

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Police: Performance and Resource Management Sub Committee	21 st October 2015
Subject: HMIC Inspection Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 49/15	For Information

Summary

This report provides Members with an overview of the City of London Police response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) continuing programme of inspections and published reports. Since the last report to your Sub Committee (Pol 33/15) HMIC has published 5 reports :

- In Harm's Way: the role of the police in keeping children safe (national report);
- Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world (national report);
- Building the picture an inspection of police information management (national report);
- Real lives, real crime: Digital crime and policing (national report – restricted);
- Firearms Licensing: targeting the risk (national report)

This report is supported by Appendix A which provides details of progress against all outstanding HMIC recommendations.

Recommendation

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

Main Report

1. This report provides Members with an overview of the City of London Police response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) continuing programme of inspections and published reports. During the reporting period, HMIC has published five reports: In Harm's Way: the role of the police in keeping children safe (national report, 2nd July 2015); Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world (national report, 2nd July 2015); Building the picture an inspection of police information management (national report, 2nd July 2015); Digital crime and policing (national report, circulated to forces in July 2015 but not published on HMIC's website); and Firearms Licensing: targeting the risk (national report, 15th September 2015).

2. All five reports are national reports. Fieldwork only took place in the Force with respect to the Digital Policing report as the Force's Economic Crime Department and National Lead Force staff worked closely with HMIC to frame the terms of the inspection and provide a national perspective of the issues that need to be tackled.
3. Appendix A to this report provides an overview of progress against all outstanding HMIC recommendations.

Child Protection reports

4. On 2nd July HMIC published three reports relating to child protection:
 - 'In harm's way: the role of police in keeping children safe' - a summary of findings from 21 inspections on the police response to child protection conducted over the last two years;
 - 'Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world' – findings from an inspection of how police forces deal with children who are being exploited via the internet; and
 - 'Building the picture: an inspection of police information management' – an examination of how successfully police share and cross check information in order to build a picture of criminality (this inspection is the result of findings in HMIC's 2013 report into police failings in sharing and recording allegations related to Jimmy Savile).
5. The general consensus from these reports is that child protection across forces is dealt with in an inconsistent manner and to varying standards. The City of London Police was not involved in any of the inspections that informed these reports.

In Harm's Way: the role of the police in keeping children safe

6. The inspection was carried out between January 2014 and June 2015 and consisted of 21 inspections of different aspects of the police response to child protection issues spread across eight police forces. The report identified four areas for attention:
 - Performance management and information systems are poorly integrated and inputting data takes up considerable time that might be more usefully spent on investigations and enquiries. In failing to record basic data accurately such as the age, gender and ethnicity of children, police forces are unable to demonstrate they operate without discrimination.
 - Better use of police use of data and information in the management of crime and offenders. Data analysis approaches that can identify those most at risk of repeat vulnerability (as currently used in domestic burglary) may be useful in child protection work. Better crime mapping

could target police preventive efforts by identifying localities or communities of greatest risk.

- The third area relates to recruitment, training, staff development and staff supervision. There needs to be more learning from good practice based on evidence of the most effective combination of recruitment, training, learning, experience, supervision and support that enables and sustains the employment of good police staff. The NPCC and College of Policing would be best placed to take this forward.
 - More attention needs to be given by senior officers to the practice on the ground. The findings of these reports suggest that children, perhaps because of their vulnerability, are at risk of being charged inappropriately with domestic abuse offences or with wasting police time when they withhold information or change their evidence
7. A key note of this report is that it is imperative that forces evidence that they are consistently providing high-quality protection and safeguarding to all those who need their help. However, from a leadership and management perspective this report suggested that more attention needs to be given to the quality of practice and the outcomes for children of police efforts. This was based on 220 out of 576 cases judged to be inadequate.
8. The Force has assessed itself against all the recommendations contained within this reports to ensure the continued implementation of national best practice.

Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world

9. The report is based on fieldwork undertaken in Devon and Cornwall, Kent, Lancashire, North Wales, Northumbria and Staffordshire following a review of 124 cases in total. A comment of note was the varying degree of delay forces experienced with investigations, “it was not uncommon to see delays of up to 12 months”. The general theme of this report was for the need for police to expand their use of websites, technology and other methods to safeguard children online.
10. The report makes 13 recommendations which are generic in nature, however, the Force is considering these recommendations as part of its response to child protection issues and to ensure such matters are managed effectively.

