

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 the HMICFRS as a result of recent inspections and publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to note the contents of this report.

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](#).
- 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 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 May 2022. There are currently 72 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 have closed several recommendations and AFIs since this last publication. Suffolk currently has 5 AFIs ongoing and 21 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 May 2022. All the reports can be accessed from the title headings in this paper.

4.2 The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime: Finding time for crime.

This paper was published by HMICFRS 10th August 2022 as a PEEL spotlight report and had two recommendations for Chief Constables

The initial response to this paper was published on the OPCC website and can be found [here](#). This report has brought together findings from the HMICFRS thematic inspections and from the recent police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection conducted throughout England and Wales. It focuses on areas where improvements are required to tackle the way forces respond and deal with serious acquisitive crime. These recommendations are ongoing as reported are in line with the deadline of 1st March 2023.

4.3 Twenty years on, is MAPPa achieving its objectives? A joint thematic inspection of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

This report was published 14th July 2022 and had four recommendations for the Constabulary. The initial response to this paper was published on the OPCC website and can be found [here](#).

This inspection was led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and supported by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and HMICFRS. This joint inspection covered the work of prisons, police and probation in delivering MAPPa. There were a total of 19 recommendations in this report, four of which were for police forces, these recommendations are being progressed against the deadlines provided and are being led by the head of Crime, Safeguarding and Incident Management.

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 Getting the balance right? An inspection of how effectively the police deal with protests

This report was commissioned to HMICFRS by the Home Secretary in response to several to several protests by groups including Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter. The report was published 11th March 2021 and contained two areas for improvement and two recommendations for police forces. The Constabulary's initial response can be found [here](#).

The Constabulary have progressed against these areas and submitted all to HMICFRS for closure. An update on the actions taken are as follows.

The Assistant Chief Constable has been briefed and is satisfied with the Strategic Threat Risk Assessment in relation to protests. This continues to be monitored at chief officer level for understanding the number of deployments and whether this is sufficient to satisfy annual competence. The professional view is that applying professional judgement and constant scrutiny at silver meetings feels the correct approach.

The improvements made for Community Impact Assessments include using a new template which provides details regarding protest activity, and this will be used for all protest activity which extends over a prolonged period.

The recommendations have been addressed, as recommended, the request for Suffolk to subscribe to the College of Policing Knowledge Hub Association of Police Lawyers group has been sent to our outsourced legal services team. The adopted format for Command de-briefs is the National Post Event Learning Review (NPELR) document. Commanders have been notified that completion and submission of the form should form part of the debriefing and review process for all operations.

Suffolk have adopted the national steer i.e. any of the following events where a policing operation or intervention was required:

- Protests or demonstrations or large-scale public gatherings
- Unlawful occupation of land or premises
- Organised marches and parades
- Public Military Events
- Festivals, carnivals or public celebrations
- Sporting events
- VIP visits
- Unlicensed Music Events (UMEs)

5.3 Disproportionate use of police powers - A spotlight on stop and search and the use of force

This spotlight report was published 26th February 2021. There was a total of eight recommendations, six of which were for police forces. The initial Constabulary response to this publication can be found [here](#).

Suffolk has made progress against all these recommendations with three being submitted for closure from HMICFRS. The Suffolk Stop/Search form and OPTIK version already had a mandatory requirement for information regarding self-defined ethnicity to be recorded therefore Suffolk were already compliant with this recommendation.

For the body worn video (BWV) recommendations. There was no requirement for the BWV policy to change as stop and search and use of force were already directed as a requirement in the existing policy. BWV tech refresh is being rolled out with frontline officers

The current stop and search process will now have additional questions around BWV including options as to why it wasn't activated which should provide a richer picture in terms of understanding behaviours.

In relation to continuing professional development for officers and staff on BWV. Supervisors across both forces have been asked to include the review of BWV as part of their professional development review management. This should be reinforced through personal safety training. In addition to this internal scrutiny of BWV is underway with findings fed back to Officers.

5.4 A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders.

This report was published on 17th November 2021 It was a joint inspection with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, Care Quality Commission, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons. 22 recommendations were made across various agencies with four being for police forces. The initial Constabulary response can be found [here](#).

Progress against these recommendations has been made and submitted for closure from HMICFRS and an update is as follows.

Vulnerability training to all frontline staff in the Constabulary began in July 2022 and concludes in October 2022, more than 500 front line staff have been trained to date and this has been via a two-hour interactive teams training session hosted by safeguarding managers from within the crime safeguarding and incident management command.

Following a targeted audit of the appropriate crime types, change to force process has been instigated to address issues with application of Outcome 10 (formal action against offender is not in the public interest) and with effect from June 2022.

6 SUPER COMPLAINTS

6.1 Below are the details of the Super Complaint publications released and/or updated in the reporting period since May 2022. 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 Police perpetrated domestic abuse - Report on the Centre for Women's Justice super-complaint

This super complaint was published 30th June 2022. This report included a total of seven recommendations, three of which applied to police forces and Suffolk Constabulary are required to respond to the NPCC regarding the recommendations six months after publication and this is being managed by the Head of Joint Professional Standards.

7 INSPECTIONS

7.1 Peel Inspection Update

HMICFRS published the Suffolk PEEL 20/21 report on 18th August 20/21. This report is being presented to the Accountability and Performance Panel on 16 September 2022, and therefore there is no further update requirement as part of this paper.

7.2 National Child Protection Inspection

Suffolk was inspected by HMICFRS as part of the National Child Protection Inspection in Summer 22. This involved a two week in person inspection with additional requirements beforehand. A hot debrief with senior leaders was held at the end of the inspection and we are waiting publication of the findings in the final report.

7.3 In May 2022 we were notified by HMICFRS that Suffolk were one of the forces to be inspected as part of the joint inspection with HMI Probation on Youth Offending Service. This inspection took place in Suffolk in June 2022. The report is currently awaiting publication.

7.4 In addition to the above inspection activity Suffolk were participants in the fieldwork for two super complaints in 2022.

7.5 HMICFRS, the College of Policing and the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) are conducting an investigation into the Criminal Justice Alliance super complaint relating to the

application of S60 and overall scrutiny of stop and search powers. Suffolk were participants of the fieldwork in May 2022 and the report is currently awaiting publication.

- 7.6 In January 2022 Suffolk participated in the fieldwork with HMICFRS for the Tees Valley Inclusion Project super complaint into sexual abuse where victims are from the BAME community. This final report is awaiting publication.