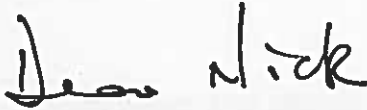


Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP,
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



23rd April 2019

SUBJECT: HMICFRS Inspection Updates Report: The Police response to domestic abuse

Dear

I write in response to the HMICFRS update report, published in February 2019, '*A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse*', which I found extremely useful.

In consultation with GMP, I have included below reference to some of the work we are doing in Greater Manchester that addresses the relevant recommendations contained within the report and hope you find this information useful.

Force Domestic Abuse Action Plan

Greater Manchester Police have recently updated and refreshed their domestic abuse action plan and aligned it to the 13 strands of vulnerability as set out by the College of Policing. This will also incorporate any additional recommendations that may come into the National Vulnerability Plan, following the vulnerability inspection. The plan focusses on:

- Early intervention and prevention.
- Protecting, supporting, safeguarding and managing risk,
- Effective investigations and outcomes,
- Leadership, learning and developments,
- Communication

By adopting this wholistic approach, it enables us to look at domestic abuse within the context of broader vulnerability, rather than in isolation.

GMP is also currently reviewing all its strategies and materials in relation to domestic abuse to ensure that they reflect the focus on early recognition and response. Once this review is completed, all documents will be circulated and communicated to staff. This process will become business as usual through the newly created Serious Crime District Centre of Excellence.

I chair a Greater Manchester wide Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and I am in the process of reviewing the oversight arrangements for this to ensure more robust performance scrutiny.

Reporting and Recording

Training has been provided to front line officers to ensure compliance with National Crime Recording Standards, including the recording of domestic abuse crimes.

GMP is working with communities to make reporting easier through improved access and reporting channels. This includes;

- The introduction of a Victim Assessment and Referral service, which gives every victim of crime the opportunity to access support
- Third sector reporting opportunities

Assessing and Responding to Risk

In Greater Manchester Police, domestic abuse forms part of the tasking and review process at local and force level using problem profiles and assessments, in order to manage effectively threat, harm and risk. This is governed through the force's Vulnerability Board and wider partnership arrangements, including;

- District performance meetings;
- Through the use of strategic risk assessments-
 - STRIVE (used by call takers to ensure we have an adequate assessment of risk at the first point of contact) in the operational communications branch,
 - DASH (used by all officers attending a domestic abuse incident)

Positive and preventative action.

Domestic abuse continues to be a volume crime within Greater Manchester and in 2018, 18% more domestic abuse crimes were recorded than in 2017, with the total being over 45,000. Almost 11% of these crimes resulted in a charge, 2% resulted in a caution or community resolution.

In order to ensure that we continue to respond to this threat, GMP are also engaging in a number of domestic abuse pilots that are supported by the College of Policing:-

- Telephone Response Pilot
- DASH Pilot
- Consideration of the Kent Risk Assessment Pilot

Each of these projects have links with independent evaluators, to ensure there is robust evaluation.

Building the investigative case.

GMP has introduced the wearing of body worn video cameras for domestic abuse reports, and as such officers are better able to observe the scene and subsequently use the footage to support a prosecution, should the victim withdraw their support.

GMP is also working to develop an investigative principle that embeds domestic abuse as "everyone's business". This is embedded in both the force domestic abuse training programme and is scrutinised as part of the governance arrangements.

CPS referrals and prosecutions.

Over 60% of GMP's domestic abuse cases result in no further action being taken and the primary reason for this is that the victim does not support a prosecution. This can give rise to evidential difficulties. Each GMP division now has a unique crime progression team, which looks at ensuring all investigations and files prepared for the CPS are completed to a

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<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
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high standard, maximising CPS referrals and prosecutions. GMP also monitors changes in CPS referrals so that each district can understand their data and improve their referral rate. Greater Manchester continues to have one of the highest conviction rates for those cases that do get to court and will continue to monitor the number of NFAs in an attempt to increase referral rates.

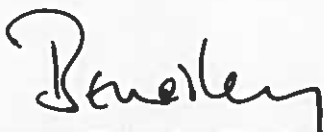
Investment in support for victims

A significant amount of the funding that Greater Manchester receives from the Ministry of Justice Victims Fund is spent on providing support to victims of domestic abuse. I believe that a strong partnership approach, at both a strategic and operational level, is the best way to ensure meaningful progress can be made and it is therefore vital that any initiatives and funding provided to tackle domestic abuse actively ensure partner engagement in the design and delivery. One of the functions of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is to support this process, to ensure that our investment meets the requisite needs of both our victims and our partners.

Tackling domestic abuse continues to remain a key priority for both myself and Greater Manchester Police, and my Police and Crime Plan "Standing Together" commits to ensuring the issue of domestic abuse is not looked at in isolation or solely as a policing matter, rather as part of a broader approach to vulnerability and within a partnership context.

I hope you have found this response useful, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Baroness Beverley Hughes
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester
Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice

