



Home Secretary
c/o Gareth Redmond
Head of Police Transparency Unit
Home Office, Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

18th June 2015

Dear Home Secretary

North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's response to HMIC's *'The welfare of vulnerable people in police custody'* inspection, March 2015

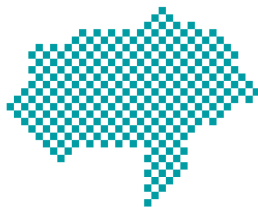
'Protecting vulnerable people' is one of the four priorities in my Police and Crime Plan, and so this inspection was of particular interest to me. You will also know that since being elected into office, North Yorkshire Police has transitioned from the last police force in the country not to have a health-based Place of Safety for Section 136 detainees, to having four facilities with another to follow soon. Street Triage pilot schemes and the progression of the mental health Crisis Care Concordat have followed.

Of the 18 recommendations made, six apply to the police. All of those are being addressed by North Yorkshire Police (NYP), as well as a significant amount of supporting work. The police are prepared to meet the requirements for Home Office data on police detention, and they comply with legal requirements surrounding equality. There is however always more we can do to ensure there is diversity in the workforce.

My office is working closely with NYP to extend services for vulnerable people across the county. A new contract has recently begun to commission embedded registered nurses (some of whom are registered Mental Health Nurses) to provide mental health support in custody suites. The ultimate outcome of this work is to prevent individuals with mental health issues re-presenting to the emergency services, and in fact we are working with services in York to target specific individuals who frequent emergency services across the public sector. The above contract is hoped to bridge the gap whilst NYP await invitation to the join the National Wave Pilot, which is anticipated in 2016.

A Mental Health Triage Pilot has taken place in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale over the last 12 months and has been extended for a further three months. I do have concerns about the approach taken by Clinical Commissioning Groups on this issue, and also feel the availability of funding for what is fundamentally a health problem is lacking. Whilst this remains the case the police will always be dealing with the fallout. A Street Triage service is now operating in York, which, although in its infancy, is aiming to follow on from the successes in Scarborough.





I am now assessing whether there is scope to commission a county-wide Triage service. Equally, the Crisis Care Concordat action plan is progressing well and now being implemented. I attend the Gold version of this meeting and find it a helpful way of holding partner agencies to account.

Yours sincerely

Julia Mulligan

North Yorkshire's Police & Crime Commissioner

