

Committee(s): Strategic Planning and Performance Committee	Dated: 26 th September 2024
Subject: Quarterly HMICFRS Inspections Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police	For Information
Report author: Brett McKenna, Head of Strategy & Planning	

Summary

This report provides an overview of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) related activity over the last quarter.

Since the last report City of London Police now has only (ten) 10 active HMICFRS actions plans under review. As noted in the last update the force is now in a stable operating environment when concerned with management of HMCIFRS workstreams.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

This report provides an overview of activity related to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) areas for improvement since the last meeting of the Strategic Planning and Performance Committee.

Current Position

Inspections since last Committee (May 2024)

The force has not been subject to any inspections during 2024.

HMICFRS reports published since last Committee (May 2024)

There are no reports that have been published since the last update.

Status of HMICFRS workstreams:

Force Management Statement (FMS) 2024:

We are required to produce a force management statement for HMICFRS each year. It is a statement of the demand we expect to face in the future and the condition of our workforce and assets. It is used as a business planning tool to identify changes to workforce, policies, processes and other assets required to manage future demand.

City of London Police has significantly improved its force management statement over the last 2 years. This year's statement was rated as 'outstanding' for structure and the summary (overall understanding of our business), 'good' for understanding of workforce and whether we can meet current and future demand and risks, 'adequate' in understanding demand and how we will address demand pressures, and 'inadequate' in how we explain the indicators that we use to assess performance. These grades (and force management statements) are not published but will inform the PEEL assessment.

While performance indicators were incorporated into the appendices and used as part of the capability assessment, there was not sufficient reference to these in main body of the statement and the appendices were not reviewed by HMICFRS. More explicit reference to performance indicators will be included in future.

Ability to predict demand could be improved through access to City of London Corporation data. For example, this includes developments and changes to infrastructure, footfall forecasts and changes to resident, worker, student and visitor demographics, and changes in Corporation services demand eg anti-social behaviour, safeguarding, children's services, mental health etc.

HMICFRS Action Plans Overview :

Appendix 1 outlines the current reporting measures for the HMICFRS actions plans and associated workstreams from these plans. Due to the force now moving into a more stable operating landscape reporting against these workstreams will now be aligned to thematic areas such as 'Vulnerability' or 'Performance' supported by reality testing. The Operational Improvement Board chaired by AC Betts will continue to monitor HMICFRS deliverables and improvements. There are currently ten (10) active action plans, with sixty three (63) open actions.

Upcoming Inspections

Crime Data Integrity (CDI) and Victim Services Inspection (VSA):

The force has been given notice that it is likely to have a crime integrity inspection in November which assess core crime recording and compliance. Strong compliance in this area provides confidence the force understands the scale of crime in its territory.

Complementing this inspection is a Victims Services Inspection (VSA) also in November. This reviews the supervision of investigations and outcomes applied to them. This allows HMICFRS to assess the confidence of investigation standards ensuring victims receive the appropriate outcome on their investigations.

Crime data integrity is regularly monitored through the crime standards board and strategic performance board. It has been subject to strategic review at the Operational Improvement report which has previously been reported to this board. Audits on compliance have shown continued high levels of compliance in the first half of 2024.

Reality testing for the victim services assessment is in progress and the findings and recommendations will be scrutinised at the Operational Improvement Board in October 2024.

Custody Inspection

City of London Police as previously reported is still awaiting a custody inspection, the force is one of the last forces to be inspected as part of the PEEL 21-22 assessment framework. The inspection is expected to take place by the end of 2024. It is highly unlikely this inspection will happen post the PEEL inspection in 2025.

PEEL 2025 Inspection:

As part of the preparation for PEEL 25, HMICFRS has been undertaking pre-inspection visits to review the operating environment. This allows the inspection team to understand the operating landscape, prior to the inspection in February 2025. This also provides the opportunity for HMICFRS to informally highlight areas of improvement before the PEEL inspection.

As part of preparations for PEEL 25, the reality testing team has reviewed vetting, neighbourhood policing and prevention to identify areas for improvement against the HMICFRS 'Good' framework. The reality testing schedule covers all areas to be inspected under PEEL 25 (Annex A).

Horizon Scanning

HMICFRS National Landscape:

PEEL Fraud Review 25-27: Fraud as a thematic crime area is currently under review by HMICFRS, the method of assessment and delivery is being reviewed. Discussion with the CoLP as a strategic advisor the capacity as National Lead Force for Fraud and Cyber is ongoing to help shape review of how Fraud should be monitored. The method of assessment in terms of thematic inspection of enhanced PEEL inspection is under review.

HMICFRS Custody 25-27: Custody as thematic area will now be fully integrated into the PEEL inspection process rather than remaining as standalone inspection. This is in response to the recognition of the increased vulnerability and risk that custody now manages and due to the prolonged process of the previous inspection cycle.

HMICFRS FMS Grading 25-27: Force management statements will now move to a grading structure with the individual components of the FMS receiving a grade. This will continue for FMS 2025; it is likely that for FMS 2026 an overall grade will be rendered for the FMS. CoLP is already engaging with this process, building our internal response to match these changes.

HMICFRS Parliamentary Review: Prior to election the previous government and current government have both made commitments to provide HMICFRS with statutory regulatory powers. This will provide HMICFRS with direct powers to intervene in failing forces and mandate corrective change. The City is monitoring this space closely to work with HMICFRS as these commitments evolve.

Thematic Inspections:

The National Child Protection Inspection (NCPI): Is the thematic inspection dedicated to the review of child protection apparatus of a force. The City has limited cohort of children requiring police support and limited offending in this area. Forces are being notified of an inspection of their response to his report. At this time the City has not been selected for inspection.

2024 Disorder Rapid Review: In response to the recent disorder the Home Secretary has commissioned a rapid review of the police response to public order. HMICFRS will review this through a thematic inspection of eight (8) forces involved directly in the disorder. Naturally, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has been selected for review, this may require the input of CoLP. The City will support the MPS if required and track any national learning from the review.

Conclusion

The force has now moved into a stable operating position for the management of HMICFRS workstreams. The force is working closely with HMICFRS to prepare for PEEL 2025.

Appendices

OIB HMICFRS Performance Pack

Brett McKenna

Head of Strategy & Planning

E: brett.mckenna@cityoflondon.police.uk