

Report to the Commissioner's Governance Board

Date: 7 November 2016

Title: HMIC & Other Inspection Report(s) and Performance Update

From: Chief Constable



HMIC INSPECTION ACTIVITY SUMMARY

1. Since the last Commissioner's Governance Board held in August 2016 there have been no further reports published by the HMIC in respect of inspections carried out within the Force. Additionally, the Force has not been subject of any inspections since this date either.
2. In terms of future inspections HMIC will conduct a PEEL Effectiveness Inspection during the week commencing the 31st October. This will focus on how effective the Force is at tackling crime and ASB, the management of investigations and offenders, how effectively the Force protects those most vulnerable from harm and how we understand and tackle serious and organised.
3. During this inspection week the Force will also be inspected on how effectively the Force deals with crimes of Stalking and Harassment.
4. Post the inspection, no official grading will be provided for the effectiveness inspection until all other forces have been inspected and each of the forces inspection data has been subject to a national moderation processes. The inspection reports are due to be published in early 2017.
5. The finding of the Stalking and Harassment inspection will be used to identify six forces for a more in-depth inspection during early 2017 with the inspection report not published until the summer of 2017.

HMIC RECOMMENDATIONS - GOVERNANCE

6. The Force is currently liaising with HMIC with regards to all existing recommendations that have been provided to the Force or recommendations that have been made to policing as a whole following national thematic reviews. The majority of these recommendations have been completed with a small number still being progressed; the recommendations being progressed are from recent inspections that HMIC have conducted. This liaison with HMIC will result in the HMIC assessing our response to the recommendations and agreeing with our assessment based on the evidence that we provide.
7. There are no current recommendations that cause the Force concern.
8. Since the last HMIC inspection a number of internal inspections have been completed, these internal inspections have informed the Force on its position regarding the successful implementation of a number of the recommendations as described at point six and/or identified good practice and/or identified some areas for enhancement.
9. This cycle of internal inspection prior to external HMIC inspection, complements the full description of recommendation governance arrangements as described in the report provided to this Board in August.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

10. The last performance committee was held in September 2016. Using the Kent Quality Performance Framework (QPF) the following grading decisions were made:
 1. **Good** - Standards and Integrity and Supported Workforce;
 2. **Area of Focus** – Community, Offenders, Victims and Reducing threat, risk and harm;
 3. No theme was graded as **Poor**.
11. The key themes that led to the Area of Focus outcomes were:
 1. Increase in violence against the person (VAP) offences
 2. Focus on Domestic Abuse under Operation Unity
 3. Decline in victim satisfaction
 4. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) inspection recommendations

12. In September, the Force recorded 10993 more crimes for the rolling 12 month period compared to the previous 12 month period. This is an increase of 10.8% for victim based crime (VBC). Due to such disparity and ranges in crime recording accuracies across police forces, the use of comparisons and national averages is not currently considered useful context.
13. Despite the increases in all crime, Kent continues to see lower levels of burglary dwelling offences, with over 350 fewer victims (-7.6%), 300 fewer victims of burglary other than dwelling offences (-4.5%) and over 100 fewer victims of theft offences (-0.4%).
14. The majority of this increase continues to be attributed to two key crime categories, violence against the person (VAP) with around 8800 more victims (29.0%) and sexual offences with just over 600 more victims (21.6%). These two categories make up nearly a third of VBC, and almost all of the increase experienced.
15. Domestic abuse (DA) represents around a third of all VAP reported and contributes to the increase of VAP. The Force prioritises the safeguarding of victims, of DA, Adult Abuse, Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and hate crime, and encourages victims to come forward and engage with the Force and its partner's. The Force recognises this increase as a reflection of the continued positive work in identifying vulnerability and the focus from organisational partners in their dedication to facilitate reporting. DA and CSE performance and activity are covered in over Governance papers and should be read in ancillary with this performance update.
16. The vast majority of the increase in VAP refers to minor or no injury offences and includes some increase in non-domestic offences between friends or with an increasing amount of offences committed online being reported such as harassment and threats made. The Force deploys a range of tactics to tackle low level violence including the effectively use of Predictive Policing to target specific problem areas, and targeted policing within hotspots such as night time economy venues, known locations that have increased ASB or gang activity, and working with other agencies to effectively problem solve repeat and ongoing issues. Additionally, the Force has made considerable investment into digital and technological capability and training, and open source analysis, enabling early identification and investigation into the increasing trend of online offending.
17. There has been an increase in most serious violence of around 300 offences. This increase represents around 3% of the increase in victim based crime and around 4% of the increase in violent crime. This was an area of considerable scrutiny at the most recent Force Performance Management Committee. The increase is solely due to the 'intent' to cause serious violence rather than actual bodily harm received by the victim. The Force has commissioned further analytical and inspection work to understand the driving factors behind this increase in 'intent'.
18. Sexual offences continue to see an increase, although this is an improving picture. 41 forces are experiencing increases, with Kent having an increase of 21.6%. Of those forces that were reported to have similarly high crime accuracy rate, Kent is showing one of the lowest crime increases whilst maintaining its high crime accuracy. Historic allegations account for approximately 40% of all sexual offences, and this reporting and continue confidence in policing within Kent to investigate historic sexual abuse is positive.
19. The latest victim satisfaction for the rolling year ending September 2016, shows that 81.8% of victims are satisfied with the service they receive. This is a 0.6 percentage point reduction compared with the previous quarter. There has been little or no change in satisfaction for victims of burglary or vehicle crime.
 - There has been a reduction of 1.4 percentage points (to 75.9%) for victims of violent crime.
 - Victims of hate crime who are satisfied with the service they receive have seen a decrease by 5.4 percentage points to 74.5%. This is being raised with the Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) so that they can consider the reasons for the dissatisfaction and it will be a priority at the Force's Hate Crime forum.
20. The Deputy Chief Constable is overseeing a number of initiatives to improve this position and to ensure that the Force is delivering a first class service to victims and witnesses of crime. The initiatives include:
 - Op Scorpion: working with partners to tackle organised crime groups
 - Op Unity: continued focus on the safeguarding of victims of domestic abuse
 - Op Dice: sustained case file quality
 - Op Lesson: pursuing outstanding offenders
 - Op Recital: investigation quality and crime outcomes