

Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham

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**Priti Patel MP**

**Home Secretary**

**Home Office**

**2 Marsham Street**

**London**

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**Police and Crime Commissioner: Joy Allen**

**Deputy Monitoring Officer: Sweety Sahani**

 **11 July 2022**

 Dear Home Secretary,

**HMICFRS Inspection Report: A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders**

This letter constitutes the response to the above inspection from myself, Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, in order to fulfil my responsibilities with regard to Section 55 of the Police Act 1996. The reply to HMICFRS will also be published on my website.

In turn, here are position statements showing what the Constabulary is doing to meet the recommendations and areas for improvement which relates to Chief Constables, of which I am in support:

**Recommendation 1: Ensure that all dedicated investigative staff receive training on vulnerability which includes inputs on responding to the needs of vulnerable suspects (as well as victims). This should be incorporated within detective training courses.**

A new National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) training package is being delivered to probationers. In addition, the College of Policing recommends a two-day mental health training course for all front line Officers, which is set to include;

* the two new college Learn (NCALT) packages providing first response to mental health Incidents
* the triage guide gives the force a breakdown of what should be covered in terms of the front line, specifically regarding response, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, and CID.
* the force is developing a strategic response to mental health from Inspector to Chief Superintendent levels.
* the force also has their own bespoke training material which has been accredited by Northumbria University.

**Recommendation 2: Dip sample (outcome code) OC10 and OC12 cases to assess the standard and consistency of decision making and use this to determine any training or briefing requirements and the need for any ongoing oversight.**

The force has completed the dip-sampling work as per Recommendation 2. Findings of this work have been reported into their strategic Force Policing Performance meeting, chaired at Deputy Chief Constable level. The findings of this are currently being progressed.

**Recommendation 3: Review the availability, prevalence, and sophistication of mental health flagging, to enhance this where possible, and to consider what meaningful and usable data can be produced from this.**

The force adheres to the national guidance with regards to mental health. The latest Durham PEEL Report highlighted good practice in Durham pertaining to vulnerability and mental health.

**Recommendation 4: Assure themselves that risks, and vulnerabilities are properly identified during risk assessment processes, particularly for voluntary attendees. They must ensure that risks are appropriately managed, including referrals to Healthcare Partners, Liaison and Diversion and the use of appropriate adults.**

The force has introduced a process whereby voluntary attenders must be signed in by trained Sergeants, who will also oversee the process itself.

I am also copying this letter to Andy Cooke, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.

Yours sincerely,



**Joy Allen**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Darlington and Durham**

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*The Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation*

