

**NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS
INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

Inspection title	Evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions
Type of inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
Date inspection published	23 January 2020
Deadline for PCC response (56 days)	19 March 2020
Recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local

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I welcome HMICFRS and HMCPSI's 2020 report concerning evidence-led domestic abuse prosecutions, with its particular focus on whether the guidance and policy on evidence led prosecutions is widely understood and whether police and prosecutors seek to build viable evidence led prosecutions where appropriate. I take note of the recommendations made.

Domestic Abuse Champions have been embedded in Northumbria for a number of years now, following an OPCC initiative. The force prioritises the provision of the best service possible to vulnerable victims. Body-worn video has now been issued to all frontline responders, which has increased the force's capability to obtain early evidence, victim and witness accounts at all DA incidents and plans are in place to evaluate and assess the impact of BWV on court trials via CPS staff and early engagement has taken place with CPS leads. Early discussions have taken place with CPS to explore the feasibility of a pilot to assess whether BWV was used as key evidence in a prosecution case and what impact the BWV had on the case outcome.

The force has briefed me on the further work needed to excel in this area and I will continue to monitor progress through my Scrutiny process which considers progress in the area of domestic abuse as a whole, biannually.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria