

## Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

**Meeting Date: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**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 assesses 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 during late 2021 and throughout 2022 to date. The force has just completed the final evidence gathering phase of the current PEEL inspection process. We were subject to an unannounced custody inspection in late 2021 and a specific thematic inspection on Child Protection in February 2022.

### **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.

HMICFRS introduced the new model of continuous assessment in 2021 and Warwickshire has been one of the first forces in the country to be assessed in this way. Although this will take some time to gather momentum nationally, it will allow our allocated Force Liaison Lead Supt Lydia Mason (effectively the Lead Inspector) to gain a thorough breadth and depth of knowledge of the force over a long period of time.

Our current PEEL inspection period intensified from January to June this year. It was preceded by an extensive document request and followed by a sustained period of evidence gathering (e.g. focus groups, 1-1 interviews, reality visits). The final evidence collection phase ran through May and into early June. In effect this is proving to be a more rigorous and labour-intensive process than the previous system, but ensures that the force is inspected thoroughly.

By the time this report is considered by the JASC, the Chief Officer Group will have received an initial debrief from HMICFRS (scheduled at the time of writing for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022). The report will be built over the summer and whilst the anticipated date for publication of HMICFRS' findings is not known, it is not expected before mid-to-late Autumn 2022. The force will be given the opportunity to consider the draft report and challenge any parts of it which we feel may require clarification of amendment. HMICFRS have the final say on the contents of the report, however.

Of note is that forces are no longer graded on the Victim Services Assessment – this now forms a narrative running throughout the report. Furthermore, Armed Policing, our response to – and prevention of – Serious & Organised Crime, Vetting & Counter-Corruption and fulfilment of the Strategic Policing Requirement are now examined outside of the PEEL process.

There are currently 13 outstanding areas of improvement/causes of concern from the previous PEEL inspection, which have been revisited through the recent inspection. These are managed through the Assurance Board.

### **National Child Protection Inspection**

Each force in England and Wales also undergoes a number of thematic inspections into various areas of their core policing business. In February 2022 Warwickshire Police underwent a deep-dive into Child Protection. The force has received a copy of the draft report from HMICFRS and reverted with a small number of points for consideration of amendment. We are advised that the final report will be published on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

### **Custody Inspection**

During September 2021 Warwickshire Police underwent a joint inspection (jointly held by HMICFRS and HMI Prisons) of its custody facilities. Custody inspections are classed as 'unannounced', however in effect, HMICFRS are moving to a model of giving short – rather than zero – notice, which was the case for us last year.

The report was published on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022, but prior to that the force had already put into place an action plan to address some of the issues raised. It was felt that the report reflected previous reports and was in line with where the force is post-transition from the Alliance. This report is under regular review and much progress has already been made. We await a joint progress review meeting with the HMICFRS Lead Inspector.

The report can be found by clicking [here](#).

### **Thematic Reports in last quarter**

There has been only one thematic inspection report from HMICFRS this quarter. The inspection examined how well prepared police forces are to deal with the initial report of a terrorist chemical, biological radioactive or nuclear (CBRN) incident. It also considered how well prepared the CT network is to respond. However, it has not been published due to the sensitive subject matter. Chief Officers nationally have sight of it. Two recommendations and one area for improvement are applicable to all forces, including Warwickshire Police. Ownership has been allocated within the force and oversight will be given through the relevant governance boards, including the Warwickshire Assurance Board. Progress will be evidenced and tracked through the HMICFRS portal.

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 has been addressed and awaits closure with our inspectors as part of the new PEEL report later this year.

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24<sup>th</sup> June 2022