



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

**ORIGINATOR:** CHIEF CONSTABLE

**SUBMITTED TO:** OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT:** PROGRESS AGAINST HMICFRS INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides an overview of progress made by the constabulary against a number of recommendations set by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as a result of recent inspections and publications (as of October 2025).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The PCC is asked to consider the progress made by the constabulary and raise issues with the Chief Constable as appropriate to the PCC's role in holding the Chief Constable to account.

## **1 SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY STRATEGIC PROCESS AND GOVERNANCE OF HMICFRS**

- 1.1 Strategic oversight of all HMICFRS related matters is managed by the Deputy Chief Constable via a bi-monthly Steering Group meeting held with senior management to track progress of recommendations made through published reports, review submissions for completed actions and manage preparation for inspections.
- 1.2 The Suffolk HMICFRS team is led by the Head of Futures Hub and the HMICFRS Force Liaison Officer (FLO). Both roles sit within the Futures Hub (formerly the 2025 Corporate Improvement & Innovation Team). This structure enables the force to coordinate and liaise with HMICFRS on the organisation and planning of inspections, data requests and the continuous improvement involved with HMICFRS related work.
- 1.3 Recommendations are recorded and allocated to strategic leads and progressed as required. It is a continuous improvement process and updates are provided to HMICFRS via the HMICFRS monitoring portal and continuous engagement with HMICFRS Force Lead Liaison (FLL).
- 1.4 Recommendations and Areas for Improvement (AFIs) from force inspections (e.g. PEEL and National Children Protection Inspections) are monitored through a monthly Bronze Coordination Group meeting chaired by the Chief Superintendent for Suffolk Crime, Safeguarding and Incident Management (CSIM). Recommendations and AFIs from national thematic papers or super-complaint reports are monitored at the same meeting on a quarterly basis.

## **2 PROCESS WITH OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

- 2.1 Suffolk Constabulary has a structured process with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in how we respond to HMICFRS publications.
- 2.2 All reports published by HMICFRS that involve recommendations or areas for improvement (AFIs) for Suffolk Constabulary, whether they are specific to Suffolk or applicable on a national level, require a response on behalf of the Chief Constable as to how the constabulary intends to progress any recommendations. This response is provided to the OPCC and published on their website alongside their own response. Links to the responses can be found [here](#).
- 2.3 Super-complaints do not follow the same procedure as national thematic reports, further information regarding super-complaints can be found [here](#).
- 2.4 The recommendations provided in the super-complaint reports are not mandatory for the constabulary to follow. The constabulary must report its stance on the recommendations to the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) within six months of the published date. The NPCC collate responses from all police forces and publish an NPCC response to the super-complaint.

## **3 RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT (AFIs)**

- 3.1 This report provides an update on the outstanding recommendations for Suffolk Constabulary as identified by HMICFRS through their inspection activity. According to HMICFRS' Monitoring Portal, there are currently 115 open recommendations and 19 open AFIs being progressed

within Suffolk Constabulary. The below section provides a breakdown of the internal status of these actions.

3.2 Of the 115 open recommendations, 54 of these are ready for closure internally, meaning Suffolk Constabulary have considered these met and are awaiting closure on the portal. Of the 19 open AFIs, four of these are ready to be submitted for closure to HMICFRS. This follows the process established by HMICFRS whereby forces can self-certify Level 2 and Level 3 recommendations and AFIs for closure by submitting a letter on behalf of the Chief Constable outlining the actions taken by the force to address. This is an ongoing process.

3.3 The following provides a breakdown of the internal status of recommendations and AFIs:

3.3.1 Recommendations: 115 open

- 61 in progress (including 15 new)
- 54 ready to be submitted for closure<sup>1</sup>

3.3.2 AFIs: 19 open

- 15 in progress
- 4 ready to be submitted for closure

#### 4 NEW NATIONAL THEMATIC REPORTS

4.1 The following section details one new national thematic report published in the period since the previous report in April 2025 and/or not covered in the previous report. All the reports can be accessed from the title headings in this paper.

4.2 Improving the response to organised immigration crime

4.2.1 This paper was published by HMICFRS on 11 July 2025 as a result of their national thematic inspection into how effectively the police and National Crime Agency tackle organised immigration crime (OIC) in England and Wales.

4.2.2 In total, the report made ten recommendations, of which four are for police forces to progress. These have been assigned to the Chief Superintendent of Specialist Crime and Capabilities, with leads across a number of departments.

