



8 January 2016

**Police and Crime Commissioner response to HMIC reports on:**

**PEEL - Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability)** Published 15 December 2015

**Increasingly everyone's business: A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse.** Published 14 December 2015

I welcome the findings from the HMIC PEEL inspection on vulnerability and I am pleased that Thames Valley Police's good work in this area has been recognised. Protecting vulnerable members of our communities is of huge importance to all agencies and is and will continue to be a priority for both myself and Thames Valley Police.

Whilst I am of course delighted that Thames Valley Police has been rated 'good' in this inspection I do recognise that there is still work to do across this area, in particular within aspects of domestic abuse such as honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and I will be working closely with Thames Valley Police and our partners to ensure any necessary improvements are made.

Tackling domestic abuse and supporting those affected is a complex safeguarding issue and all multi-agency professionals have a role to play in keeping victims and their children safe. Over the last two years my office has been working on creating new support services for victims of crime and these services are now up and running.

Providing assistance to victims of domestic abuse and, in particular, those victims with complex needs (e.g. mental health problems, self-harming, drug misuse, offending) was highlighted as a key area of need, as was supporting young victims. As a result I am currently funding 3 county-based projects to help these vulnerable victims of domestic abuse and to investigate further any other gaps in service for victims with specialist needs.

I have also commissioned SAFE!, to provide support across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire to young people who have either been victims of domestic abuse themselves or witnessed it within their family. Young victims of child sexual exploitation will also be supported through SAFE! until age 16 and through my sexual violence service, provided by Refuge, from age 16 onwards.

More information on these services can be found here <http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/Victims/Victims-Services.aspx>