered where arrest is not appropriate.

7.3 An action plan in line with the HMIC recommendation and areas for improvement is being progressed by the Constabulary through the Head of the Public Protection Department. Progress against this action plan will be monitored by the Constabulary's Operational Review Panel, and by the OPCC through update reports to the Board.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	HMIC Report ' <i>PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2015 (Vulnerability) – Cambridgeshire Constabulary</i> ' http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/police-effectiveness-vulnerability-2015-cambridgeshire.pdf
Contact Officer	Chief Inspector Paul Ormerod, Corporate Development Department, Cambridgeshire Constabulary