


Cumbria's Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

HMICFRS Responses

Cumbria Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) response to inspections of Cumbria Constabulary published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

Section 33 of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by section 37 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017) requires local policing bodies to respond to recommendations in inspectors reports within 56 days.

	
Inspection Title:	Multi agency responses to serious youth violence, working together to support and protect children
Date Published:	20/11/2024
Type of Inspection:	Joint Inspection
Key Findings	
<p>This report sets out findings from six joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) carried out between September 2023 and May 2024. JTAs are carried out by Ofsted, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services, the Care Quality Commission, and HM Inspectorate of Probation.</p> <p>The inspections looked at how local partnerships and services respond to children and their families when children are affected by serious youth violence.</p> <p>Inspections focused on three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strategic responses to serious youth violence; - work with children, both individuals and groups, affected by serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation; and - intervention in specific places to improve safety for children and communities. <p>The report shares the most significant findings from these inspections. It aims to help improve practice, knowledge and understanding.</p>	

Link to report:

[Multi-agency responses to serious youth violence: working together to support and protect children - GOV.UK](#)

PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:

As Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria, I welcome the report on 'multi-agency responses to serious youth violence: working together to support and protect children.'

In Cumbria, we look at Youth Serious Violence as part of our delivery of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD). The SVD is managed through the Safer Cumbria Partnership, which I am chair of, and the membership of which includes all those responsible authorities to the duty and wider partners.

The Safer Cumbria Partnership adopts a Trauma Informed approach through all its areas of business including serious violence, alongside consideration of the wider public health approach.

The SVD funding is channelled through my office, with agreement of allocation of funds shared across the responsible authorities and wider partnership.

One of the key priority areas identified through the Cumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy as part of the duty requirements is in relation to prevention and what we can do to prevent young people starting on the offending route. As part of our needs assessment for delivery of the duty, lived experience individuals, made reference to the fact that their offending journey commenced with low level offending that escalates over time, culminating in more serious violence offending.

Through the national funding provided for delivery of the SVD, we have been able to fund our Youth Offending Service (YOS) to extend the national Turnaround provision. In Cumbria, YOS is able to work with young people identified of being at risk of entering the CJS at an earlier stage than the national Turnaround criteria dictates. This provides dedicated interventions for these young people, tailored to their specific need. However, the future of this work is at risk as Cumbria is a non-Violence Reduction Unit area and if national funding is not provided, we will be unable to secure this level of funding from our partners existing funding streams. We will therefore continue to work with national government to monitor their plans in relation to prevention partnerships and future funding of the delivery of the SVD.

The revision of the SVD needs assessment is highlighting increases in knife crime, which is currently a piece of work that is being reviewed through the SVD Operational Group to understand the issues specific to Cumbria and determine how we can address them.

The SV Needs Assessment has also highlighted a potential gap around harmful sexualised behaviours this is currently being explored with our partners, to ensure that we fully understand the data and where we have gaps in intervention.

We are cognisant of other factors that impact upon a young person's behaviour and attitudes, including experience of violence in the home, either as a perpetrator or victim. Therefore, the response around youth serious violence also needs to include support for triggers that can increase violent behaviour including domestic and sexual violence experienced as a child. In Cumbria we continue to work to reduce domestic abuse through our 'Turning the Spotlight' programme which provides a holistic approach to working with the whole family, including support for young people witnessing or experience DA and SV.

There is a significant amount of work being done in Cumbria which directly and indirectly supports and reduces the risk of young people being involved in criminality, serious violence and

victimisation. I recognise that this needs to be done in partnership with all organisations involved and is not the sole responsibility of any one organisation.