

Zoe Billingham
HMI, Eastern Region
HMICFRS
6th Floor
Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
LONDON
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09.11.2017

Dear Zoe,

PEEL: Police Efficiency (including leadership) 2017

I am writing to you to formally respond to the Police Efficiency (including leadership) 2017 report that was published today. I am, of course, pleased that HMICFRS recognised the work undertaken by everyone in the Force. That said there is, as always, still room for improvement and I will continue to challenge the Chief Constable to build on this strong position. I will be having conversations with the Chief over the coming weeks once we have all had an opportunity to reflect on the report and see what we might learn from other force areas from their inspection reports.

I was pleased to read that the inspection had noted the work we have been doing with partners around mental health including the mental health triage in our call centre. I have personally been involved in driving forward work on this agenda and am keen to see this approach further develop with our partners. We are very proud of the partnership working that is a fundamental part of the Derbyshire approach. I welcome the recognition within the report of our understanding of the benefits of this approach and it feels wholly appropriate that the joint HQ and Training Centre should receive a mention considering HMICFRS's new responsibilities. Both the Fire Authority and I are very excited about what future opportunities may be realised.

It is nice to have recognition of the potential in the Rural Crime Team and how it can better understand and address the needs of the many rural communities across Derbyshire. I have often heard from people in more remote communities that they feel disconnected from policing and I genuinely hope that this approach will challenge that perception and reinforce the relationship between these communities and the police.

I read with interest the comments about the potential missed opportunities and risks if the THRIVE process is not properly recorded and I can assure you that I will be seeking assurance from the Chief Constable that this is being addressed and keeping a keen eye on progress and learning.

It is an impossible task to know what challenges will be found around the corner, but it is good to see that HMICFRS recognises the work that takes place in Derbyshire to understand things such as future demand and future budgetary requirements. As the face of crime constantly changes, and the requirement for us to do 'more for less' increases I will continue to challenge the Chief to ensure that we try to maintain, and further improve, performance whilst hoping that those who hold the purse strings recognise that without adequate funding this may simply not be possible.

As I have often said before, I see the inspection by HMICFRS as a form of consultancy that helps identify issues that I may not be aware of and that helps me fulfill my duties as a Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that we have an efficient and effective police force in Derbyshire. For that I would like to thank you and your team for the work they have put into this inspection and report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HDH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hardyal Dhindsa
Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