Building the picture: an inspection of police information management

11. Fieldwork for this report was conducted in 13 separate forces. The recommendations from this report fall into three areas: to the Home Office and National Lead for Information Management Business Area; to Chief Constables; and to the College of Policing.

12. There are 6 recommendations relevant to police forces, 5 of which HMIC have determined need to be implemented by November 2015 with one recommendation being implemented immediately, as follows:

Recommendation 8

Immediately, chief constables should make sure that their force information records are reviewed at the end of the review period set for each information grouping, and records created when decisions are made to retain information beyond the applicable period of retention.

13. The Force has reviewed the recommendations from these reports (all reproduced in Appendix A) and is already compliant with a large number of them. It has not been possible to implement immediately and fully recommendation 8 above. The Force is compliant with this recommendation across the entire archive of information, however, the records on NSPIS systems (National Strategy for Police Information systems) cannot be deleted due to system constraints. This issue is being managed through the Information Management Board, chaired by the Assistant Commissioner, and will be resolved through procurement of a new IT system in 2016.

Real lives, real crime: Digital crime and policing

14. This report was circulated in July 2015 to police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners and interested parties but was not intended for publication.

15. The report is a study setting out HMICs views regarding the preparedness of the police service to deal effectively with digital crime and its victims. The report draws conclusions, but makes no recommendations. It is intended to help chief constables and the College of Policing to provide guidance and good practice.

16. The report expresses the view that the police service needs:

- To establish the scale and impact of digital crime, at both the national and local level, and how to respond to it.
- Create effective leadership and governance arrangements and strategies at all levels to manage the threat that digital crime poses, engaging with all those inside the police service and in the private sector who are able to provide expertise.

17. Each chief constable needs:

- To provide appropriate and continuing training and guidance for all those within their force who are likely to deal with digital crime and its victims;

- To make sure that his or her officers and staff understand the significance of online anti-social behaviour, and that they are able to provide effective support and advice to those who are its victims;
- To make sure that their force has the capability: to examine digital devices in the most appropriate, effective and speedy way possible; and to provide sufficient local capability to deal effectively with digital crime; and
- To appoint a chief officer to make sure that his or her staff understand which cases should be referred to Action Fraud and which require a more immediate response, and that referrals from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) are dealt with effectively.

18. The Force is in a unique position that the National Lead Force (NLF) function (which hosts Action Fraud and the NFIB) is co-located with the Economic Crime Directorate. There are clear governance arrangements in place relating to the roles and responsibilities of the City of London Police and its relationship with the NLF function. The Force has a comprehensive Cyber Crime strategy that addresses the issues highlighted in the report and a Cyber Crime Working Group to take the issues forward.

Firearms licensing: Targeting the risk

19. This report was published on 15th September 2015 and represents findings from fieldwork in 11 forces (not including City of London Police) supported by data from all 43 forces in England and Wales.

20. The purpose of the inspection was to examine and assess:

- the effectiveness of governance structures for licensing work at a national, regional and local level;
- the consistency and effectiveness across Forces of the implementation of Home office guidance and Authorised Professional Practice;
- the efficiency and effectiveness of forces' understanding and management of risk relating to firearms licensing on a 24 hour basis;
- the effectiveness of forces' engagements with stakeholders including but not limited to medical professionals;
- how forces implement change following recommendations from national reports into fatal shootings.

21. The report makes 18 recommendations, 9 of which are for forces to implement with the remaining 9 for action by the Home Office and Home Office in conjunction with national lead for Firearms or College of Policing (which may subsequently have an impact on the Force).
22. The City of London Police only manages around 30 licences (compared to an average of 16000 for each force nationally, the MPS alone manages in excess of 30000); this facilitates the Force being able to provide comprehensive and effective oversight of each licence and despite such low volumes, the Force complies with all national guidance and authorised professional practice in this area. The report was only received by the Force as this report to your Sub Committee was being prepared. It is an extensive report that is currently being assessed by the subject matter experts in the Uniform Policing Directorate. Until that assessment is complete, the status of the recommendations in Appendix A remain blank, however, they will all be re-presented to the next meeting of your Sub Committee.

Current inspections

23. The PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) inspections are continuing, with the final inspection on effectiveness of crime investigation and serious crime taking place in mid October. As previous PEEL inspections, the inspection will include elements of leadership and legitimacy. The report is not expected until the end of the year.

Appendix

24. Appendix A provides a position statement on progress against all HMIC recommendations. Those recommendations that have been implemented and are GREEN and which have previously been reported to Members are not included.

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