



RESPONSE BY THE PCC TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF CLEVELAND POLICE

INSPECTION DETAILS

Title of Inspection

How Well the Police Tackle Serious Youth Violence

Date Inspection Published

8 March 2023

Type of Inspection:

Cleveland Specific

National

Follow Up

Thematic

Partner Inspection

Is Cleveland Police quoted in the Report?

Yes

No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

In 2018, the Home Office published its [Serious Violence Strategy](#), setting out its response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide. It stated its approach wasn't focused on law enforcement alone, but "depends on partnerships across a number of sectors such as education, health, social services, housing, youth services and victim services".

The following year, the Home Office began funding violence reduction units (VRUs) in 18 parts of the country with high instances of violent crime

As well as inspecting ten force areas that each had a VRU, we also inspected two forces that didn't, one of which was Cleveland which at the time of the report did not have a VRU. In these two forces, we found that officers and staff worked with other organisations to reduce serious youth violence, but their work suffered from a lack of funding and training, and from less efficient information sharing. These forces and other organisations try to replicate some VRU approaches despite these limitations.

The Terms of Reference included

- how the police work with VRUs and partner organisations to reduce serious youth violence;
- how well the police use their powers to reduce serious youth violence, and whether they understand racial disproportionality; and

- how well the police work with partner organisations and take a public health approach (see definition below) to serious youth violence.

The report made 4 recommendations, two of which were for Police Forces

Recommendation 1

By 31 March 2024, the Home Office should define processes for violence reduction units to use when evaluating the effectiveness of interventions designed to reduce serious youth violence.

Recommendation 2

By 31 March 2024, the Home Office should further develop existing joint evaluation and learning for violence reduction units to share learning with each other.

Recommendation 3

By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their officers are trained in the use of Home Office crime [outcome 22](#).

Recommendation 4

By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas.

FORCE RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

All new reports into the Force follow a specific process which involves holding a plenary session with relevant stakeholders to discuss the actions and agree how they will be progressed. The outcome from this session is reported to the Deputy Chief Constable for approval; progress is then monitored through governance meetings until such a time as the action is considered complete. The process for closing actions is depicted by HMICFRS, as they award each action a level; the Force complies with the appropriate course of action to request closure.

The Force has received and accepted the report and recommendations:

Chief constables should make sure their officers are trained in the use of Home Office crime outcome 22.

Chief constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas.

A plenary session, with key stakeholders, has taken place in order to identify the Force's current position, what work is required to satisfy the actions and identify action owners. The

action plan was presented and accepted by the Deputy Chief Constable at the Governance group and will continue to be monitored, until closure, every two months. Both of the actions appear achievable within the timescales.

The recommendations will continue to be discussed and updated over the coming months and submitted for closure at the appropriate time.

PCC RESPONSE TO INSPECTION

Comment by the PCC:

The PCC identified the need to secure funding for a VRU, which he achieved in 2022 alongside Humberside to create the 19th and 20th VRUs nationally, and that this entity is now established.

One of the PCC's key priorities is to prevent, reduce and tackle serious violence. The PCC has scheduled within his scrutiny work programme to hold the force to account on the Force's performance in this area.

The PCC has checked and has assurance that the overall process by which recommendations and Areas for Improvement (AFIs) are managed and monitored by the Force is efficient and effective, the Audit Committee will maintain regular oversight of the programme of recommendations and AFIs.

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Response forwarded to Home Office

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