

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 JUNE 2010

HMIC UPDATE REPORT

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on inspection activity in Sussex of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).
- 1.2 HMIC have announced that the new permanent staff officer for Sussex is Temporary C/Superintendent Janet Jefferson who has taken up post.

Inspection Activity

- 2.1 The Police Authority on site inspection took place week commencing 15 March 2010.
- 2.2 Sussex Police participated in an inspection of the Probation Service between the 22 and 25 March 2010. This formed part of the HMI Probation inspection of offender management in all 42 probation areas. Involvement included interviews and the submission of documentation.
- 2.3 HMIC have requested permission to carry out a pilot 'Child Protection' inspection on East Sussex division. This area was selected as the local authority has been subject to a completed Ofsted-led joint review of Safeguarding.
- 2.4 The pilot is designed to test the HMIC framework and methodology. It is not an assessment of performance, but aims instead to allow for key areas of vulnerability and risk to be identified to highlight potential priority areas for improvement or action.
- 2.5 As part of the pilot 'on site' feedback will be provided to participating forces as well as HMIC seeking feedback on the inspection experience.
- 2.6 This pilot was scheduled to take place week commencing 24 May, but due to HMIC staffing issues this has been delayed and a new date is awaited.
- 2.7 On 20 April 2010, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary Dennis O'Connor wrote to all forces advising that HMIC will carry out on site inspections during May in relation to Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). This will look at elements of police systems in order to identify the basic ingredients of a more effective ASB operating framework. The fieldwork in Sussex took place on the 13 and 14 May 2010 and will be graded.
- 2.8 HMIC intend to report to the public on their ASB findings in July 2010 for all forces. This will be in the form of a two page Public

Facing Document (PFD) that will be similar in layout to the Policing Pledge PFD. A report on the ASB De-brief has been presented to the Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2010.

- 2.9 HMIC also visited the Force on 12 May 2010 in relation to a funding bid submitted by the Force to the Home Office in relation to Operation Adio.

HMIC Findings

3. The Police Report Card findings feature as a separate paper on the agenda.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) 2010

- 4.1 On 23 February 2010 HMIC wrote to forces advising on the approach HMIC, Audit Commission and partner CAA inspectorates propose to take to gather evidence and intelligence to inform the assessment of community safety outcomes in Local Strategic Partnerships in 2010.
- 4.2 The approach used will be very similar to last year, identifying a limited number of areas which are of specific interest.
- 4.3 Data analysis at BCU level will be scrutinised and where there is concern about performance or where there appears to be excellent performance, improvement, or promising innovation from which others might learn from further actions will follow.
- 4.4 Where excellent performance and innovation is found the BCU commander and community safety lead of the LSP will be asked to complete a pro-forma document giving their view on how the performance has been achieved. Where performance is a cause for potential concern staff from HMIC and the Audit Commission will together interview the BCU commander and LSP community safety lead to discuss performance issues in more detail and understand the partnership element.
- 4.5 In the majority of cases, where BCU performance fits neither of the above categories there will be no interviews with the BCU or LSP.
- 4.6 The Government's coalition programme indicated that it intends to abolish the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has now written to local authorities and police authorities confirming this decision.

HMIC Consultation on Proposed Inspections 2010/11.

5. On the 17 February 2010 HMIC published a consultation paper on their proposed program of inspections for 2010/11. A briefing paper was prepared for the Performance and Development board and the force provided HMIC with a written response.

HMIC – Key Points

- 6.1 HMIC hosted a force liaison officers' day on 5 May 2010. Some interesting key points from this day are listed below:
- The Police Report Card's annual update is likely to be in September.
 - The Value for Money (VfM) domain will be graded during the next PRC.
 - An inspection into Major and/or Serious Organised Crime is likely in the Autumn/Winter 2010/11.
 - Currently CAA 'green flags' will be removed automatically after 12 months. The removal of 'red flags' will be subject to a more comprehensive review.
 - The Working for the Public inspection will take place at the same time as the VfM inspection although they will remain separate.

Inspection of Police Authorities

7. The report on the inspection of Sussex Police Authority by HMIC and the Audit Commission will be published on 17 June and will be reported to the Corporate Governance Committee on 24 June 2010 and the Authority on 29 July 2010. All members have been sent copies of the report in advance of publication.

Recommended - that

- (1) a copy of this report be circulated to all members of the Authority for information; and
- (2) the report is noted.

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