



Anthony Stansfeld
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

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Our Ref: AS/GE

Dear Home Secretary,

THAMES VALLEY RESPONSE TO HMIC

Please find enclosed my response to HMIC's report on '*Essex Police's approach to Managing Cases of Domestic Abuse*'.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Stansfeld
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

Home Secretary
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HMIC Inspection Report: Essex Police's Approach to Managing Cases of Domestic Abuse

Published 13 June 2013

Background

This inspection sought to review the Essex Police response to criticism following four domestic murders that took place in the county between 2008 and 2011. It found that Essex Police had taken a number of important steps to improve the way in which domestic abuse cases were managed. Overall governance had been strengthened significantly and arrangements were in place to ensure that backlogs did not develop in the system. The force had invested significantly in training staff in the DASH risk assessment process. Better intelligence was now provided to officers who attended domestic abuse incidents and investigations were generally well managed. The report highlighted a number of key issues for Essex to address.

PCC Response

I have discussed this report with the Chief Constable and how it might impact on Thames Valley Police. A gap analysis has been produced indicating where TVP could usefully learn from the Essex Police experience. These recommendations include:

- Under ACC Campbell's leadership to continue to emphasise the importance of effective response to domestic abuse, ensuring officers and staff are held to account appropriately;
- Continue with mobile data pilots in relation to domestic abuse, noting the potential to improve both intelligence flow to officers attending incidents and the information gathering process upon arrival at the scene;
- Together with Force Intelligence and Specialist Operations, continue to improve the service Intelligence Research Bureau provides timely, relevant intelligence checks for officers attending domestic abuse incidents.
- Jointly with Probation Service, to improve the response across Thames Valley to repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse, in line with best practice from SE Region.
- Training initiatives with the CPS to develop stronger policy for prosecution of domestic abuse.

Thames Valley Police is only too aware of the tragic consequences arising from domestic abuse incidents due to its own historic high profile cases. I am confident that the Force has learned lessons from these events. Moreover, I am pleased that the Force has used the

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Essex HMIC report as an opportunity to identify possible gaps and to address these through the leadership and direction of ACC Crime. Doing so will enable the Force, and its partners, to enhance efforts in using intelligence and focus on repeat offenders, while continuing to support victims of domestic abuse in the best way possible.

To view a copy of HMIC's report click here

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/essex-polices-approach-to-managing-cases-of-domestic-abuse/>