


PCC and CC Force Inspection response record

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| Version: Force | Staffordshire |
| Police and Crime Commissioner | Ben Adams |
| Chief Constable | Chris Noble |
| Title of inspection | Inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide |
| Inspectorate |  <p>His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services</p> |
| Summary of inspection | <p>This inspection focused on homicide prevention. Effective prevention of homicides saves lives and is better than effective investigation. In this inspection, we looked at how effectively forces understand the pattern of homicide in their areas, including the underlying causes and risks; and how effectively forces contribute to the prevention of homicides, including how they use the homicide prevention framework.</p> |
| Grade | |
| Recommendations | <p>Recommendation 1 By 1 December 2023, the Home Office should make sure that forces can provide it with relevant, detailed information on each homicide either via the online portal or through another secure method. The Home Office should update its guidance to police forces accordingly.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations. This will help the force to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better understand the pattern of death reports across the force area, drawing on force data and information gathered by other organisations, including the NHS and local authorities; and • identify any linked series of death reports. <p>Recommendation 3 By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.</p> |
| Areas for improvement | |

Police Crime and Commissioner's initial response

Thankfully for most people, the risk of becoming a victim of homicide in England and Wales is extremely low and Staffordshire is a safe place to live and work. The Government recently set a target to reduce homicide levels by 20 percent. For the police to be able to contribute to this target, areas of high population and high deprivation must benefit from an appropriate allocation of resources. Effective prevention of homicides saves lives and is better than effective investigation. I am committed to ensuring that Staffordshire Police have the necessary resources to undertake this prevention role and the effective use of a variety of preventative orders becomes routine. Current internal monitoring shows that there are persistent themes preventing this from happening; information sharing, supervision and quality of data recording form part of my robust holding to account processes.

Chief Constable's response

Staffordshire Police was not inspected as part of this HMICFRS thematic inspection but is nonetheless taking, as for any HMICFRS reports, those recommendations seriously and progress on this report's recommendations will be progressed and monitored accordingly. The force does have a dedicated Major Investigation Team within the Specialist Crime command.

The force would like to state the following updates against each recommendation:

Recommendation 1:

All Homicides within Staffordshire are owned by a dedicated Major investigation Team within Specialist Crime. The Force already supplies this detailed data to the Home office following each new Homicide and internal review processes ensure this is timely and robust through reconciliation.

Recommendation 2:

As a result of the Sudden Death working group, steps have been introduced to record and analyse all death reports that are reported into Police, ensuring that patterns and themes can be better analysed, identified and understood. Technology investment in a bespoke BI programme for death analysis has commenced and is evolving to ensure that analytical reports can be prepared and regularly shared for death investigations. There is ongoing work to develop this further with additional data sharing required from partner agencies including the NHS and Ambulance service to capture additional death and near miss data not reported to police, as we are keen to improve the wider data collection of information and enhance its effectiveness.

Recommendation 3:

Statutory review processes involving a multitude of partners following relevant Homicide and death investigations are robustly followed to identify vulnerabilities and learning for all agencies where appropriate. An early review takes place for each Homicide to identify and share any immediate learning. Additional funding opportunities are being explored to consider the opportunity to enhance and expand our prevention and learning with a formal Rapid review process for Homicide and Serious violence/Near miss incidents.

Police Crime and Commissioner's overall comments

In this report HMIC have summarised the important elements of homicide prevention. With Staffordshire's high proportion of domestic violence incidents, I would consider robust governance of the application for protective orders and action when a person breaches a protective order to be most significant. I strongly encourage Staffordshire police to review the elements of more effective homicide prevention and ensure they are considered and implemented as appropriate.