

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on the 8th July 2019

HMICFRS Crime Data Re-Inspection

Contact for further information: David Fairclough, Secretary to Police & Crime Panel,
david.fairclough@blackburn.gov.uk

Executive Summary

To consider the outcome of the HMICFRS Crime Data Re-Inspection.

Recommendation

Panel is asked to:

Review and comment upon the outcome of the HMICFRS Crime Data Re-Inspection

Background and Advice

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced Police and Crime Panels (PCP) as formal joint committee of all the local authorities in a police force area, with responsibilities including the scrutiny of the activities of the PCC.

In a 2017 inspection, HMICFRS identified several problems with the force's crime recording practices. The Inspectorate was particularly concerned by the number of crimes not being recorded at first opportunity, as well as a general lack of training and supervision. The Inspectorate determined that the force was failing to record over 20,000 reported crimes each year.

HMICFRS carried out a re-inspection of Lancashire Constabulary earlier this year. The Inspectorate found that the force has made improvements in all areas of its crime recording practices, with the result that it now successfully records over 93 per cent of all crimes reported to it. This represents a 9 percentage point increase over the 2017 findings, with over 15,000 additional crimes being recorded as a result of this improvement.

Specific areas of improvement include:

- establishing an incident management unit to quality assure crime recording decisions;

- setting up crime management units to allocate crimes and authorise cancellations;
- introducing new call-handling quality assurance processes; and
- implementing a new data management system.

The full report is available on the HMICFRS website:

www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/news/news-feed/lancashire-constabulary-demonstrates-significantly-improved-crime-recording-arrangements/

The Police and Crime Commissioner wrote to the Chair of the Panel on 16th May 2019 in respect of the report and a copy of that letter is attached as Appendix `A` to this report.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

The requirement for the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire to scrutinise the work of the PCC is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Legal Implications

The proposals set out in this report facilitate the Panel undertaking its role in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Letter from PCC as attached to this report 16 May 2019

David Fairclough
Secretary to the Police
& Crime Panel

Report of HMICFRS as referenced and provided by web link in this report.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate N/A