



Response to the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection report: [Meeting the needs of victims in the criminal justice system](#), December 2023

In December 2023, A Criminal Justice Joint Inspection was released which detailed the findings of an inspection into how well police, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Probation Service support victims of crime.

The joint inspection was carried out by HMICFRS, His Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The inspection assessed whether the police, the CPS and the Probation Service understand the victims need, whether they meet those needs and whether they provide a good quality service.

In total, the report made six recommendations, one of which impacts Chief Constables. Suffolk Constabulary accepts this recommendation and the Constabulary's response is set out below.

Recommendation 3

By 31 December 2024, the College of Policing should work with the National Police Chiefs' Council and chief constables to develop minimum standards for the completion of victim needs assessments. These should include standards for timeliness of completion and clarity on the information to be recorded.

The completion of the victim needs assessment in Suffolk investigations is monitored as part of the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) dashboard suite of metrics. Individual needs assessments are completed in 80.38% of crimes in Suffolk. The needs assessment is recorded on Athena and the questions posed allow the investigator to identify what support a victim needs and whether they are eligible for enhanced rights.

The Supporting Victims Group, chaired by the Head of Joint Justice Services (JJS) for Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies, monitors the performance of both forces in this and other areas of VCOP. Through the work of this group consideration will be given to the standards and timeliness of completion of victim needs assessments. The HMICFRS recommendation is that the CoP (College of Policing) and NPCC (National Police Chiefs' Council) develop the minimum standards in this area. The Suffolk Constabulary Victims Lead and Head of JJS will remain engaged with the NPCC strategic lead in this area through the Criminal Justice network in order to offer professional opinion in any consultation on the development of the standards and to be prepared to implement the standards once they are agreed.