

**Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary**

**Meeting Date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 22**

**Subject: Analysis and Service Improvement – HMICFRS update**

**Contact details: Stephen Russell, Head Analysis and Service Improvement**

**Purpose of the report:**

This report provides an overview of activity in relation of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) who independently assess the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces.

**Recommendation:**

That the current activity is noted by members of JASC.

**Background:**

Within the TOR the Committee has the role to consider reports and policies from an ethics or standards perspective which includes HMICFRS reports

This activity is primarily governed within force through the Warwickshire Assurance Board, chaired by DCC Franklin-Smith. The Board receives regular updates on inspection activity and force's readiness.

**Executive summary:**

There has been significant activity in terms of HMICFRS inspection and the force has now begun the PEEL inspection process. We recently had our custody inspection and the force is also undergoing a force specific thematic inspection on Child Protection.

## **Analysis and Service Improvement – HMICFRS update**

### **PEEL Inspection**

The force was informed previously that our PEEL inspection process will run from November 21 through to May 21. It is a revised process which places more emphasis on continuous inspection during this period, rather than the traditional intensive two week inspection visit.

In effect inspection activity on the ground in terms of sharing documents and evidence gathering (e.g. focus groups, 1-1 interviews, reality visits) will begin very shortly and run through until late Spring. The final evidence collection phase is during May and the planned date for publication of their findings will be September 2022.

We are currently working closely with HMICFRS and there has been a slight delay to on-site visits which were due to commence week commencing January 11<sup>th</sup>. This is due to a very recent change to the HMIC's Force Liaison Lead.

In preparation for the inspection the force ran a two day self-assessment panel where senior leads presented progress across the thematic areas to Chief Officers. Preparation and response to HMICFRS is governed through the Warwickshire Assurance Board, chaired by DCC Franklin-Smith. The force has a new dedicated Force Liaison Officer, Inspector Angus Eagles who is based within Analysis & Service Improvement team.

There are currently 13 outstanding areas of improvement/cause of concern from the previous PEEL inspection and these are being managed through the Assurance Board.

### **National Child Protection Inspection (NCPI)**

In addition to the main PEEL inspection, each force in England and Wales also undergoes a number of thematic inspections into various areas of their core policing business. One area is a deep-dive into Child Protection. Warwickshire Police is currently the preparation phase for our NCPI. The activity has been preceded by the submission of a large number of documents to HMICFRS and

### **Custody Inspection**

During September 2021 Warwickshire Police underwent a joint inspection (between HMICFRS and HMI Prisons) of its custody facilities.

The force was given little notice, as is it the case with these types of inspections and the activity commenced on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The inspection finished on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September. This inspection is in place of the planned activity that was due to be undertaken in January 2021, but was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

The force has been provided with a de-brief and draft report, which is not yet formally approved for release. Whilst we await the final report, it is felt the findings are consistent with other recent force inspections. The force pro-actively put in place an action plan to address some of the issues raised. This is under regular review and much progress has already been made.

A full update and a link to the published report will be provided at the next JASC meeting.

## **Thematic Reports in last quarter**

HMICFRS have recently published a thematic report from a joint inspection between HMICFRS, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Probation, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and HM Inspectorate of Prisons.

It followed the progress of individuals with mental health needs and disorders through the criminal justice system from first contact with the police, to release from prison. The report is detailed and makes four recommendations, which have been issued to all police forces nationwide as a result. These are being reviewed and allocated for monitoring and progression to appropriate strategic and tactical leads under the governance of appropriate delivery boards.

In summary, it is recommended each force should:

- ensure that all investigative staff receive training on vulnerability including responding to the needs of vulnerable suspects (as well as victims).
- dip sample cases to assess the standard and consistency of decision making and use this to determine any training, briefing or oversight requirements.
- review its mental health flagging, to enhance this where possible, including the generation of meaningful data.
- assure themselves that risks and vulnerabilities are properly identified and managed, particularly for voluntary attendees. They are to include referrals to Healthcare Partners, Liaison and Diversion and the use of appropriate adults.

Progress on these recommendations will be reported into the relevant delivery boards, steering groups and overseen by the Warwickshire Assurance Board.

In October 2021, HMICFRS published on their website for the first time outstanding 'open' Causes for Concern allocated to forces, following the 2018-2019 round of PEEL inspections. This allows the public to view the CfC's and to monitor each force's progress. Warwickshire Police currently have three open CfC's, each of which is being actively addressed and we hope to bring each one for closure with our inspectors as part of the new PEEL process this year.