

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO:AP14/84

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
18 DECEMBER 2014**

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON PREPARATION FOR HER MAJESTY'S
INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) CHILD
PROTECTION INSPECTION**

SUMMARY:

1. This report provides an update as to the activity undertaken by the Constabulary in preparing for the forthcoming HMIC inspection of Suffolk Constabulary's child protection arrangements.
2. There are no significant financial implications to note within this report.
3. There are no significant risk implications identified within this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to note the progress made in preparing for the inspection by HMIC.

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

1.1 HMIC Inspection

- 1.2 In early 2013 the HMIC gave notice of its intention to undertake an inspection of child protection measures in all forces.
- 1.3 The order in which forces were to be inspected was prioritised according to the level of risk HMIC perceived in their current arrangements, and the effectiveness of the Local Authority child protection arrangements in the force areas.
- 1.4 HMIC indicated that they would inform forces that they would be inspected in the following three months, but the actual date of inspection would be notified at the latter part of the week preceding their visit. A self-assessment template would be provided to forces.
- 1.5 To date Suffolk has not been put on notice for inspection. It is anticipated this will now be in the early part of 2015.
- 1.6 The scope of the inspection will look at child protection in its widest form including the management of children in custody, on-line protection, children exposed to domestic abuse and how the voice of the child is listened to in child protection investigations.

1.8 Actions Taken to Prepare for the Inspection

- 1.9 Suffolk Constabulary has been preparing for this inspection since June this year. This has been accelerated since August and continues at this time.
- 1.10 The self-assessment criteria and inspection criteria have been combined into a single document which has formed the basis of the preparation. The inspection criteria are categorised under the following headings:
- Leadership, Management and Governance;
 - The experiences, progress and outcomes for children who need help and protection:
 - Initial contact;
 - Assessment and Help;
 - Investigation/Enquiries;
 - Decision Making;
 - Trusted Adult;
 - Ending of Involvement;
 - Managing Those Who Pose a Risk to Children;
 - Recording;
 - Police Detention.
- 1.11 A series of preparation meetings has been held with representation from all commands and key departments to review all assessment criteria, and identify the evidence that exists against each of these. Documentary evidence has been collected. Documentary evidence has been collected. The combined document referred to at 1.10 has been used to record where evidence exists and where gaps have been identified. Actions are then raised to address gaps.
- 1.12 Where gaps in evidence or practice have been identified then actions have been raised to address these.

- 1.13 The reports of the inspections of both Norfolk and West Midlands have been reviewed to identify common themes picked up on by the inspectors and assessed against Suffolk practice to identify areas where action is needed.
- 1.14 An audit of 30 Child Abuse Tracking System (CATS) records has been carried out by individuals with current specialist knowledge of child protection and safeguarding issues. Best practice has been identified and changes to practice made.
- 1.15 The Joint Performance and Analysis Department have undertaken a telephone audit across the frontline workforce to establish knowledge of safeguarding. This will be followed up by a wider electronic audit. Actions to raise awareness and knowledge in certain areas will be identified and progressed.
- 1.16 Notice board displays dedicated to safeguarding are being developed at all Tier 1 and Tier 2 police stations and other appropriate venues to raise awareness of 1) key issues including child protection and 2) the identity of the managers with safeguarding responsibilities.
- 1.17 Safeguarding training is provided to all front-line officers and staff on a three year rolling programme. This training has recently been revised to take into account recent areas of development and now includes greater emphasis on Child Sexual Exploitation, Honour Based Abuse and Trafficking.
- 1.18 **Timescales for Progress**
- 1.19 Whilst the timing of the inspection remains unknown the Constabulary is ensuring preparation work continues should notice be given for a visit in early 2015.
- 1.20 **Other Issues**
- 1.21 Development work in respect of Domestic Abuse, rape and Serious Sexual offences, Child Sexual Exploitation and other related child safeguarding matters are being actively progressed.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 There are no known financial implications.

3 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 3.1 There are no other implications or risks to be considered at this time

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes