

Rt Hon Teresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

26 January 2016

Dear Home Secretary

North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) response to the HMIC's inspection; Child Sexual Exploitation Inspection (2014/2015), Child Protection Inspection (2014/2015) & Protecting Vulnerable Persons Programme (PVPP) (Missing & Absent Children, CSE & Domestic Abuse) Inspection.

I feel the care of vulnerable adults and children, that come into contact with NYP, is paramount and there has been a lot of work over the last few years, to ensure this is the case. Since coming into post in 2012, one of my objectives was to ensure these vulnerable people did not need to be detained in police custody, as I felt this was inappropriate and did not meet the needs of anyone suffering from a mental health crisis. Over the last three years, I have helped implement four new Places of Safety to ensure there is a safe alternative to police custody, which North Yorkshire did not previously have.

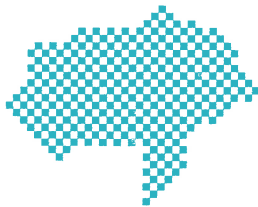
In October 2014 I carried out an in depth 'health check' into North Yorkshire Police's practices and procedures relating to Child Sexual Exploitation. I was reassured that North Yorkshire Police have effective working practices with safeguarding partners through to and including the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

I am pleased to see that of the 43 risks identified for North Yorkshire Police (NYP), 13 have already been completed and only five new risks identified.

One current risk identified, which found Officers and staff were not aware of support services available to vulnerable people, is currently being addressed. As a consequence of this, additional resources have been committed to making North Yorkshire's dedicated victim service, Supporting Victims. In addition, IDAS, who provide services for domestic and sexual abuse victims, have also been given additional funding to promote their invaluable work.

It is reassuring to know that the High Tech Crime Unit has recently been able complete their backlog of work. I am hopeful that this will enable them to deal with any increase in demand and ensure that public safety is not at risk. However, this is something that I will continue to monitor.





Even prior to the publication of the HMIC report, NYP made changes to alleviate some of the risks that have been identified. For example, the THRIVE model was introduced into our control rooms last year. This safeguarding measure, assesses the vulnerability of individuals during their first contact with NYP and enables the police to provide the right level of support and response. This proactive response, to the concerns that have been raised, shows that NYP are taking the steps to improve their service.

Having said all of this, the force has identified requirement for additional resources to protect vulnerable people. Over the next few weeks decisions will be made about the level of investment required, but it is likely to be significant. This has been greatly helped by the decision to protect the police service from additional cuts and we are confident that we can do what is required.

Yours sincerely

JULIA MULLIGAN

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire

