

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 6 FEBRUARY 2018

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) INSPECTION REPORT - A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

Recommendation

1. Members of the Panel are invited to note this report.

Background

2. In November 2017 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a national progress report on the police response to domestic abuse. The report is a follow up to two previous reports on domestic abuse the first of which was published in 2014 and the second, an initial progress report, was published in 2015.
3. In 2014 individual force reports were published alongside the national one, however, since that time inspectorate oversight of domestic abuse has been subsumed into the PEEL inspection programme.
4. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not required to respond directly to the Home Secretary on the findings from HMICFRS' thematic reports, only on force specific inspection reports. The PCC did however issue a media release in response to the report following its release.

Post publication activity

Force

5. The latest report contains three recommendations. Two are at a national level for consideration by the National Oversight Group and the Office for National Statistics. The third recommendation is applicable to all forces and is for each to ensure that their domestic abuse action plan is updated in line with the improvement areas highlighted in the latest HMICFRS report.
6. The force-specific recommendation (and the 2 national ones) have been added to the latest PEEL Effectiveness action plan. The action plan is overseen by the PEEL Effectiveness core group, chaired by an ACC. Officers or staff responsible for actions on the action plans are required to report into this group. A representative of the PCC sits on this group to provide oversight and scrutiny on behalf of the PCC.
7. The domestic abuse recommendation is 'owned' by the Superintendent lead for protecting vulnerable people, who is responsible for progressing activity in support of

the recommendation. The Superintendent will be using the finding from a detailed domestic abuse threat assessment prepared by the force Intelligence analysts. This will lead to a range of improvement activity that will be captured within the overarching Action Plan and be clearly visible as DA improvement activity.

8. The domestic abuse threat assessment and findings from the HMICFRS report are being discussed as an area of focus at January's Performance Management Group. This meeting provides a learning forum for senior leaders to discuss performance management and organisational issues across the alliance. The threat assessment has also been shared with partner agencies through the Police and Crime Commissioner-led Crime Reduction Board, and partners are also considering how to use the analysis.

PCC

9. As mentioned in paragraph 5 above, the PCC has ongoing oversight and scrutiny of progress against this and all the PEEL recommendations through attendance at the core groups.

10. The Commissioning of domestic abuse services by the PCC remains a priority. In commissioning such services the PCC's objectives are:

- Young People learn about and enjoy a lifetime of healthy relationships
- Support victims in their journey through the Criminal Justice system
- Victims are supported to cope and recover, moving on to live independently
- Communities have a greater awareness of what an abusive relation is and how to report it, deal with it

11. In support of these objectives, the following services are currently commissioned.

- £234,500 for Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) provision across West Mercia, plus an additional £102,000 towards Community Safety Partnership (CSP) contributions
- £35,234 for a West Mercia Women's Aid Children & Young Persons Worker to deliver Healthy Relationships guidance and support to young people affected by domestic abuse.
- Through all CSPs, funding is given for domestic abuse Sanctuary provision (secure locks, alarms etc)
- South Worcestershire CSP – the PCC is funding a detached youth team who cover many subjects including Healthy Relationships
- North Worcestershire CSP – the Respect Schools programme is delivering Health Relationships awareness training in schools
- £25,000 grant for the Dawn project to provide support for domestic abuse victims in South Worcestershire. From 2018/19 this funding is to be directed through the CSP.
- The Drive perpetrator programme which will be commissioned in 2017/18 and commence in 2018/19

12. All commissioned services and grant recipients are subject to ongoing outcome focussed monitoring and scrutiny by the PCC's commissioning team and must be able to demonstrate value for money and progress against measurable outcomes

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – ‘A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse’
(HMICFRS November 2017)

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcestershire County Council 01905 763763
Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Andy Champness, Police and Crime Commissioner Chief Executive

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal & Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: