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:** | #25922 An inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence. |
| **Date Published:** | 08/03/2023 – 03/05/23 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | National Inspection |
| **Key Findings** | |
| In 2018, the Home Office published its Serious Violence Strategy, setting out its response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.  The following year, it began funding violence reduction units in 18 parts of the country with high instances of violent crime.  HMICFRS examined how well police address serious youth violence to reduce violent crime involving young people (particularly between the ages of 14 to 24 years).  In January 2022, we commissioned User Voice to conduct research on the lived experience of those who have committed, and been on the receiving end, of serious youth violence. | |
| **Recommendations:** | |
| 1. #25968 – By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their officers are trained in the use of Home Office crime outcome 22.   The Home Office defines outcome 22 as when: “diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further notes.   1. #26011 – By 31 March 2024, Chief Constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas. | |
| **PCC & Chief Constable Response to Report and Recommendation:** | |
| Cumbria’s Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has welcomed the inspection by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) regarding how well the police tackle serious youth violence.  “Within my Police and Crime Plan, a focus on crime and the causes of crime as well as preventing offending and reducing reoffending are priorities. Building an understanding as to what causes young people to commit violent acts and establishing early interventions is a part of how I am seeking to address this. Therefore, I support activities and community groups which help to provide positive opportunities to young people in their areas, as well as developing interventions aimed at encouraging a change in behaviour for young people who have committed a crime/anti-social behaviour.”  My office continues to research and support initiatives for young people. Information was gathered via ‘The Young Person’s Serious Violence Survey’ (as part of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment) where attitudes towards/ perception of violence/harassment and exposure to serious violence were covered. The survey revealed that young people in our hotspot areas (Barrow/Carlisle) had witnessed, been involved, or knew someone involved in drug dealing, drug abuse and violence. This research will inform our work with commissioning and support agencies to develop the pathway of services available for young people across the county.  “Further to this, I have recently hosted an event, as Chair of Safer Cumbria, bringing together partner agencies to develop our understanding of the causes of serious violence in the county, including the risks around young people and looking at what more we can do to address this.”  “What is clear is that ex-offenders point towards decisions they made in their youth as to why their actions started to escalate. As such, in my office we commission several early intervention services available for young people, such as Step Up, PAKMAN, RISE, and Your Life You Choose to help young people stay away from further escalation in criminal acts. We also have the Property Fund, which allows local organisations/charities to apply for funding (up to £2500) for initiatives which support the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan – such as addressing serious violence and anti-social behaviour.”  “The Constabulary is already in a favourable position in relation to the recommendations made – and welcome these as national requirements which will further support existing, progressing and to-be progressed work streams.”  “Regarding recommendation 1 - the Constabulary have an established and embedded process for alternate outcomes where an intervention or diversionary experience would be advantageous to the case, which does consequently ensure some offenders are not drawn into the criminal system but instead are offered the opportunities to amend their behaviour and cease unacceptable elements to improve the livelihoods of themselves and victims who they otherwise would have affected.”  “Regarding recommendation 2 – our awareness of the potential for disproportionality in any element of business ensures that such information, data, and analysis is observed, collated, undertaken and understood – to inform decisions and practices within the Constabulary. Already in existence are strategic governance processes and forums focussing upon related themes.” | |