

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Police: Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee Audit and Risk Committee	28 th May 2014 22 nd July 2014
Subject: HMIC Inspection update 2013/14	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police	For Information

Summary

This report provides an update to your Sub-Committee on the City of London Police response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspection reports for the financial year 2013/14.

This report gives an up to date position on the national recommendations and also the specific City of London Police observations made by HMIC where relevant. Progress on the recommendations is monitored at the Force's Performance Management Group (PMG) at which the Town Clerk's representatives attend.

This report provides an update on:

- The performance against the recommendations of the Stop and Search Inspection. Good progress has been made since the last report to your Sub Committee with meetings of the Community Scrutiny Group; improved supervision and improved quality of data submissions.
- Initial reporting on the Strategic Policing Requirement Inspection. Although the Force already has a cyber strategy for the Economic Crime aspects of the Cyber threat, the Force is working to develop an overarching force wide strategy and plan prior to the re-inspection in June 2014.
- Initial reporting on Domestic Abuse Inspection. The Force received a good inspection on the whole and some areas for development have been identified in policy, training and the development of the risk assessment process.

A number of the recommendations in the reports identified issues at a national level. In these instances the Force is awaiting guidance or direction from either the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Chief Constable's Council, or the College of Policing.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to receive this report and note its' contents.

Main Report

Background

1. Throughout 2013/14, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) conducted national inspections of police forces in England and Wales in relation to Stop and Search, Domestic Abuse and the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). This report gives an up to date position on the national recommendations and also the specific City of London Police observations made by HMIC where relevant

Stop and Search

2. The objectives for this inspection were:
 - to determine how effectively and fairly the police service is using the powers of stop and search in the fight against crime;
 - to establish whether operational police officers know how to use stop and search powers tactically as part of evidence-based practice to fight crime; and
 - to identify how the powers can be used in a way that builds the public's trust in the police, supporting the legitimacy of the service rather than eroding it
3. This report provides an update to the report to your Sub Committee in February 2014 (Pol 11/14 refers). It gives an up to date position on the national recommendations and also the specific City of London Police observations made by HMIC when the Force was inspected. Progress on the recommendations (Appendix A) are being monitored by the Force's Stop and Search Working Group and the Force's Performance Management Group (PMG) at which the Town Clerk's representatives attend.

Current Position

4. Since the last report the Force has driven forward the importance of meeting with members of our community to improve our performance in Stop and Search. The Force has now hosted three Community Scrutiny meetings, which have grown in membership. Influential members now include Sonia Brown MBE, chair of the National Black Womens Association, aided by Duwayne Brooks, a councillor from Lewisham and heavily involved in the work carried out nationally around stop and search. This scrutiny included dip sampling of search records, where the accuracy of entries along with examination of the grounds and checks around supervision revealed a very high quality of submissions.
5. Inspectors are now held to account personally for the management of the application at street level, along with quality of initial supervision. This recent change has seen a reduction in the number of returned forms. Supervision at

Superintendent level and via the scrutiny group appears to have reaped considerable benefit over a short time frame.

6. The data quality around electronic submissions has improved, by utilising a single point of input within the Force Intelligence Bureau. Custody submissions have an improved rate of completion through the custody system for those arrested as a result of a search. This is now monitored through the Custody User Group.
7. The Force is preparing for the changes recently announced by the Home Secretary and has appended the proposals to its current action plan in order that future action may be driven through the stop and search working group, providing an auditable trail for our communities.

Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)

8. The SPR sets out those national threats that forces and Police and Crime Commissioners must prepare for have a policing capability around to counter those threats. The areas covered by the SPR are terrorism, serious organised crime, public order, large scale cyber crime incidents and civil emergencies. The initial inspection (part of a three-year programme) looked broadly at how well forces have prepared to counter these national threats. The resulting report is the first in series of reports that will provide additional detail in the separate SPR areas. There will be two additional reports this financial year, one relating to cyber crime (HMIC will be visiting forces from June) and one looking at public order, which was a particular focus of the first inspection. The remaining areas will be inspected and reported against over the next two to three years.
9. The first report, which is not force-specific, is based on submissions from all 43 forces together with additional fieldwork carried out in 18 forces, which included the City of London Police. Its principal findings were:
 - *Counter Terrorism* - there is a well established police counter-terrorism structure in place with forces maintaining funded units that are funded by the Home Office and ring-fenced. However, fewer than half of forces considered terrorism as part of their local threats. Of course, City of London Police does consider counter terrorism in its local strategic assessment and it is a distinct policing plan priority.
 - *Civil Emergencies* – HMIC found that all forces they visited (which included the City of London Police) demonstrated their commitment to working with partners and planning for civil emergencies. However, across all 43 forces, only 16 submitted documents demonstrating that they fully understood the threat, risk and harm in this area. Preparations to deal with CBRN incidents were good.

