RESPONSE BY THE PCC TO HMIC INSPECTIONS OF CLEVELAND POLICE

INSPECTION DETAILS

Title of Inspection
PEEL: Effectiveness 2016

Date Inspection Published
2 March 2017

Type of Inspection:

☒ Cleveland Specific   ☒ National
☐ Follow Up   ☐ Thematic
☐ Partner Inspection

Is Cleveland Police quoted in the Report?   ☒ Yes   ☐ No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

On 2 March 2017, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) published the conclusion of the effectiveness strand of the 2016 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) annual assessment.

An effective police force is one which keeps people safe and reduces crime. These are the most important responsibilities for a police force, and the principal measures by which the public judge the performance of their force and policing as a whole.

The HMIC assess police effectiveness by exploring five 'core questions' which are as follows:

1) How effective is the force at preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe?
2) How effective is the force at investigating crime and reducing re-offending?
3) How effective is the force at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm, and supporting victims?
4) How effective is the force at tackling serious and organised crime?
5) How effective are the force's specialist capabilities?

Overall Judgement

The inspection concluded the overall judgement for Cleveland Police was – '**Good**'. The overall judgement was an improvement on last year when the force was judged as 'requires improvement' in respect of its overall effectiveness.

Overall Summary

The report highlighted that Cleveland Police now has an effective approach to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, investigating crime and supporting victims. It also is effective in tackling serious and organised crime, although the force needs to improve further the service it provides to vulnerable people.

The report also highlights that the force has made considerable progress in the way it provides neighbourhood policing and the public can have confidence that local policing is effective. A culture of crime prevention is being promoted through neighbourhood policing, training, dedicated staff and early intervention.

The force is good at tackling serious and organised crime, having a good understanding of the risks and threats it poses. It also has effective arrangements in place to ensure that it can fulfil its national policing responsibilities.

Findings

In inspecting the force, HMIC asked 5 questions. HMIC did not identify any causes of concern when answering those questions, and therefore has made no specific recommendations, however, HMIC did raise a number of Areas for Improvement which are as follows

1) *How effective is the force at preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe?*

No areas for improvement

2) *How effective is the force at investigating crime and reducing re-offending?*

- The force should consider widening its approach to integrated offender management to maximise its impact on reducing threat, harm and risk. There should be clear measures of success which enable the force to evaluate how effectively it is protecting the public from prolific and harmful offenders.

- The force should ensure that the risks posed by registered sex offenders are managed effectively.

3) *How effective is the force at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm, and supporting victims?*

-The force should ensure that officers and staff use the missing and absent categories appropriately in cases involving children.

- The force should ensure that referral of standard-risk domestic abuse victims for continuing safeguarding is made at the appropriate time.

- The force should ensure that where crimes are allocated to specialist investigators, they have the appropriate skills and accreditation to investigate them to a good standard.

- The force should continue to improve its strategic understanding of repeat victims.

- The force should take immediate steps to understand the reasons why such a high proportion of crimes related to domestic abuse fall into the outcome category 'Evidential difficulties; victim does not support police action', and rectify this to ensure that it is pursuing justice on behalf of victims. Cleveland Police is one of several forces that have been asked to review its use of this outcome category. It is recommended that by 1 May 2017 the force should produce and submit to HMIC an action plan that sets out how it will:

- undertake a comprehensive analysis of the use of this outcome across the force area to fully understand why the force is an outlier and produce an accompanying report for scrutiny by HMIC by 1 June 2017;

- review the extent to which the force's use of this outcome category is appropriate; and

- take steps to reduce the force's reliance on this outcome category and improve outcomes for victims.

This action plan and subsequent report will be reviewed by HMIC and may prompt additional inspection revisits during 2017 in order to assess the force's progress in adopting a more effective response in pursuing justice on behalf of victims.

4) How effective is the force at tackling serious and organised crime?

- The force should develop its plans, with partner organisations, to reflect activity across the 4Ps - prevent, pursue, protect and prepare and assess the effect this activity has on organised crime, and whether this is having a positive effect on its communities.

- The force should take steps to identify those who are at risk of being drawn into serious and organised crime, and ensure that preventative projects are put in place with partner organisations to deter offending.

5) How effective are the force's specialist capabilities?

Not graded, therefore no areas for improvement.

FORCE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Constable Iain Spittal has praised the efforts of dedicated police officers and staff who deal with the thousands of calls for service every year.

He said: "I welcome this report which shows the immense progress we have made since 2015. We're good at keeping people safe and reducing crime, good at preventing crime and antisocial behaviour and good at assessing calls for service.

We have a solid plan to take us to 2020 to ensure we make our communities safer and help them to be stronger and I'm confident that our plan will help us to achieve great work. It's built upon the foundations of prevention, intervention and protection.

This rating is testament to the hard work of our hundreds of employees who often risk their own lives to save others. I'm sure they will be proud of the work they continue to do to protect our communities."

Areas for Improvement are submitted to the Management Board where Strategic Owners are delegated. Actions and development activity are identified and timely updates are provided.

PCC RESPONSE TO INSPECTION

Comment by the PCC:

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger said: "This is absolutely a step in the right direction for Cleveland Police and is extremely positive in areas that matter to the public, such as neighbourhood policing.

"HMIC has highlighted strong partnership working and how well officers understand the areas that they police. That is really important for me, as they are priorities within my Police and Crime Plan. I have visited hundreds of community groups and will continue to keep my ear to the ground to ensure the force is delivering a good service to local people.

"Cleveland Police is one of the Forces which has shown the most improvement and I will continue to make sure we do all we can to build upon that success."

Issues highlighted in the Areas for Improvement have been embedded into the PCC's Scrutiny Work Programme to enable the PCC to monitor progress in those areas.

Based on areas highlighted within the report there are several opportunities for improving partnership working, prevention and public engagement which will be explored by the PCC.