

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

<b>Inspection title</b>	<b>An inspection of online sexual exploitation</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
<b>Date inspection published</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Deadline for PCC response (56 days)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023
<b>Recommendations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local

**NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS**

I welcome the report on the effectiveness of police forces, NCA and ROCUs at identifying and safeguarding children affected by online sexual abuse and the assessment of how effectively these organisations prevent and investigate this type of crime.

The Chief Constable has provided me with a position statement in respect of Northumbria Police against the eleven recommendations that are specifically for Chief Constables. I am pleased to note that where NP are not already compliant with the requirements of the recommendations that the report to me outlines the actions that will be taken,

Rec 2 – POLIT currently have data collection and performance management information that will satisfy this recommendation. The reason we have achieved this status is due to the fact we are one of only a few forces who have a POLIT intelligence team and analyst. The data is currently held on a spreadsheet however we are currently working with a business analyst within digital policing to develop a purpose-built database.

Rec 5: Until the training and material is made available it is hard to establish what local impact it may have. At present all our POLIT staff are Specialist Child Abuse Investigator Development Programme (SCIDP) trained and are accredited by the Institute of Cyber Digital Investigation Professionals. New training implications could potentially impact upon area command staff who deal with MEDIUM and LOW risk POLIT enforcement packages.

Rec 8 This is a recommendation for POLIT who already share information with MASH to inform a risk assessment in relation to children at an offender's address. However, this recommendation goes further and will likely require notification to Children's Services as soon as a significant risk of harm to a child is identified. In real terms this recommendation will mean we must be able to action any arrest package immediately where a significant risk of harm to a child is identified and Children's Services are to be informed. In order to be able to comply with the recommendation Northumbria Police will ensure that the resources are made available.

Rec 9 This is a recommendation for forces and crime commissioner to review how children identified as featuring in IIOC are dealt with as victims. Under current crime recording protocols these victims will not be recorded on crime reports and therefore do not receive mandatory victim support referrals. Consideration will need to be given as to how these child victims can be accommodated.

Rec 11 Chief Inspectors for Children and Young People, Child Abuse and Multi Agency Safeguarding, CSE and Online CSEA and Media services made aware of this recommendation and asked to review what material they are using and have published in order to comply with the recommendation.

Rec 12 Harm Reduction team are aware of this recommendation and will ensure when working with schools they are consistent with the national curriculum and NCA educational products and targeted.

Rec 13 At present all our POLIT staff are Specialist Child Abuse Investigator Development Programme (SCIDP) trained and are accredited by the Institute of Cyber Digital Investigation Professionals. POLIT staff investigate all high harm and complex cases of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Medium and Low risk POLIT enforcement packages are allocated to area command CID which POLIT specify must be a PIP2 resource and the OIC's are personally briefed on the specific package by a POLIT DS. Some cases of online child sexual abuse and exploitation falling outside the scope of POLIT will be allocated for investigation through the CIMU. It is suggested instruction is given to the CIMU that these cases should also only be allocated to a PIP2 resource with immediate effect.

Rec 14 At present timescales are recommended by the Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool (KIRAT) which are:

- HIGH requires enforcement within 7 days
- MEDIUM requires enforcement within 14 days
- LOW required enforcement within 28 days

At this time POLIT are not meeting the recommended HIGH timescales as mentioned in recommendation 8 and Northumbria Police will ensure that the resources are made available. The POLIT DI ensures the MEDIUM and LOW timescales are complied with through an audit process.

Rec 16 As POLIT investigations have intelligence development support we have experienced no issues obtaining search warrants. Warrants can be obtained quickly, remotely and where necessary out of hours.

I will monitor progress where further action is required to ensure that NP are compliant through my regular HMICFRS Scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness  
PCC for Northumbria