

PCC and CC Force Inspection acknowledgement

Version Jan 2025

Force	Staffordshire
Police and Crime Commissioner	Ben Adams
Chief Constable	Acting Chief Constable Becky Riggs
Title of inspection	<u>State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2025–26</u>
Published Date	8 th September 2026
Inspectorate	 HMICFRS Making communities safer
Summary of inspection	This annual assessment provides HM Chief Inspector's independent view of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales. The report concludes that policing faces increasing pressure from changing crime, rising demand and workforce challenges, whilst identifying police reform as a significant opportunity to improve effectiveness, productivity and public service. It highlights strengths in neighbourhood policing and prevention but identifies continuing concerns in areas including responding to the public, investigating crime, safeguarding vulnerable people, workforce wellbeing, technology and leadership.
Grade	
Recommendations	No recommendations. The report provides HM Chief Inspector's annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales and identifies areas of strength and areas requiring improvement across the service.
Areas for improvement	None identified. The report does not contain formal Areas for Improvement and instead provides HM Chief Inspector's assessment of the strengths and challenges facing policing in England and Wales

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's acknowledgement

I welcome the publication of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' State of Policing 2025-26 report. The report provides an important independent assessment of the challenges and opportunities facing policing across England and Wales at a pivotal time for the service. HMICFRS inspections form an important part of my assurance and accountability arrangements, helping me to scrutinise performance, monitor progress and hold Staffordshire Police to account on behalf of the public.

The report highlights the significant pressures facing policing, including increasing complexity of crime, rising demand associated with vulnerability and safeguarding, workforce wellbeing challenges and the need to modernise systems and technology. It also recognises the dedication and professionalism of police officers, staff and volunteers who continue to serve their communities and protect the public every day.

I note HM Chief Inspector's view that police reform presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of policing. While reform has the potential to improve collaboration, productivity, leadership and the use of technology to support frontline policing, it must be carefully managed to ensure that local accountability, democratic oversight and the operational independence of chief constables remain at the heart of policing.

Many of the themes identified in this report align closely with the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan 2024-28, particularly delivering a safer Staffordshire for all, maintaining a responsive local policing presence, supporting victims and witnesses, and ensuring transparent and accountable leadership. I welcome HMICFRS's recognition that neighbourhood policing and prevention remain among the strongest areas of policing performance nationally.

The report's focus on neighbourhood policing, prevention, public confidence and protecting vulnerable people reflects issues that matter most to communities across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Residents consistently tell me that visible, accessible and responsive local policing is a priority, and I remain committed to supporting activity that prevents crime, tackles antisocial behaviour and addresses the causes of harm before they escalate.

The report also identifies areas where policing nationally must improve, particularly in responding to the public, investigating crime and safeguarding vulnerable people. These are critical services that have a direct impact on public confidence and outcomes for victims. I will continue to work with and scrutinise Staffordshire Police to ensure the force remains focused on delivering effective services for local communities and continuing to improve where necessary.

As Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, I welcome the insight provided by HMICFRS and will continue to work with the Chief Constable, partners and communities to ensure Staffordshire benefits from the opportunities presented by reform while maintaining a strong focus on local priorities, effective public services and safer communities.