

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO:

AP19/38

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL -
22 NOVEMBER 2019**

**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 the HMICFRS as a result of recent inspections.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Overview of Inspections

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the outstanding recommendations for Suffolk Constabulary as identified by HMICFRS through their inspection activity. This paper focuses specifically on the HMICFRS reports published since the last APP report in December 2018.
- 1.2 All reports published by the HMICFRS whether they are specific to Suffolk or applicable at a national level require comment from the Chief Constable on how the force intends to progress any recommendations.
- 1.3 The current reports containing recommendations for Chief Constables are:
- a) Policing and Mental Health: Picking up the pieces (November 2018)
 - b) The Police response to victims of domestic abuse – an update report (February 2019)
 - c) Fraud – time to choose – the police response to fraud
 - d) The poor relation – The police and CPS response to crimes against older people (July 2019)
 - e) PEEL 2018/19 inspection of Suffolk Constabulary (September 2019)
 - f) Spotlight report on abuse of power for a sexual purpose (September 2019)
 - g) A workforce under pressure: emerging themes from the second group of PEEL inspections (September 2019)
- 1.4 **Policing and Mental Health: *Picking up the pieces***
- 1.4.1 This report relates to the policing of mental health matters across England and Wales and forms part of the overarching PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) programme.
- 1.4.2 It assesses the effectiveness of police forces in the following areas;
- How Constabularies identify people with mental health issues at first point of contact
 - How Constabularies identify and record the number of cases involving people with mental health needs
 - How Constabularies ensure expert help is available from other organisations, in particular health professionals
- 1.4.3 As this is a national report, the four recommendations apply to all police forces. Good progress has been made against the recommendations.
- 1.4.4 There is an ongoing programme of work to update all Constabulary documents with the new National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) definition of a mental health incident.
- 1.4.5 Significant evaluation of the triage services has been undertaken by the 'Better Policing Collaborative' and the Constabulary analysis unit. This recommendation is now complete.
- 1.4.6 Mental health training provision has been reviewed and assessed to be delivering over and above the requirements within the College of Policing guidelines.

1.4.7 One outstanding recommendation relates to a national initiative to capture mental health demand across the UK over a 24-hour period has been postponed and will be completed when further guidance is received from the College of Policing.

1.5 **The Police response to victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) – an update report**

1.5.1 The objective of this report is to understand the effectiveness of the police response to protecting and supporting victims of domestic abuse: how well police identify victims of DA with particular regard to repeat victims; the first contact with police, the response to victims of DA including assessment of risk of vulnerability and taking both immediate and longer-term safeguarding action. It also looked at the investigation of DA offences and the support provided to vulnerable victims during investigation.

1.5.2 The one national recommendation required forces to update their own DA action plans, identify further areas for improvement and publish the revised action plan. Good progress has been made against this recommendation and it has been agreed as completed by HMICFRS.

1.6 ***Fraud - time to choose* a police response to fraud**

1.6.1 Suffolk was not one of the forces inspected during this thematic inspection. Seven Chief Constable recommendations were made in this report. There is clear ownership of each of these. Progress is reported to the ACC Local Policing on a monthly basis.

1.6.2 Two of the seven recommendations have been progressed to the point where we are seeking HMICFRS agreement to close as complete. The remaining five are being actively managed with good progress being made.

1.7 ***The poor relation* – The police and CPS response to crimes against older people**

1.7.1 This report clearly articulates the challenges facing policing and what we must do, working alongside other agencies, to ensure policing continues to meet the needs of this section of our communities. The report lists nine main findings and makes four specific recommendations directed at Chief Constables. Good progress is being made against the recommendations with action being taken as a workstream under the supporting victims sub group. This work includes a review of victim care referrals as well as a wholesale assessment of approaches relating to needs assessments. Full details of recommendation updates can be found in the attached spreadsheet.

1.8 **PEEL - Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy 2018/19**

1.8.1 The Constabulary was graded Good for each of the areas (effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy). Of the nine themes within the inspection Suffolk was graded good in eight and 'requires improvement' in one.

1.8.2 The one area for improvement 'investigating crime' is the subject of a significant force wide programme of work owned by the Head of Crime.

1.9 ***Shining a Light on Betrayal* - report on abuse of power for a sexual purpose**

1.9.1 This recently published report focuses on how the police service is responding to the issue of police officers and staff who abuse their position for a sexual purpose. The report makes two recommendations for Chief Constables with timescales for completion by mid 2020. Both actions are owned by the Head of Professional Standards and progress is monitored on a monthly basis.

1.10 A workforce under pressure: emerging themes from the second group of PEEL inspections

1.10.1 There were no Chief Constable recommendations arising from this report.

1.10.2 There are a number of outstanding recommendations from previous HMICFRS reports which the force continues to progress. These relate to:-

- *Living in Fear* – the police and CPS response to stalking and harassment
- *Understanding difference*: the police's initial response to hate crime
- PEEL: Legitimacy and Efficiency 2017/2016
- *Stolen freedom*: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking
- Crime recording: *making the victim count*
- Crime data integrity force reports

1.10.3 A comprehensive update against each of these recommendations is outlined on the attached spreadsheet but overall progress is as follows;

1.12 *Living in Fear* – the police and CPS response to stalking and harassment

1.12.1 This report is not specific to Suffolk. The two recommendations focus on how police forces deal with breaches of orders. Work is ongoing to raise awareness in relation to crime recording and enforcement around breaches of orders. The Constabulary is on track to complete these recommendations within the required time frame.

1.13 *Understanding difference*: the police's initial response to hate crime

1.13.1 This report is not specific to Suffolk. There are six recommendations within this report. Significant progress has been made against all recommendations and we will be liaising with HMICFRS to seek to close these.

1.14 PEEL 2017/2016

1.14.1 The force has four actions that remain. These link to the use of Stop and Search and the development of digital services. There is significant work against all four.

1.15 *Stolen freedom*: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking

1.15.1 The Constabulary is compliant with all recommendations made in the report.

1.16 Crime recording: making the victim count and Crime data integrity force reports

1.16.1 The Crime Data Integrity Group, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, has driven significant improvement in the force's compliance against crime recording. A comprehensive action plan records the activity that has been undertaken. This has been provided to the HMICFRS as part of the September inspection of Suffolk Constabulary's current compliance. The inspection report will be published by the end of the calendar year and this will be used as a foundation for future actions.

1.17 Strategic oversight and governance

1.17.1 All recommendations arising from HMICFRS reports, both Suffolk specific and national, are recorded onto a spreadsheet and allocated to strategic leads.

1.17.2 The ACC Local Policing chairs a monthly meeting to monitor progress of these actions and ensure that progress matches recommended time-scales.

1.17.3 Appendix A is a copy of the recommendations with recorded progress.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

2.1 Where there are financial implications associated with recommendations these are reviewed through departmental or organisational structures and escalated as necessary to ensure these are understood and managed.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

3.1 None

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	No
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	No
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes