



Office of the  
**Police & Crime**  
**Commissioner**  
West Yorkshire

Item 7

## **WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

### **HMIC CHILD PROTECTION POST-INSPECTION REPORT (Update)**

#### Background

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) initially carried out a child protection inspection into West Yorkshire Police (WYP) in August 2014 with the report being published January 2015. They completed their post-inspection review in August 2015. HMIC acknowledged that WYP were committed to improving the protection of children, had prioritised child protection and have a strong desire to improve outcomes for children who are at risk of harm and that some improvements were evident. They also commented that additional staff had been allocated to safeguarding (including child protection), had established multi-agency safeguarding hubs covering the force area and had put in place child sexual exploitation teams to investigate allegations of non-recent sexual abuse. However the HMIC "were concerned to find that inconsistencies in workloads and practice remained across the force and that most of the recommendations had not been implemented. The areas that the HMIC felt had not been adequately addressed were:

- Recording standards remained very poor.
- Children continued to be detained unnecessarily in police custody.
- Timeliness of specialist medical examinations of children had not improved.
- Important information about children was not always available to frontline officers.
- The force was not recording the views of children in child protection matter.

The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel met on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and Child Protection was an agenda item and a report was submitted by the WYP.

### Content of force report

The WYP report demonstrates that the key issues have been and are being addressed.

These include:-

- The development of the 5 district Multi Agency safeguarding Hubs/teams.
- The raising of awareness of the importance of obtaining and recording child demeanour.
- Ongoing but vastly improved attendance at child protection conferences.
- The daily partnership reviews and risk management of domestic abuse cases.
- The extra staffing and training of personnel in safeguarding units.
- The rolling safeguarding audit programme being run by the Central Safeguarding Governance Unity (SGU) but involving partners in the audits, feedback and development of improved practices locally and across West Yorkshire.

### Other Observations

- The restructure and investment in Safeguarding Governance with a Detective Superintendent, and two Detective Chief Inspectors with clear direction from the Chief Officer Team is clearly impacting on the improved performance.
- One of the recommendations in the HMIC report is “information about children’s needs and views is made available, on a regular basis, for consideration by the Police and Crime Commissioner”. Discussions are now ongoing between the PCC’s Safeguarding Adviser and Detective Superintendent Darren Minton head of the WYP Central Safeguarding Governance Unit if there is an opportunity to make

additional use of the increased information the police are gathering about the 'voice of the child' to improve practice and policy.

### HMIC PEEL Inspections of WYP (key points)

HMIC PEEL Inspections are an annual assessment of police forces in England and Wales. Forces are assessed on their effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy.

Of the current reports for West Yorkshire it is of interest to note.

#### Effectiveness

*"How effective is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime? Last updated 18/02/2016."*

- West Yorkshire Police is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime.
- The force identifies vulnerability and risk at the earliest opportunity, assessing the risks to the community, and working hard to provide an appropriate response to support them. HMIC did however find inconsistencies as to who deals with domestic abuse. The force works well with partner agencies to provide support and safeguard those who have been victims of domestic abuse along with children and young people.

#### Efficiency

*"How efficient is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime? Last updated 20/10/2015".*

- The force has increased the resources in its safeguarding teams to deal with increasing demand, and has centralised its governance structure to oversee the safeguarding services across the force area. The review resulted in all safeguarding resources coming under the control of a Detective Superintendent,

with separate units for adult, child and public protection officers with domestic abuse cases aligned to the work of detectives in districts.

- There are good relationships between the force and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The force systematically reviews all areas of service to increase efficiency; recent reviews include digital contact management, child sexual exploitation, counter terrorism and criminal investigations.
- The force allocates a skill and resource requirement for each of the strategic priorities for the force. It also identifies any workforce capabilities and gaps whenever a service review is undertaken. For instance, the force's review of how it protects vulnerable people identified the need to develop workforce skills to meet the demand from child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The force's strategic workforce planning board is overseeing improvement in this area.
- The force is aware of the need to tailor the skills and knowledge within its workforce to meet changing demands in the future. For example, it has identified a need for additional skilled investigators to deal with child sexual exploitation and historic sexual abuse investigations and obtained additional funding to provide this extra capacity.
- West Yorkshire Police works well with others to improve the way it manages demand, including with local partner organisations and other police forces in the region, so that it can be more efficient and more resilient. The force actively participates in the PCC's Partnership Executive Group, set up to ensure all strategic partners and "blue light services" work together to transform community safety and early intervention, share information to identify joint threats and work together to deal with them. The five policing districts in West Yorkshire operate integrated multi-agency safeguarding hubs with children services, local housing, local authorities and joint investigation teams. The force is working with mental

health partners to triage and provide early mental health support to those who require it.

### Activities of the PCC

- In May 2015 the PCC appointed a Safeguarding Adviser to lead, deliver and advice on the PCC's strategy for a coordinated, cohesive and consistent response to Safeguarding, in particular CSE, in West Yorkshire. This contract has been extended until May 2017.
- Safeguarding is a key theme throughout the new Police and Crime Plan with four key outcomes
  - Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
    - Safeguard vulnerable people.
  - Make sure criminal justice works for communities
    - Support victims and witnesses.
- The PCC has engaged with the HMIC inspections to ensure the work undertaken is communicated and the PCC Safeguarding Adviser has contributed on some inspections by the HMIC.
- CSE, missing, human trafficking have all featured as key discussions in the Community Outcome Meetings holding the WYP to account in a public forum.
- Work has been completed between the OPCC, WYP and Local Safeguarding Children Boards to carry out a self-assessment of CSE and missing person's practices and policies in districts, this was followed by a recent peer challenge chaired by the PCC Safeguarding Adviser and Detective Superintendent Minton. The PCC has funded an evaluation of this work to make sure it is efficient and can

be developed as a model to conduct further self-assessments and peer challenges across WY on other child protection themes. This review is work in progress.

- The WYP SGU have been conducting a 6 month rolling and rotating regime of audits on safeguarding themes in partnership with the OPCC, and district partners. The themes are Missing, Domestic Abuse, CSE, Serious Sexual Offences, and Adults at Risk, FM FGM HBV.
- The OPCC manages the WY CSE and Missing Strategy Group which aims to provide innovation and support to address issues across WY in a consistent, cohesive and coordinated manner.
- The findings of the WYP safeguarding audits have been recently shared with the WY CSE strategy group to provide reassurance of the progress being made and to improve consistency and effectiveness across the partnership.
- The OPCC have just approved the continuing funding of your CSE Partnership Executive Group (PEG) innovation fund to raise awareness of CSE in schools and to develop some sustainable materials to raise awareness with parents, carers and teachers. Other project proposals are being considered including a web based platform to ensure quality information to keep children safe is available for all schools across West Yorkshire, a project to enhance the support for child victims of CSE who need a care placement. The further development of data sharing and analytical products for CSE and missing across WY.

### Governance

- Through regular meetings with the Chief Constable the PCC has formal opportunities to hold WYP to account.

- This governance and accountability is held in a public forum through the Community Outcome Meetings, Missing people, child protection child sexual abuse and human trafficking have all been agenda items with the meetings recorded and available online with the accompanying reports.
- The OPCC Safeguarding Adviser meets fortnightly the WYP Central Safeguarding Governance Unit to discuss, ongoing work, issues and future opportunities.
- The OPCC Safeguarding Adviser also represents the PCC at the West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Board and is a member of the West Yorkshire Police Gold Safeguarding Group.
- The PCC funds an independent chair of the West Yorkshire CSE strategy Group, this group is managed by OPCC Safeguarding Adviser and brings the local safeguarding boards, Directors of Children's services, the WYP and other senior partners together to continue to improve a joint response to CSE and missing children.

#### Next steps for Governance

- The bilateral meetings will continue and these are a regular opportunity to discuss ongoing and arising matters.
- The Community Outcomes programme will also continue with thematic areas being examined and discussed, vulnerability and strands of safeguarding will be agenda items going forward.
- Recently a major conference on "safeguarding children in the digital world" was hosted by the PCC and WYP. This event created a large amount of interest across West Yorkshire and beyond. The event is now being evaluated to identify next steps and future work to better protect children.

- A missing person conference was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December bringing the WYP and partners together to share knowledge and identify improved practices to better protect people especially children and see how we can work better together to respond to and reduce the rising demand.
- The Police and Crime Plan was officially launched at this event on 6th December with a framework for delivering on the outcomes and priorities over the next five years. One of the outcomes is safeguarding vulnerable people and CSE continues to be a priority.
- Work is ongoing with the NHS England, WYP and other partners to achieve the best possible structure for the Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service (CSAAS). The best service for the children and communities of West Yorkshire being at the centre of these discussions.