Cumbria Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

**Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) 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.*

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| **Inspection Title:** | Interim Report: Inspection into how effectively the police engage with women and girls. |
| **Date Published:** | 07/07/2021 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | National Inspection |
| **Key Findings** | |
| In March 2021, the Home Secretary commissioned Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to inspect the effectiveness of police engagement with women and girls. Our final report will be published in September 2021  This interim report sets out findings and recommendations from one part of this inspection, which focuses on how effectively the police respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG) Offences. These are violent and high-harm crimes that disproportionally affect women and girls, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking and female genital mutilation (FGM). | |
| **Recommendations:** | |
| 1. Superseded. Start Date 07/07/2021 End Date 07/01/2022 2. Recommendation 3 #19557 – Structures and funding should be put in place to make sure victims receive tailored and consistent support. Victims’ needs should be a central consideration of any investigation. Victims should be fully supported towards a result that reflects their wishes and considers any discrimination and inequality they may face. Consistent and accurate recording of information on the protected characteristics of victims is needed to help ensure the right support is offered.   3b all Police forces should ensure information on the protected characteristics of victims is accurately and consistently recorded.  3c The Home Office and the NPCC should introduce a single national survey to measure victim satisfaction. This should allow for both local and national quality assurance, as well as the identification of any emerging issues, risks or variables that need further action to resolve. Police forces and partner agencies should have clear responsibilities in supporting victims through every stage of the case. The victim’s voice should play a central role in shaping this, and their individual needs should be understood and addressed throughout. #19600 | |
| **PCC & Chief Constable Response to Report and Recommendation:** | |
| The Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes the Interim Report: Inspection into how effectively the police engage with women and girls.  A Public Accountability Conference held last December reassured the Police and Crime Commissioner that the Chief Constable and the Constabulary take cases of Violence against Women and Girls very seriously and work to provide a positive outcome for the victim.  The Constabulary will look to support and safeguard victims of domestic and sexual abuse, violent crime and assault. Protected characteristics of a victim will be accurately and consistently recorded and understood so that the right support will be offered.  Through work commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner we will continue to commission partner services to support victims through the criminal justice process and be reassured that the Victim’s Voice will play a central role in shaping this. | |