

JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2024

HMICFRS OVERVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) with an overview of NYP's approach to responding to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) activity. It provides an overview of live recommendations and areas for improvement (AFI) at section 2. Section 3 provides commentary on the approach to the most recent publications followed by a general update on the inspectorate plan for the year at section 4. This report is aligned to the HMICFRS area of responsibility of the JIAC terms of reference.

2. HMICFRS RECOMMENDATIONS AND AFI

- 2.1 NYP has an internal register of all recommendations and areas for improvement made by HMICFRS. The internal governance is managed through the force's Risk and Assurance Board (RAB). HMICFRS categorise Recommendations/AFIs into levels ranging from 1-4 on their Monitoring Portal as follows:

- Level 1 No action required.
- Level 2 Forces are able to close records and self-certify.
- Level 3 Forces are able to close records, HMICFRS certify closure.
- Level 4 Forces are unable to close records, HMICFRS to conduct further bespoke fieldwork, usually for forces in the "engage" phase.

Forces are required to submit closure letters to HMICFRS and this process has been aligned the existing assessment and management process and sits under the governance of the RAB. NYP currently have open recommendations and AFIs in levels 2 and 3 only.

- 2.2 The current headlines are:

- There are 70 recommendations and AFI's currently live on the register (131 actions in total). This includes recommendations from national super-complaints.
- 22 of which are specific to NYP, the remainder stem from national thematic reports.
- 13 are currently awaiting evaluation or decision for adoption (more detail below)

3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- 3.1 All HMICFRS recommendations and AFI's are assessed to ascertain what action is required by the force to meet the requirements. The assessment is presented to the

RAB and actions adopted accordingly. The table below provides an overview of the position on recent HMICFRS publications relevant to NYP.

Race and policing: An inspection of race disparity in police criminal justice decision-making

(4 recommendations made for police forces, assessment ongoing)

An inspection report on progress to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigations in early adopter police forces

(9 recommendations made for police forces, assessment ongoing)

4. INSPECTORATE ACTIVITY UPDATE

4.1 NYP has recently been subject of the Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection. The fieldwork for this inspection was concluded on the 20th of October 2023 and the report was published in March 2024.

4.2 The list below summarises the position on the areas of coverage for the remainder of this year and for the next 2 years:

- Rolling programmes of policing inspections including:
 - PEEL
 - Child protection inspections (single agency and joint)
 - Custody suite inspections
 - Criminal justice joint inspections and inspection programmes.
- HMICFRS will complete the following thematic inspections started in 2021/22:
 - serious and organised crime.
 - Vetting, CCU and PSD
- HMICFRS plan to carry out or complete the following further areas over the course of their 2022-25 policing inspection programme and framework:
 - activism and impartiality
 - prosecution team case building
 - rape investigation standards phase one
 - organised immigration crime
 - crime investigations
 - leadership and culture
 - firearms licensing
 - out of court disposals and young witness protocol (criminal justice joint inspection).

Some elements of this inspection activity may be included in the PEEL inspection programme. Others are also included in the 'Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Business Plan 2023–25.

- HMICFRS reviewed the thematic inspections included in the policing programme and framework commencing April 2022 and have considered the new commissions received and, as a result, are deferring the following inspections that were previously included in the programme:
 - science and technology in the criminal justice system
 - domestic abuse
 - recruiting and retaining police officers and staff
 - counter-terrorism
 - disclosure
 - experience of victims of child sexual abuse.
- HMICFRS also no longer plan to carry out standalone thematic inspections on child protection and police engagement with women and girls. Instead, the Inspectorate will continue to inspect aspects of these through PEEL and other thematic or rolling programmes.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Committee are invited to consider the report and:

- Express any views on the content to feed into Risk & Assurance Board and Executive Board