- *Organised crime* - Although most forces had considered organised crime in their local strategic threat and risk assessments four forces had not. HMIC did find that there was a general need for forces to develop an objective assessment of threat, risk, and harm and not rely on the sometimes subjective opinion of a few experienced officers.
 - *Public Order* - chief officers understood their role to provide sufficient trained officers to respond to the national threat to public order and confirmed that they were meeting the national requirement of 297 Police Support Units (PSUs). Members will be aware that Public Order is a distinct policing plan priority for the Force and there are targets to maintain capacity and capability in this area.
 - *Large scale cyber incidents* – HMIC found this area needs considerable development with only 3 forces highlighted as having developed comprehensive cyber crime strategies and plans. HMIC did note that fifteen forces (which included the City of London Police) had considered cybercrime threats in their local threat assessments.
10. Members will also be aware that the Force has adopted supporting the SPR as a distinct policing plan priority; this will assist greatly with ensuring that the SPR remains central to Force thinking and planning.
 11. There were no specific City of London Police recommendations made in the report, although the Force's Public Order Strategic Threat, Risk and Harm Assessment was highlighted as being good. In light of the observations made by HMIC around large scale cyber incidents, the Force has taken immediate action to address any shortcomings.
 12. As the Lead force for Fraud together with national responsibilities including the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (which incorporates many aspects of cyber crime), it is essential that the Force not only ensures its capability and response to cyber crime (through comprehensive plans) are fit for purpose but that it is also considered formally by HMIC as being at the forefront of forces dealing with cyber incidents.
 13. The Force currently maintains a Cyber Crime strategy that focuses on the Economic Crime aspects of cyber crime. The HMIC report highlights that dealing with such crimes should be a force-wide response and as such will require a Force Strategy and plan. Development of such a plan is underway with a meeting scheduled for 22nd May which will bring together Directorate Heads and subject matter experts to baseline the present position and to develop a strategy and tactical options to take the Force forward in dealing with Large Scale Cyber Incidents. A representative from West Midlands will also attend to give an input on their response, which was highlighted as good practice in the HMIC report. The Force is confident it will have made good headway on this by the time the HMIC come to re-inspect preparedness to deal with cyber incidents, which is due to take place in late June 2014. The Town Clerk's Policy Officers will be sighted on the details of the re-inspection in June. Briefings will be provided for the Lead Member for SPR, Deputy

Henry Pollard, Deputy Doug Barrow and any other Member who HMIC may wish to interview.

Domestic Abuse

14. In September 2013, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to conduct an inspection on the police response to Domestic Abuse. They were asked to report on:

- the effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse, focusing on the outcomes for victims and whether risks to victims of domestic violence and abuse are adequately managed;
- lessons learnt from how the police approach domestic violence and abuse; and
- recommendations in relation to these findings when considered alongside current practice.

HMIC inspected all police forces in England and Wales, interviewing senior and operational leads, and held focus groups with frontline staff and partners. In addition they carried out visits to police stations (which were unannounced) to test the reality of the forces approaches with frontline officers.

15. In the Force report circulated 27th March 2014, HMIC concluded that City of London Police tackles domestic abuse well. However nationally HMIC has identified that the police response to domestic abuse is not good enough and must be improved. This is despite considerable improvements in the service over the last decade, and the commitment and dedication of many able police officers and police staff.

16. In the City of London, domestic abuse accounts for 1% of calls to the police for assistance. Of these calls, 4% were from repeat victims and domestic abuse accounts for 1% of all recorded crime. The Force also recorded 268 assaults with injury, of these 18 were domestic abuse related. For every 100 domestic abuse crimes recorded, there were 68 arrests in the City of London - for most forces the number is between 45 and 90. The levels of reported domestic abuse are low in the City, and those which are recorded, often involve victims and offenders who reside outside the force area. Of the 71 recorded domestic abuse crimes for the 12 months to August 2013, only 12 involved *residents* of the City of London. This makes the safeguarding actions and ongoing care and support for victims who reside outside the force area a real challenge.

17. In the City of London, HMIC found that:

- Identifying victims - HMIC found that control room operators were very aware of the importance of identifying vulnerable and repeat victims.
- Keeping victims safe - the force focuses on both ensuring a satisfactory investigation, as well as on keeping the victim safer. Many of the domestic abuse incidents reported in the City of London relate to victims and offenders who reside outside the Force area, with almost half of all reported incidents occurring on the street, rather than within the home.

- Managing risk - domestic abuse cases are overseen by specialist investigators who have strong links with partners, especially children's and adult social services. Risk assessments are reviewed regularly to ensure that appropriate levels of support are given to the victims.
- Organisational effectiveness for keeping people safe - HMIC found the Force recognised the need to develop systems and processes to better understand and manage the risk to domestic abuse victims in the future.

Recommendations

18. As a result of this inspection, HMIC has developed recommendations which are designed to tackle any risks identified in the service to victims of domestic abuse. These Force specific recommendations have been considered in conjunction with recommendations to all forces set out in the national report.

- The Force should implement a new domestic abuse policy to provide greater clarity on stalking, harassment and the management of vulnerable people.
- The introduction of reactive intelligence officers (RIOs) into the control room is seen as a positive development in improving the policing response to victims. The Force should ensure that better coverage is available and that officers who are employed in this role are suitably trained and have access to all relevant information systems.
- The Force should develop a structured domestic abuse training programme focusing on the domestic abuse definition and providing scenario based examples to assist officers in making informed decisions on the assessment of risk and give clear guidance on delivering effective safeguarding actions.
- The Force should make more effective use of body-worn cameras to capture early evidence of injuries and scene footage to strengthen the evidence base for prosecutions. (A bid has been submitted to the Home Office Police innovation Fund for Body worn video and the outcome is awaited).
- The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process should be re-developed and more actively engaged in ongoing case management processes, including transient crime reporting to ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are actioned.

19. A detailed action plan incorporating the above relevant national recommendations once complete will be submitted to the next available Sub Committee.

Conclusion

20. Members should be reassured by the Force's approach and track record for implementing recommendations of HMIC reports. Clear progress has been made in formulating the recommendations into action plans and your Sub Committee will be sighted on these plans at the earliest opportunity. Your Sub Committee will continue to provide strategic governance to drive completion of the outstanding actions.

Appendices: Appendix A- Stop and Search action plan

Background Papers:

Pol 11-14- HMIC Stop and Search Inspection

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