



**To:** Business Co-ordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 25 November 2013

## HMIC UPDATE

### 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the OPCC following the quarterly meeting between the Chief Constable and HMIC, together with the force responses to two HMIC inspection reports - 'Stop the Drift' and 'Use of Police Cells'. Neither of these inspections were Cambridgeshire specific but included recommendations for consideration by all forces.

### 2. Quarterly Meeting

2.1 HMIC meet the Chief Constable on a quarterly basis to discuss relevant issues relating to the constabulary. These can include force performance, issues of national interest or concern and inspection activity.

2.2 At a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November, HMIC discussed the recently published 'Value for Money Profile 2013' which compares Cambridgeshire with similar forces on a range of policing activities.

2.3 The report identifies that in 2013/14 the force is estimated to spend nearly 10 per cent more of its available budget than its peers on the "visible frontline", which equates to £3.9 million extra.

2.4 HMIC provided positive feedback to the constabulary in relation to how the force is balancing its budget while protecting the frontline.

2.5 The full report can viewed at <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/programmes/value-for-money/value-for-money-profiles/>

### **3. Stop the Drift 2**

3.1 This was a joint review between the Inspectors of the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service into efficiency within the Criminal Justice process and reducing un-necessary bureaucracy.

3.2 The full report can be found at: <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/stop-the-drift-2/>

3.3 The report found that while significant effort has been made in recent years to improve efficiency in both the custody and criminal justice process, there are still a number of issues identified in past reports on this subject which continue to generate delays in processing cases.

3.4 The recommendations within this HMIC report, together with other initiatives have been incorporated by the Constabulary into a Strategic Statement and a delivery plan, owned by the Detective Superintendent, Crime Business Area.

3.5 The statement and delivery plan can be seen at Appendix A.

### **4. Criminal Use of Police Cells**

4.1 This was another joint inspection, undertaken by HM Inspectorates of Constabulary and Prisons, together with the Care Quality Commission and the Healthcare Inspectorate for England and Wales.

4.2 The inspection reviewed the use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act which is the police power used to detain people who are suffering from mental health issues and take them to a place of safety for their own protection so they can be properly assessed.

4.3 The full report can be found at: <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/a-criminal-use-of-police-cells/>

4.4 While many individuals detained under this power are taken to police cells, the report identifies that this is not the best place for such people who require medical intervention and treatment. Looking after section 136 detainees until an assessment

can be made or a more appropriate place of safety found also means that police officers are taken away from their more regular duties.

- 4.5 The report concludes with a number of recommendations, not only for the police service but also for other organisations responsible for protecting those suffering from mental health disorders.
- 4.6 The constabulary is actively engaged with mental health issues and is working in partnership with other agencies in respect of managing and improving our response to both mental health and learning disability issues.
- 4.7 A mental health and learning disability strategy has been developed and is awaiting approval from FEB. The recommendations within the joint inspection report have been incorporated into a mental health delivery plan which can be seen at Appendix B. This delivery plan is also owned by the Detective Superintendent, Crime Business Area.

**5. Appendices**

Appendix A – Criminal Justice Unit Delivery Plan	 CJU strategic statement and deliver
Appendix B – Mental Health Delivery Plan	 MH.doc

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is invited to note the content of the report.