4.2.3 A copy of Suffolk's original response can be found [here](#).

4.2.4 Work continues to progress against all four recommendations. A dedicated OIC intelligence officer is now in post to review all processes and establish data to monitor compliance against Recommendations 2 and 4. There are plans to introduce regional coordination to ensure the roll out of Hydra training against Recommendation 8, and College of Policing (CoP) online training is being rolled out to front line staff through 2025/26 in relation to Recommendation 9.

4.2.5 Progress against these recommendations will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendations or AFIs are considered ready for closure once submitted by the owner; these are either awaiting closure by HMICFRS or there are other recommendations within the same report still outstanding finalisation (currently all report recommendations are submitted for closure together).

4.3 [Joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service: Final Report](#)

- 4.3.1 This paper was published by HMICFRS on 10 July 2025 as a result of a joint national thematic inspection with His Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate of the building of prosecution cases by the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).
- 4.3.2 In total, the report made 18 recommendations, of which three were for police forces to progress. These have been assigned to the Chief Superintendent of Joint Specialist Operations (formerly Justice Services) and progressed by the Head of Justice Services for Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies.

- 4.3.3 A copy of Suffolk's original response can be found [here](#).

- 4.3.4 Progress against these recommendations will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group. Further updates will be provided in future versions of this report.

4.4 [PEEL Spotlight: How effectively do the police record crime?](#)

- 4.4.1 This paper was published by HMICFRS on 28 August 2025 as a result of a review of all Crime Data Integrity (CDI) inspections conducted between 2016 and 2025.
- 4.4.2 In total, the report made three recommendations, all of which were for police forces to progress. These have been assigned to the Chief Superintendent of Crime, Safeguarding & Incident Management (CSIM) and progressed by the Superintendent for Crime.

- 4.4.3 A copy of Suffolk's original response has been submitted to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and this has been published.

- 4.4.4 Progress against these recommendations will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group. Further updates will be provided in future versions of this report.

4.5 [The effectiveness of diverting children from the criminal justice system: meeting needs, ensuring safety, and preventing reoffending](#)

- 4.5.1 This paper was published by HMICFRS on 15 October 2025 as a result of a joint national thematic inspection with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation into the delivery of out-of-court disposals.

- 4.5.2 In total, the report made 11 recommendations, of which one was for police forces to progress. This has been assigned to the Chief Superintendent of Suffolk County Policing Command and progressed by the Superintendent for the County Partnership & Prevention Hub (CPPH).

- 4.5.3 An initial response is being compiled by Suffolk Constabulary to be published in due course, after which progress against the recommendation will be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group. Further updates will be provided in future versions of this report.

4.6 [Inspection of the effectiveness of police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation: A progress report](#)

- 4.6.1 This paper was published by HMICFRS on 24 October 2025 as a follow up from the 2023 report of the same name.

- 4.6.2 This report closes two of the recommendations previously allocated to police forces, plus the AFI. At present these are still open on the HMICFRS Monitoring Portal so remain considered

open internally until directed otherwise. This report will provide an update on the 2023 report at point 5.9.

- 4.6.3 The report makes an additional six new recommendations, of which four are for police forces to progress. This has been assigned to the Chief Superintendent for CSIM.
- 4.6.4 An initial response is being compiled by Suffolk Constabulary to be published in due course, after which progress against the recommendations will be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group. Further updates will be provided in future versions of this report.

## 5 UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED NATIONAL THEMATIC REPORTS

- 5.1 This section will cover updates on recommendations and AFIs from previous publications that have significant updates, where recommendations have been addressed and submitted for closure or those that have had deadlines within the reporting period.
- 5.2 [A joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape – Phase one: From report to police or CPS decision to take no further action \(2021\)](#)
  - 5.2.1 This report was published in July 2021 and included a total of 13 recommendations, eight of which were for police forces. Seven of these have already been met and considered closed, with one long standing recommendation remaining open as a longer-term programme of work.
  - 5.2.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).
  - 5.2.3 Recommendation 1 is owned by Suffolk and Norfolk's joint Chief Superintendent of Specialist Operations Command and recommends all police forces to ensure information on protected characteristics of rape victims is accurately and consistently recorded.
  - 5.2.4 As outlined in the [October 2024 APP report](#), this recommendation is subject to both national and systems work which is ongoing, but is complex in nature expected to be a long term programme before the recommendation can be considered met.
  - 5.2.5 Progress against this recommendation will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.
- 5.3 [Police response to violence against women and girls – Final Inspection Report \(2021\)](#)
  - 5.3.1 This report was published in September 2021 and included a total of five overarching recommendations with multiple sub-recommendations, of which three were for police forces. At previous updates, Suffolk reported that two of these have already been met and considered closed with the remainder continuing to be owned by the Chief Superintendent of CSIM and progressed by the Superintendent of Workflow Management. Since the last update, a review of recommendations led to the decision to re-open one of the closed recommendations as it relates to the recording protective characteristics data, a topic that is being addressed through a number of other recommendations and AFIs, including that addressed at 5.2.
  - 5.3.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).
  - 5.3.3 Recommendation 20 fell into the overarching recommendation that forces should review use of outcomes 15 and 16 in violence against women and girls (VAWG) offences. Specifically, this recommendation reads that the NPCC VAWG National Delivery Lead should develop and disseminate to forces a process for consistent and robust monitoring of outcomes 15 and 16

VAWG cases. At a minimum this should require inspector-level sign-off on these cases with rationale for the closure recorded and auditable.

- 5.3.4 Following updated rules published by the Home Office regarding which investigations might fall into the category of Rape and High-Risk Domestic Abuse (DA) investigations and be subject to this recommendation, policies were reviewed internally to ensure compliance.
- 5.3.5 An audit was carried out in December 2024 which showed that there were high levels of compliance on the relevant offences with an Inspector authorisation for the use of outcomes 15 and 16. However, the audit has raised some additional questions as to the need for an Inspector review on offences that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has deemed requiring no further action. A further audit in August 2025 found similar issues persisting, with steps have been taken to ensure all relevant investigations be reviewed by an Inspector prior to closure, along with additional DA training being planned.
- 5.3.6 This will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.4 [A joint thematic inspection of Multiagency Public Protection Arrangements – “Twenty years on, is MAPPA achieving its objectives?” \(2022\)](#)

- 5.4.1 This report was published in July 2022 and included a total of 19 recommendations, four of which were for police forces. Two of these have already been met and considered closed, however, the remaining two can now be updated on. These continue to be owned by the Head of CSIM and progressed by the Superintendent for Demand Reduction.
- 5.4.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).
- 5.4.3 Recommendation 18 recommends that police forces should ensure that all Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) nominals managed at Levels 2 and 3 are allocated to a suitably trained police offender manager.
- 5.4.4 Recommendation 19 recommends that police forces should ensure that workloads for staff managing sexual offenders are reviewed against national expectations and, where found to be excessive, take steps for mitigation and communicate this to affected staff.
- 5.4.5 Since the last update in April 2025, the Offender Management review has led to Suffolk Constabulary establishing a full MOSOVO team, which will provide suitably trained personnel to manage Level 1 nominals and provide oversight and support around Levels 2 and 3. The intended timescales for implementation are January 2026, with work already underway to meet this. Upon implementation, these recommendations will be re-reviewed to establish progress.
- 5.4.6 Progress against these recommendations will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.5 [An inspection of vetting, misconduct and misogyny in the police service \(2022\)](#)

- 5.5.1 This report was published in November 2022 and included a total of 43 recommendations and five AFIs. Of these, 29 recommendations and all five AFIs were for police forces. These continue to be owned and progressed by the Superintendent for Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies' Joint Professional Standards Department.

5.5.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.5.3 Due to the volume of recommendations included in this report and its national priority, HMICFRS instigated a national programme to review individual force progress against these recommendations. This has required regular reporting, including providing evidence of how the constabulary has met each recommendation, and remote inspections conducted by HMICFRS inspectors.

5.5.4 As a result of this process, 20 of the 29 recommendations and three of the five AFIs have been met and verified by HMICFRS. This leaves nine recommendations and two AFIs that continue to be progressed by Suffolk and Norfolk's Joint Professional Standards Department and People Directorate, two of which are currently under consideration for submitting for closure.

5.5.5 These continue to be monitored at a monthly HMICFRS Steering Group, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, and will be reviewed again as part of the HMICFRS' next integrity inspection in Suffolk Constabulary (date currently unknown).

5.6 [An inspection into how well the police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations \(2022\)](#)

5.6.1 This report was published in December 2022 and included a total of nine recommendations, of which three were for police forces. Two of these have already been met and closed, however, the remainder continues to be owned and progressed by the Chief Superintendent of Joint Protective Services.

5.6.2 Recommendation 4 recommends that the NPCC and forces within England and Wales need to include the management of digital forensic kiosks in their governance and oversight frameworks.

