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Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire

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Your Ref: - Warwickshire IPA

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Dear Inspector / Minister,

As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire I am providing the following response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Secretary of State for the Home Office in respect of the HMICFRS report '*Warwickshire Police - Crime Data Integrity Inspection 2019*' that was published on the 8th October 2019. This action is pursuant to my obligations under Section 55(1) of the Police Act 1996.

1. LOCAL POLICING BODY'S COMMENTS

I welcome HMICFRS inspection of the force's Crime Data Integrity (CDI) performance and am thankful for the associated report and for identifying Areas for Improvement (AFI).

The inspection provided an overall judgement of '**Good**' for CDI compliance, where over 93% of reported crimes were found to have been recorded accurately. It also provided the following grades for specific areas of CDI performance: -

- Effectiveness at recording reported crime – Good.
- Leadership and culture necessary to meet the national standards for crime recording - Good.
- Efficiency of systems and processes to support accurate crime recording - Requires Improvement.

I note HMICFRS's comments that since the last inspection in 2014 Warwickshire Police has made changes to its systems and processes to improve crime recording. These changes, supported by relevant training and messages from the chief officers and the Force Crime Registrar (FCR) have improved the crime recording standards. The report further praises Warwickshire Police for: -

- Development and establishment of a Crime Data Integrity plan.

- Robust governance and performance management schemes.
- Comprehensive crime recording training for Designated Decision Makers (DDM).
- Successful implementation of all but one of HMICFRS's 2014 recommendations.

The report makes for pleasing reading overall and confirms that Warwickshire has made big strides in the right direction since it was last inspected in 2014. It is great to hear Her Majesty's Inspector state that the communities of Warwickshire can now be more confident than ever that crimes are being recorded in the proper manner.

There is still room for improvement and the report makes a number of helpful recommendations on how the force can continue to strengthen its approach. These include the force doing more to ensure that it records all relevant crime within 24 hours of the report. It also needs to refine its systems and training within its Harm Assessment Unit and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to ensure reports of crime received by these units are always recorded.

I have received the following report from the Chief Constable in response to the issues identified by HMICFRS during the inspection.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Warwickshire Police supports the report and the AFI's identified. We are actively working to address these, as summarised below: -

- **Improve how the force uses and supervises out-of-court disposals.**

The force is currently undertaking a supervisor training package that will assist in achieving this area for improvement.

The Service Improvement Team are also currently evaluating an initiative by Cambridgeshire Police to better utilise out-of-court disposals, with a view to making recommendations for future implementation.

- **Increase how many crimes it records within 24 hours as required by National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS).**

Clear messaging has gone out to all officers and staff who record crime with instructions to ensure crimes are recorded as soon as possible and within 24 hours of being reported.

Work is also currently underway to fully understand the force position in relation to this AFI and we are currently investigating whether a number of the crimes falling outside of the 24 hour remit are supplementary crimes raised for statistical and administrative purposes after the primary crime has been recorded.

- **Arrange to provide training in Home Office Counting Rules for all officers and staff in crime recording roles.**

- Plans are currently being put in place with the FCR to provide additional training and support for officers and staff in crime recording roles. This work will be governed through the Warwickshire Assurance Board.
- **Make sure it informs all victims if their crime is transferred to another force for investigation or is cancelled.**

A process has now been put in place to inform victims of crime of the transfer of their crime. This will be completed by the DDM's once the crime transfer has been authorised, ensuring this will no longer be an omission.

- **Improve how it collects and analyses 'equality' data through its crime reporting and recording systems**

The current version of the crime recording system makes the recording of equality data problematic, however a new version of the software will provide a fix for this issue when released in 2020. Prior to this implementation the force are communicating to staff the requirement to record equality data.

The force are pleased to note that the inspectorate commented that: -

- **The force has made good progress since its 2014 CDI inspection.**
- **The leadership team clearly committed to good crime recording arrangements.**
- **HMICFRS are confident the leadership & governance arrangements will enable it to address the remaining Areas for Improvement.**

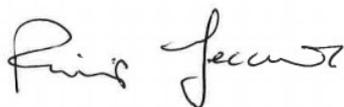
These recommendations will be tracked through the Warwickshire Assurance Board reporting to the Deputy Chief Constable, along with the wider CDI agenda.

3. ANY COMMENTS FROM THE LOCAL POLICING BODY ON THE CC'S COMMENTS.

The Chief Constable is supportive of the report and has provided his assurance that the AFI's will be addressed. I will scrutinise the progress made by Warwickshire Police in achieving these objectives and hold the Chief Constable to account in doing so.

This response will be published on the website of the Warwickshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) within the prescribed 56 day timeframe starting from the day on which the report was published.

Yours faithfully,



Philp Seccombe. TD
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner