

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA****JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE****8 DECEMBER 2014**

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**Summary of Recent Inspection Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)****Report of the Head of Corporate Development**

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with a short summary of recent external inspection reports and an overview of the process in place to manage the Force's response to inspection recommendations and findings.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. The Force has received the following HMIC inspection reports in the last quarter:

- Interim PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) assessment
- Crime Data Integrity
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Corruption
- Crime Inspection

In addition, the following national reports have also been published:

- An inspection of undercover policing in England and Wales
- Core Business: an inspection into crime prevention, police attendance and the use of police time.

- 2.2 Corporate Development Department acts as the central liaison point for all HMIC related matters. On a monthly basis, a summary of HMIC activity is presented to the Force's Strategic Management Board.

**3. Governance Process**

- 3.1 All HMIC inspection reports and other external inspection reports are considered by Chief Officers. A project lead is appointed to consider inspection findings and prepare an action plan in response to any recommendations and areas for improvement identified. These action plans are agreed by the Chief Officer Team and by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 3.2 Project teams are appointed to support implementation of the action plan, as appropriate. Progress against agreed action plans is considered at a weekly Chief Officer Team meeting and reported to the Strategic Management Board.

**4. Summary of Inspections****PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) assessment**

- 4.1 PEEL is an annual assessment of police forces and their contribution to policing, and is based on a number of high-level questions about how well each force:

- Carries out its responsibilities, including cutting crime, protecting the vulnerable, tackling anti-social behaviour, dealing with emergencies and other calls for service.
- Provides value for money.
- Operates fairly, ethically and within the law.

This year's interim assessment was published on 27 November 2014. HMIC expect to report a full assessment in 2015.

4.2 The Force was given the following grades:

Effectiveness

- How effective is the Force at preventing offending and reducing crime? GOOD
- How effective is the Force at investigating offending? GOOD
- How effective is the Force at tackling anti-social behaviour? OUTSTANDING

Efficiency

- To what extent is the Force efficient? GOOD
- To what extent is the Force taking steps to ensure a secure financial position for the short and long term? GOOD
- To what extent has the Force got an affordable way of providing policing? GOOD

Legitimacy

There is no grade provided under the Legitimacy heading. However, HMIC reported that Northumbria Police has strong and visible leaders, robust and appropriate governance arrangements and an adequately resourced and effective Professional Standards Department and counter corruption unit.

**Crime Data Integrity**

4.3 The Force's Crime Data Integrity report was published on 18 November 2014, alongside the final national thematic report.

4.4 Nationally, HMIC reported that over 800,000 crimes reported to the police were not recorded. In addition, for those crimes recorded correctly, HMIC reported that too many were no-crimes incorrectly. The national report has 13 recommendations. These recommendations include training and accreditation for Force Crime Registrars, amendments to the Home Office Counting Rules and National Crime Recording Standards, development of standard training material for officers and staff and implementation of effective audit and oversight of crime recording decisions.

4.5 The Force report contains nine recommendations in the areas of leadership and governance; systems and processes; and people and skills. An action plan was put into place immediately following the debrief provided by HMIC.

**Strategic Policing Requirement**

4.6 The Strategic Policing Requirement was issued in July 2012. It sets out the Home Secretary's view of the national threats that the police must prepare for, and the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats.

- 4.7 In September 2013, HMIC inspected 18 forces, including Northumbria Police, to examine the arrangements that forces have in place to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement. A national report was published in April 2014, with two further reports published about public order and large-scale cyber incidents in June 2014. A summary has previously been provided to the Joint Independent Audit Committee.
- 4.8 The Force report of the Strategic Policing Requirement was published on 16 October 2014. There were no further areas for improvement included.

#### **Police Integrity and Corruption**

- 4.9 HMIC published Police Integrity and Corruption reports for all forces in England and Wales on 27 November 2014. HMIC found that Northumbria was set up well to prevent, identify and investigate corruption and that it uses nationally recognised methods of strategic assessment, risk mitigation and monitoring for the Professional Standards Department and counter-corruption unit.
- 4.10 HMIC acknowledged that there is good consistency in the management of complaints and misconduct, and that there are good measures in place to ensure consistency in the conduct and sanctions applied in disciplinary cases.
- 4.11 An assessment is currently being completed to identify any areas for improvement.

#### **Crime Inspection**

- 4.12 Crime Inspection reports were published for all forces on 27 November 2014. Overall, Northumbria's report was positive. HMIC found that the Force has a strong commitment to neighbourhood policing and a strong focus on protecting vulnerable members of the community, working effectively with partners to ensure that the most vulnerable victims receive a joined-up service. HMIC found good evidence of frontline staff working with partners to find ways to divert offenders and prevent crime.
- 4.13 The standard of investigations reviewed by HMIC was good and the Force has effective arrangements in place to deliver further improvement. The Force could do more to learn from best practice in what works in crime fighting and crime prevention tactics. Good practice is identified through Chief Officer Performance meetings and shared at the Operational Performance Review Meeting, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.

#### **An inspection of undercover policing in England and Wales**

- 4.14 HMIC published a national thematic report on 14 October 2014, in response to a commission from the Home Secretary to inspect the arrangements in place to carry out, manage and scrutinise undercover operations. The report makes a total of 49 recommendations, the majority at a national level, across policies, systems, training and leadership of undercover operations. An assessment is currently being completed to identify any areas for improvement

#### **Core Business: An inspection into crime prevention, police attendance and the use of police time**

- 4.15 HMIC published a thematic report on 4 September 2014 looking at the effectiveness of policing activity in three areas of police work:
- 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.
- How well forces are freeing up the time of their staff so they can focus on core policing functions.

4.16 The report acknowledges that nationally, forces have done a good job in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, leading to long-term reductions over the last ten years. There are 40 recommendations within the report. An assessment has been completed and an action plan has been produced in response. In many instances, the recommendations within the report have already been met or exceeded.

## **5 Financial Considerations**

5.1 There are no additional financial considerations arising from this report.

## **6 Legal Considerations**

6.1 There are no legal considerations arising from the content of this report.

## **7. Equality Considerations**

7.1 There are no equality implications arising from the content of this report.

## **8. Risk Management Considerations**

8.1 HMIC expects that progress is made in response to the recommendations and uses progress against previous recommendations to assess risk when considering future inspection activity.

8.2 The Force prepares action plans in response to HMIC findings, as appropriate, and delivery is monitored at the Force's Strategic Management Board.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 The Committee is asked to note the recent inspection reports.