5.6.3 Work continues to progress against this recommendation which has gained greater ICT ownership. Upgrades to the technology have been completed in September and by November 2025 data should be available to allow scrutiny and governance, at which point this recommendation can be considered for closure.

5.6.4 This recommendation continues to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.7 [An inspection of how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms \(2023\)](#)

5.7.1 This report was published in July 2023 and included a total of 12 recommendations, of which eight were for police forces. Seven of these recommendations have been considered met and made ready for closure, with the remainder continuing to be owned by the Chief Superintendent of Joint Specialist Operations Command.

5.7.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.7.3 Recommendation 2 of the report recommended that chief constables make sure there is access to both specialist strategic firearms commanders and specialist tactical firearms commanders, through a 24-hour rota covering the region.

5.7.4 Suffolk Constabulary already operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of the regional Seven-Force Cross Boundary Command for access to strategic and tactical firearms commanders for high threat incidents. This was sanctioned by the seven Eastern Region Chief Constables in 2022.

5.7.5 However, in response to this recommendation these arrangements are being formalised under a Section 22A Police Act 1996 seven-forces collaborative-services legal agreement for a Specialist Firearms Commander cadre. This is being progressed through the joint constabulary's legal teams. In the meantime, the existing agreement ensures access to commanders is maintained when required.

5.7.6 This recommendation continues to be progressed and will be monitored at Suffolk's HMICRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.8 [Race and policing: An inspection of race disparity in police criminal justice decision-making \(2023\)](#)

5.8.1 This report was published in August 2023 and included a total of 13 recommendations, of which four were for police forces. These are being owned and progressed by the Chief Superintendent of Joint Specialist Operations Command.

5.8.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.8.3 Suffolk Constabulary has progressed its response to race disparity in criminal justice decision-making. A strategic profile analysing disproportionality has been completed and adopted by the Police Powers Board, with findings shared across key governance groups. The analysis, which includes Youth Justice Board data, found no statistically significant disparity beyond arrest and strip search powers. Oversight is now embedded within routine performance monitoring and supported by the Independent Scrutiny Panel in Custody. As a result, no public publication has been made, though the force remains committed to transparency should future findings warrant it.

5.8.4 These recommendations continue to be progressed and will be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.9 [An inspection of the effectiveness of the police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation in England and Wales \(2023\)](#)

5.9.1 This report was published in December 2023 and included a total of nine recommendations and one AFI, of which, four recommendations and the AFI were for police forces. One of these recommendations has now been considered met and made ready for closure, with the remaining being owned and progressed by the Chief Superintendent of CSIM.

5.9.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.9.3 Recommendation 2 of the report recommended that chief constables should make sure that their forces have a problem profile for child sexual exploitation (CSE), which informs their force's understanding of CSE in the area.

5.9.4 A force-wide problem profile has now been completed and shared with HMICFRS as of April 2025. This is supported by a child safeguarding continual improvement plan which is reviewed at the relevant safeguarding board and includes elements of Child Sexual Exploitation. In addition to this, Group-based CSE is also a focus of an action plan managed under the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

5.9.5 Recommendation 4 of the report recommends that chief constables ensure there are sufficient measures in place to identify group-based CSE within the record management systems.

5.9.6 At present, Suffolk Constabulary does not have a method of recording whether an offender is suspected of being involved in group-based CSEA, and there will be no further changes within the constabulary's record management system to meet this recommendation. However, in addition to mechanisms outlined in the original response, Suffolk Constabulary is also assessing the use of a risk framework for managing CSE in the future.

5.9.7 Recommendation 9 of the report recommended that chief constables take effective steps to eradicate victim-blaming language in their forces.

5.9.8 In response to this recommendation, vulnerability training has been scheduled for September 2025, which will include training on victim-blaming language. Compliance with this training will be audited before this recommendation is considered met. Use of appropriate language is also included in missing training delivered to SPOCs in November and December 2024, and has also been made available as an online Learning Management System (LMS) package with the expectation that all response staff undertake this training.

5.9.9 AFI 1 of the report states that chief constables should work with their statutory safeguarding partners to review, promote and make sure that relevant group-based child sexual exploitation disruption and prevention initiatives are implemented effectively in their forces. It specifies that this should include consideration of options such as advice given in the Home Office disruption toolkit and an Operation Makesafe type of approach.

5.9.10 In response to this Area for Improvement, Operation Makesafe is being reviewed for implementation in Suffolk Constabulary by the County Partnership and Prevention Hub, monitored through the Child Protection Delivery Group.

