



Alan Charles
Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire
Butterley Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3RS

t: 0300 122 6000

pccoffice@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk

Zoe Billingham
HM Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region
HMIC
6th Floor
Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
LONDON
SW1V 1PN

Monday, 14 April 2014

Dear Zoe,

Domestic Abuse Inspection

I am writing to you to formally respond to the inspection undertaken by HMIC on Derbyshire Constabulary's approach to tackling domestic abuse. Firstly I would like to welcome the report. As we have discussed previously I greatly value the external scrutiny offered through HMIC inspection and see it as something akin to free consultancy that will help me meet my fifth Police and Crime Plan strategic objective of continuous improvement.

I am glad that you and your inspectors identified the commitment from my office, the Constabulary and most importantly from the individual staff and officers on the sensitive subject of domestic abuse. I still find it shocking that ten percent of our recorded crime relates to domestic abuse, though I would see an increase in the reporting of domestic abuse as a positive move as it would, in my opinion, signal increased confidence of those suffering this type of abusive behaviour to come forward and let us know about it, and more importantly, try and do something about it.

I noted with particular interest the twelve recommendations you highlighted within the report. I have tasked Mick Creedon, the Chief Constable, with responding to me on how he is addressing those issues raised. I am pleased to be able to report that action has already been taken on some of those areas highlighted. This includes the stopping of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Scheme (DAPS). Whilst I am still keen to understand if

there is a role for a restorative intervention with domestic abuse I was not wholly comfortable with the existing scheme as we discussed during your inspection visit.

I have asked that I receive regular updates on progress against the recommendations and will ensure that these are published, where appropriate, through reporting via the public Strategic Governance Board meetings I hold on a monthly basis – specific reports on rape and domestic abuse are already timetabled for the meeting on 19th May 2014 and in fact I am aware that Mick Creedon is bringing a comprehensive action plan to this next meeting. I have been briefed by Mick that this plan takes account of both the national and local reports, the debrief following your visit, our own development plan and the recent inquests and Serious Case Reviews. Be assured that Mick and I are fully committed to further improving the excellent work already done by the force and partners in the city and county.

If you would find it useful I would be happy to provide an update on progress the next time we meet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Charles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Charles
Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire