



Response by the Police and Crime Commissioner to HMICFRS of Hampshire Constabulary

Inspection details

Title of Inspection: PEEL 'Effectiveness'

Date Inspection Published: 22nd March 2018

Deadline for Response:

Type of Inspection:

Hampshire Constabulary Specific

National

Follow up

Thematic

Partner Inspection

Is Hampshire Constabulary quoted?

Yes

No

Are there any recommendations?

National

Local

FORCE RESPONSE:

Deputy Chief Constable Sara Glen welcomes the scrutiny that came with the HMICFRS 'Effectiveness' inspection, which examined how Hampshire Constabulary keeps people safe, investigates crime, manages offenders and protects those who are vulnerable.

The report identified that Hampshire Constabulary was 'good' in all four areas that were inspected:

- Preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour
- Investigating crime and reducing re-offending
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Tackling serious and organised crime

This grading acknowledges the progress made in all areas but especially 'Protecting vulnerable people' which was graded as 'requires improvement' – in the area of effectiveness of dealing with DA following the 2016 inspection HMIC stated in this latest report that 'Hampshire Constabulary is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime. The force has made good progress, and it is to be commended for the steps it has taken to address the areas for improvement identified in our 2016 effectiveness inspection.'

Areas of significant improvement include:

- Tackling vulnerability is a high priority for the force, as demonstrated by the additional resources it has invested into areas such as dealing with rape and sexual assaults and the training it has given to officers and staff on identifying vulnerability
- The significant rise in the use of arrest at domestic incidents since 2016 was commended by HMICFRS
- Increased use of the dedicated domestic abuse court at Basingstoke has seen a rise in suspects and the court now sitting for a whole day and regularly seeing over twenty suspects per week.

Hampshire Constabulary is committed in maintaining the significant improvements made over the last twelve months and building on the good work that its officers and staff have achieved in line with its purpose and six areas of focus.

PCC RESPONSE TO THE REPORT:

I am delighted that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) has tested Hampshire Constabulary, found them committed and professional and assessed the force as "good" for effectiveness in the PEEL assessment published on 22 March 2018.

It is encouraging that HMICFRS found a "much improved situation." This is a reflection of the continued dedication to keeping our communities safer and improvements made since the last inspection.

It instils public and professional confidence that the force is rated "good" in all areas inspected: protecting vulnerable people, investigating crime and reducing reoffending and tackling serious and organised crime. This is despite the force continuing to be severely underfunded by the national funding formula, with independent figures from HMICFRS showing that the force receives considerably less funding than the average police force.

I am also glad that HMICFRS has been able to hear of the innovative approaches within our team and found us listening well to questions and reacting promptly to concerns.

Policing continues to be under pressure due to increased demand, more complex and resource intensive crimes and continued financial constraints. It is a time when technology, alongside its added value, is offering new risks. And the pace of life is accelerating for many. New approaches are needed to defeat those who wish us harm and have criminal intent. For Hampshire Constabulary to remain operationally effective in a modern way that continues to deliver for our communities will require further change.

I will continue to scrutinise the force, regularly monitor progress being made against the areas for improvement identified and hold the Chief Constable to account, seeking evidence that progress is being made. The work I undertake and the work of my office continues to ensure operationally effective policing is delivered across our communities in what remain challenging times.

That Hampshire Constabulary has achieved this "good" rating is a reflection of the determination and commitment of the whole of the force to protect the vulnerable and keep us safer.

Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner