

PFCC Report Acknowledgement record

Version:

Force	Staffordshire
Police and Crime Commissioner	Ben Adams
Chief Constable	Emma Barnett
Title of inspection	State of policing the annual assessment of policing in England and Wales 2020
Inspectorate	 <p>Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services</p>
Summary of inspection	This is Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's report to the Secretary of State under section 54(4A) of the Police Act 1996. It contains his assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of policing in England and Wales based on the inspections we carried out between March 2020 and March 2021.
Grade	
Recommendations	
Areas for improvement	

Police Crime and Commissioner's Acknowledgement

The HMICFRS annual report highlights the challenges that the pandemic has thrown at society and their impact across the public sector. It rightly recognises the "exemplary" response from policing. Officers and staff across the country have worked incredibly hard, with creativity and innovation to meet the challenges and continue to protect the public.

The report also rightly recognises the pressure on the criminal justice system and mental health services and the serious impact this has for society and the additional demand it places on policing. Poor mental health can be a contributing factor that leads people into contact with the police or criminal justice system, especially when people are unable to access community based support.

My office, Staffordshire Police, local authorities and health partners are working together to improve services for people coming into contact with the police or criminal justice agencies with complex health and social care needs, including mental health and/or problems with substance misuse.

A Staffordshire Mental Health and Community Safety Strategic Board – the first of its type in the country – was established to oversee the development and delivery of a joint strategy, supported by joint commissioning and aligned budgets.

The Board ensures the availability of services at key stages of the criminal justice process, from initial contact with the police, through to arrest, detention in custody and first appearance at court, to ensure that individuals with complex needs are assessed and, where appropriate, diverted from unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system and into appropriate treatment and support.

Developments include:

- Further development of the existing countywide, multi-agency, Community Triage service through which police and nursing staff jointly attend mental health-related incidents to identify people with vulnerabilities and determine an appropriate agency response
- Improvements in the provision of custody and court-based mental health liaison and diversion services which identify people with vulnerabilities in contact with the criminal justice system and help them to access appropriate treatment and support services
- Improvements in joint working arrangements between agencies to support greater use by the Courts of Community Sentence Treatment Requirements, including Mental Health Treatment Requirements, Drug Rehabilitation Requirements and Alcohol Treatment Requirements. These require individuals whose offending is linked to their mental health and/or substance misuse to attend for treatment as part of their sentence as an alternative to custody.

We are actively supporting greater coordination and collaboration across policing and other parts of the public sector. We endorse the recommendation for multi-year funding settlements – policing will be more efficient and effective as a result.

Part of the ‘and crime’ element of the Police and Crime Commissioner role is to engender a more effective service to be delivered by agencies that are accountable to Government departments such as the Home Office and Ministry of Justice. The public rightly expects all Government bodies to work towards the same goals. My power to convene provides an opportunity to work with criminal justice agencies to seek improvement in their joint delivery of services in the interests of the communities of Staffordshire. The Local Criminal Justice Board brings together the police, Crown Prosecution Service, courts and probation representatives to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the criminal justice system. I chair the board that covers Staffordshire and progress in this area will remain a significant priority during my tenure as Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.