

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

MARCH 2023

HMICFRS OVERVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) with an overview of NYP’s approach to responding to His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) activity. It provides an overview of live recommendations and areas for improvement (AFI) at section 2. Section 3 provides commentary on the approach to the most recent publications followed by a general update on the inspectorate plan for the year at section 4. This report is aligned to the HMICFRS area of responsibility of the JIAC terms of reference.

2. HMICFRS RECOMMENDATIONS AND AFI

2.1 NYP has an internal register of all recommendations and areas for improvement made by HMICFRS. The internal governance is managed through the force’s Risk and Assurance Board (RAB). The current headlines are:

- There are 98 recommendations and AFI’s currently live on the register (261 actions in total). This includes recommendations from national super-complaints.
- 31 of which are specific to NYP, the remainder stem from national thematic reports
- 3 are currently awaiting evaluation or decision for adoption (more detail below)
- 1 recommendation was made in reports over two years old – this relates to a super complaint.

3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

3.1 All HMICFRS recommendations and AFI’s are assessed to ascertain what action is required by the force to meet the requirements. The assessment is presented to the RAB and actions adopted accordingly. The table below provides an overview of the position on recent HMICFRS publications relevant to NYP.

Digital forensics - An inspection into how well the police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations

(3 recommendations made for police forces, assessment ongoing)

Inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence

(2 recommendations made for police forces, assessment ongoing)

4. INSPECTORATE ACTIVITY UPDATE

4.1 The list below summarises the updated position on the areas of coverage for the remainder of this year:

- Rolling programmes of policing inspections including:
 - PEEL
 - Child protection inspections (single agency and joint)
 - Custody suite inspections
 - Criminal justice joint inspections and inspection programmes.
- HMICFRS will complete the following thematic inspections started in 2021/22:
 - digital forensics;
 - race and policing programme – national leadership and governance;
 - ethnic disproportionality in the criminal justice system;
 - serious youth violence;
 - serious and organised crime.
- HMICFRS plan to inspect the following further areas over the next three years:
 - police work with women and girls through focusing on offenders, continuing the work already under way;
 - armed policing;
 - police response to the Government’s Beating crime plan;
 - repeat offenders;
 - the prevention and investigation of homicide;
 - the extent to which recent high-profile cases, as well as long-term concerns about race and diversity, are evidence of problems of police leadership and culture;
 - recruitment and retention, including achieving and sustaining a more diverse and effective workforce and the effect of the increase in officer numbers on efficiency and effectiveness;
 - how forces manage increasing demand and the changing nature of demand, such as supporting people with mental ill-health;
 - investigations, including examining the main causes of the long-term decline in successful prosecutions and what can be done to improve this;
 - whether forces are using science and technology to maximise their effectiveness and efficiency;
 - child protection and how good ways of working can be achieved in a system where the police are one of many organisations responsible for keeping children safe;
 - domestic abuse and identifying the best working methods for achieving the best experience and results for victims;
 - forces’ understanding of their local drugs market, including supply, consumption and levels of dependency;
 - forces’ management of the risk associated with legal firearms possession; and
 - with Homeland Security, the areas of counter terrorism needing to be inspected.