5.9.11 Progress against the remaining recommendations and AFI continues and will be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.10 [Meeting the needs of victims in the criminal justice system \(2023\)](#)

5.10.1 This report was published in December 2023 and included a total of six recommendations, only one of which was for police forces. These are owned by the Chief Superintendent of Joint Specialist Operations Command to progress.

5.10.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.10.3 Recommendation 3 of the report recommended that the College of Policing (CoP) should, with the NPCC and chief constables, develop minimum standards for the completion of victim

needs assessments, which should include standards for timeliness of completion and clarity on the information to be recorded.

- 5.10.4 The timeframe for the National Victims Code consultation and development of compliance monitoring is currently scheduled for April 2027 for the full roll out of metrics for police reporting. In the interim, Suffolk Constabulary continues to monitor victim code compliance where possible.
- 5.10.5 Progress against this recommendation will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.
- 5.11 [An inspection report on progress to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigations in early adopter police forces \(2024\)](#)
- 5.12 This report was published in August 2024 and included a total of 14 recommendations, of which five are for police forces to progress. These are owned by the Chief Superintendent of CSIM.
- 5.13 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).
- 5.14 As of April 2025, two of the five recommendations have been considered met and have been made ready for closure, whilst three remain ongoing.
- 5.15 Recommendation 5 relates to the use of the new definition of repeat rape and other serious sexual offences suspects to identify and manage them. A definition agreed by the national team is currently being reviewed by the Home Office for sign off. Suffolk Constabulary awaits the confirmation of this.
- 5.16 Recommendation 9 relates to forces having good processes in place for applying to retain DNA and fingerprints to improve their use of Section 63G of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Suffolk Constabulary has reviewed the process and systems are now in place to ensure these can be applied for effectively. This recommendation will subsequently be submitted for closure.
- 5.17 Recommendation 11 relates to the ongoing monitoring of performance against the National Operating Model. Progress has been made against much of this, with compliance and performance subject to monitoring through a number of channels.
- 5.18 The remaining three recommendations remain open and are being progressed as part of Suffolk Constabulary's implementation of the Operation Soteria NOM. These will continue to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.
- 5.19 [An inspection into activism and impartiality in policing \(2024\)](#)
- 5.19.1 This report was published in September 2024 and included a total of 22 recommendation, of which nine are for police forces. These are owned separately across multiple departments to progress.
- 5.19.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).
- 5.19.3 As of April 2025, four of the nine recommendations have been considered met and have been made ready for closure, whilst five remain ongoing.

5.19.4 Suffolk Constabulary continues to make measured progress across the in-progress recommendations from the HMICFRS inspection into activism and impartiality. The force awaits the revised College of Policing APP on communications before updating its local policy, with consultation expected over winter 2025/26. The Uniform Standards policy is under final review, with ownership transferring to the People Directorate. Equality Impact Assessment training remains a challenge due to turnover and sourcing suitable providers, though benchmarking has identified potential solutions. Hate incident review processes have been strengthened through SOPs, audits, and the establishment of a dedicated CPPH team and delivery plan. Finally, a dedicated budget for Staff Support Networks has been agreed, with clear guidance drafted for inclusion in policy, enabling autonomous spending up to £250 and structured approval for higher amounts.

5.19.5 Progress against outstanding recommendations will be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.20 [The policing response to antisocial behaviour: PEEL spotlight report](#)

5.20.1 This report was published in October 2024 and included a total of eight recommendations, of which five were for police forces. These are owned by the Chief Superintendent of Suffolk County Policing Command (CPC). All but one of these recommendations remain open for progressing.

5.20.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.20.3 These recommendations broadly relate to the review and development of processes and training for the appropriate recording, risk assessment and delivery of ASB and problem-solving policing.

5.20.4 In response to these recommendations a range of initiatives have been progressed including relevant training either being delivered or planning to be delivered to all call handlers, community policing teams, response officers and student officers, guidance on ASB via pocket guides, intranet pages and briefings, and access to CoP resources.

5.20.5 A performance pack has now been introduced and is being integrated into each local policing command to highlight any crime recording failures so remedial action is taken. An ASB scrutiny panel has also been introduced to identify good practice and improvement, and quality assurance is also in place involving a CPPH Inspector auditing review to ensure feedback is fit for purpose and follow up actions identified. Recommendation 1, which relates to processes for recording ASB and ensuring associated crime is recorded correctly also relates to an ongoing PEEL AFI, against which a number of actions have been taken and will be reviewed again at the next PEEL inspection scheduled for 2026.

