Cumbria Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

**Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) response to inspections of Cumbria Constabulary published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**

*Section 33 of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by section 37 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017) requires local policing bodies to respond to recommendations in inspectors reports within 56 days.*

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| **Inspection Title:** | #22374 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Criminal Justice System – a progress report |
| **Date Published:** | 17/05/2022 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | National Inspection |
| **Key Findings** | |
| The COVID-19 pandemic and high infection rates continue to have a major impact across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in England and Wales.    In January 2021, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, HM Inspectorate of Probation, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Prisons conducted inspections of our respective agencies' responses to COVID-19 and published 'Impact of the pandemic on the Criminal Justice System'. It was based on our combined inspection findings over the previous year, when the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted services.  This report provides an update to our original report and is based on our combined inspection findings during 2021. The structure follows the flow of work through the CJS from policing to prisons. IT sets out findings from our inspections, as well as cross cutting themes, and highlights successes of the CJS, but also the challenges that it has faced and still faces. | |
| **Recommendations:** | |
| 1. Multi Force Report #22367: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Criminal Justice System – a progress report. | |
| **PCC & Chief Constable Response to Report and Recommendation:** | |
| The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria said, “I welcome Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report ‘The Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Criminal Justice System – a progress report. As chair of Safer Cumbria, which is a partnership of key agencies and responsible authorities across Cumbria who work collaboratively to address all aspects of Criminal Justice and Community Safety, I have continued to feel assured, that this Partnership is working together to address any Criminal Justice issues still remaining from the COVID-19 Pandemic.  “I continue to work with support services which I commission, to look at how demands are being met in the ever-changing levels of needs for victims of crime and abuse which continues since the pandemic.”  “My Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) have maintained a regular visits either by weekly telephone visits to all custody suites or again in person to check on the welfare and wellbeing of any persons whilst they are being detained.”  “I will continue to monitor and scrutinise ongoing issues through my Accountability Framework including one-to-one meetings with the Chief Constable.”  This is reflected in the consistent hard work that the constabulary achieves on a day to day basis to keep us all safe, which reassures me. | |