RESPONSES BY THE PCC TO HMIC INSPECTIONS OF MERSEYSIDE POLICE

INSPECTION DETAILS

Title of Inspection
In harm’s way: The role of the police in keeping children safe

Date Inspection Published
2nd July 2015

Deadline for Response
13th August 2015

Type of Inspection:
☐ Merseyside specific  ☐ National
☐ Follow up  ☑ Thematic
☐ Partner Inspection

Is Merseyside Police quoted?
☐ Yes  ☑ No

Recommendations?
☐ National  ☐ Local

FORCE RESPONSE:

As a Force we are continually assessing ways in which we can improve the service we provide to our local communities with a particular emphasis on protecting those who are vulnerable. This includes children who may be at risk of abuse. HMIC’s report provides an effective summary of their findings from a number of inspections, identifying common themes and areas for improvement regarding how effective the police are at keeping children safe. Although the report does not make any specific recommendations, we have noted its content including areas in which HMIC consider the Service needs to improve. This report will be considered alongside other related inspection reports and will be used to improve the way in which we are able to keep children safe.
PCC RESPONSE TO THE REPORT:

Child protection is high on both my own and the Chief Constables agenda. I am pleased to see that good practice has been identified by Inspectors, in particular in cases where child protection is strongly understood.

However, more can and should be done to further protect children. On Merseyside I have commissioned a support service for children affected by sexual exploitation. My office reviews the referral pathways for this service to ensure children are being identified and supported correctly. This remains a high priority in order to ensure that all partners support and respond to child protection effectively and efficiently.

I also have oversight of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. In 2014/15, one of my priorities was to provide secure accommodation for young people to be detained as an alternative to the use of police custody suites. I have supported this process and agreed a joint protocol with local authorities to place young people in more appropriate accommodation. I will continue to carefully monitor this over the coming year.

I have noted the contents of this report, both the good practice and areas for improvement.

Jane Kennedy, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner

DATE RESPONSE SENT: 14.08.2015

(Responses to be sent to sofs.section55responses@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk & PCC@hmic.gsi.gov.uk )