5.20.6 Progress against the remaining recommendations continues to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

5.21 [An inspection into how effectively the police investigate crime](#)

5.21.1 This paper was published by HMICFRS in March 2025 and included a total of 11 recommendations, of which eight were for police forces. These are owned by the Chief Superintendent of CSIM with tactical leads across a number of areas.

5.21.2 A copy of Suffolk Constabulary's original response can be found [here](#).

5.21.3 Suffolk Constabulary has made steady progress across all open recommendations. Online reporting processes have been enhanced, with SOH reports now triaged efficiently, although diary appointment delays continue to impact 24-hour compliance. Crime allocation is being refined, with a draft policy underway to ensure alignment with investigator skills and experience. The 8-Point Plan remains central to investigation planning, and updates are being made to incorporate digital evidence and facial recognition through the use of PND, which has seen record usage across the force. Supervisory reviews are audited monthly, though gaps remain in timeliness and documentation. Investigative training has expanded, with new CPD programmes, supervisor training pilots, and accurate tracking of PIP accreditations. Finally, while crime allocation decisions are quality assured by the IMU, a formal audit process is being introduced to monitor screened-out crimes and ensure closure decisions are appropriate.

5.21.4 Progress against these recommendations continues to be monitored at Suffolk's HMICFRS Bronze Coordination Group.

## **6 SUPER COMPLAINTS**

6.1 There have been no super complaint reports published nor any updates to the previously reported on super complaints.

## **7 INSPECTIONS**

### **7.1 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy Inspection (PEEL) 2023-25**

7.1.1 HMICFRS conducted the latest PEEL Inspection of Suffolk Constabulary during Spring 2023. The report was published on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

7.1.2 HMICFRS assessed Suffolk Constabulary in 10 areas of policing and made judgements in nine of these 10. The report issued a total of 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs), one Cause for Concern (which includes three recommendations) and one Innovative Practice.

7.1.3 An initial response was provided to the November 2023 APP Board and can be found [here](#).

7.1.4 In order to address and monitor progress against each of the recommendations and AFIs, Suffolk Constabulary manage a Bronze Coordination Meeting, chaired by the Chief Superintendent for Crime, Safeguarding and Incident Management (CSIM), and attended by assigned leads for each area of HMICFRS inspection.

7.1.5 In addition to the Cause for Concern being closed (as reported in the last update), a further three AFIs have now also been reviewed by HMICFRS and verified as closed. These are AFI 8, relating to the use of warrants and arrests as enforcement methods by the Internet Child Abuse Investigation Team (ICAIT); AFI 9, relating to the intelligence refresh process on backlogs managed by ICAIT; and AFI 11, relating to the People Directorate's use of data and learning to inform action.

7.1.6 The 11 remaining AFIs continue to be monitored and progressed, with many considered close to completion. Some of these have been reviewed periodically by HMICFRS over the last 6-12 months with positive feedback received on progress. All will now remain open until the next inspection in April 2026 in order to verify.

### **7.2 National Child Protection Inspection (NCPI)**

- 7.2.1 The Suffolk Constabulary NCPI Inspection report was published in December 2022. The published report can be found [here](#). This report made 10 recommendations.
- 7.2.2 Suffolk Constabulary was reinspected by HMICFRS on the progress made against these recommendations in July 2023. The report following this reinspection was published in November 2023.
- 7.2.3 This reinspection found that six of the 10 original recommendations had been met by Suffolk Constabulary. A full update on progress was provided to the January APP Board and can be found [here](#).
- 7.2.4 The four outstanding NCPI recommendations continue to be progressed and monitored through Suffolk Constabulary's Bronze Coordination Meeting alongside the PEEL AFI.
- 7.2.5 Two of these have undergone internal audits to measure progress against the recommendations. However, these remain open to continue progressing.

### **7.3 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy Inspection (PEEL) 2025-27**

- 7.3.1 In October 2025, Suffolk Constabulary received official notification for its next PEEL inspection, scheduled to take place 13-24 April 2026. Preparations are well underway which has included an internal self-assessment against the PEEL Assessment Framework (PAF), monitored progress against any areas for improvement identified through this process, a full comms and engagement plan across all areas of the inspection and a team established to ensure document, inspection and logistics requests by HMICFRS are dealt with effectively.
- 7.3.2 A full programme of preparation activity remains in place between now and the inspection taking place in April 2026.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None

## **9 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 9.1 None