

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 at May 2023).

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 monthly meeting held with senior management to track progress of recommendations made through published reports and manage preparation for inspections.
- 1.2 The Suffolk HMICFRS team is led by the Head of the Performance Improvement Unit (PIU) and the Force Liaison Officer. Both roles sit within the Corporate Improvement and Innovation team, this structure enables the force to coordinate and liaise with HMICFRS on the organisation and planning of the 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.

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 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](#).

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 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 (AFI)

- 3.1 This report provides an update on the outstanding recommendations for Suffolk Constabulary as identified by HMICFRS through their inspection activity. This paper focuses mainly on the HMICFRS reports published since the last report in Nov 2022. There are currently 126 open recommendations and 14 AFI's assigned to Suffolk Constabulary.
- 3.2 It should be noted that the majority of these recommendations are legacy recommendations that have been completed and submitted for closure by HMICFRS. HMICFRS are currently in a transitional phase where they are changing the process of categorising and closing recommendations. Due to this there is a significant back log of recommendations being closed nationally. It is foreseen that this delay will continue as the Constabulary adjusts to the new reporting process and manages the back log of recommendations from HMICFRS. This will be an ongoing process through 2023 and beyond but should not be taken as a detriment to the Constabulary's progress against the recommendations.

4 NEW NATIONAL THEMATIC REPORTS

- 4.1 Below are the details of the national thematic reports published in the period since the previous report in November 2022. All the reports can be accessed from the title headings in this paper.

4.2 [An inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence](#)

This paper was published by HMICFRS 8th March 2023 as a result of their latest National Thematic Inspection.

The initial response to this paper was published on the OPCC website and can be found [here](#).

This report is a follow up to the Home Office's Serious Violence Strategy published in 2018. It assessed how the police work with specialist units and partners to reduce serious youth violence. There were a total of four recommendations in the paper with two of them for Chief Constables.

The initial response to the paper has been submitted to the OPCC and published on the website.

4.3 [Digital forensics: An inspection into how well the police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations](#)

This report was published 1st December 2022 and had nine recommendations three of which were for the Constabulary. The initial response to this paper was published on the OPCC website and can be found [here](#).

This inspection examined the provision of digital forensics in police forces and regional organised crime units. The recommendations for police forces centered around integrating digital forensic service under existing forensic science structure, including the management of digital forensic kiosks in their governance and oversight frameworks and developing the governance and oversight frameworks to understand the local demand for digital forensic services.

The deadline for these recommendations are between September 2023 and November 2024 and these are being progressed through the Digital Forensics Board.

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

This report was published 2nd November 2022. There was a total of 42 recommendations made, 28 of which were for the Constabulary.

The initial Constabulary response can be found [here](#). This report requires the Constabulary to risk assess each recommendation and report back to the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) on a monthly basis. Suffolk Constabulary has been following these requirements and regularly updating the NPCC on the risk assessments of individual recommendations and advising what actions have been taken. HMICFRS has recently published an update 'Vetting, misconduct and misogyny in the police service: review of progress' which can be found [here](#).

5 UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED NATIONAL THEMATIC REPORTS

- 5.1 This section will cover updates on recommendations and AFIs from publications in the previous reporting period 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 Twenty years on, is MAPPA achieving its objectives?

This report was a joint thematic inspection of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) and was led by HM Inspector of Probation and supported by HMICFRS and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons. The report was published Jul 2022 and contained four recommendations for police forces. The Constabulary's initial response can be found [here](#). The Constabulary have progressed against these areas. An update on the actions taken are as follows.

Addressing the recommendation to ensure all MAPPA nominals are allocated to a suitably trained police officer. The MAPPA lead has advised all MAPPA (Registered Sex Offender/Violent and Domestic Abuse) meetings are effective with good police attendance. Registered Sex Offenders are all allocated to trained Public Protection Unit Officers. Domestic Abuse offenders are owned by Locality Inspectors and supported by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Domestic Abuse Officer in respect of any safeguarding elements.

The Constabulary's Public Protection Team all Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) trained to the College of Policing national standard, and this training includes detail around MAPPA. Any new members of the Team are MOSOVO trained as soon as possible after their recruitment.

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team also report to the Detective Superintendent lead within the Crime Safeguarding and Incident Management (CSIM) Command providing strategic oversight of both teams with joint team working when required for specific cases.

MARAC meetings have attendance from multiple different agencies and are represented by members of the CSIM command - information sharing between Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and MAPPA meetings takes place where required.

6 SUPER COMPLAINTS

6.1 Below are the details of the Super Complaint publications released and/or updated in the reporting period since November 2023. As per the previously noted process of reporting the Constabulary's response to these recommendations, it is not mandatory for police forces to implement these recommendations as published and therefore the Constabulary is not measured against these recommendations.

6.2 [How the police respond to victims of sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse: Report on Tees Valley Inclusion Project's super-complaint](#)

This super complaint was published 16th December 2022. This report included two recommendations for police forces. Suffolk Constabulary are required to respond to the NPCC regarding the recommendations within six months after publication. The Constabulary's response has been sent to the NPCC in Feb 2023 and shared with the OPCC.

7 INSPECTIONS

7.1 [Peel Inspection Update](#)

Suffolk Constabulary was notified of the latest PEEL Inspection in December 2022. Suffolk are currently under the process of inspection; this process will be ongoing until the end of May 2023. Activity completed so far includes:

- Document request has been completed and all required documentation shared with HMICFRS Inspectors;
- Crime Data Integrity (CDI) Inspection has been completed and results shared with senior leaders;
- The Victim Service Assessment (VSA) has been completed and results are awaited.
- Interviews with senior managers and portfolio leads have taken place via Microsoft Teams prior to the fieldwork;
- Focus groups with front line officers and staff have been held via Microsoft Teams.

Next steps in the Inspection will include HMICFRS Inspectors and associates visiting Suffolk to conduct fieldwork for two weeks in May 23. This will involve visits to police estate throughout the county and further interviews and focus groups.

HMICFRS Inspectors will then collate their findings for a debrief provided to the Constabulary in June 2023 with the report currently expecting to be published in Autumn 2023.

7.2 National Child Protection Inspection (NCPI)

The Suffolk Constabulary NCPI Inspection report was published 22nd December 22. The published report can be found [here](#). Following on from the Suffolk NCPI Inspection last summer the Constabulary has been addressing the 10 recommendations from HMICFRS.

The improvements are being managed through a Child Protection Delivery Board chaired by the Head of the CSIM command.

Suffolk Constabulary are due to be reinspected by HMICFRS on the progress made against these recommendations in July 2023, with the published report expected to be published in Autumn/Winter 2023.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

9.1 None.