



NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Inspection title	An inspection of the effectiveness of the police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation in England and Wales
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NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the report on the effectiveness of the response to group-based child sexual exploitation (CSE). This inspection assessed the police's and other law enforcement bodies' responses to both victims and perpetrators of group-based CSE, and how their responses influence investigations and the way in which they safeguard children.

The Chief Constable has provided me with a position statement in respect of Northumbria Police (NP) against the recommendations and area of improvement that are specifically for Chief Constables.

Recommendation 2 *(By 31 December 2024, all chief constables should make sure that their forces have problem profiles for child sexual exploitation, each of which should include an assessment of the nature and extent of group-based child sexual exploitation. This should include relevant data from local partner agencies and should be updated frequently, at least annually.)*

- A new problem profile has been commissioned and chapter I has been completed which details crime overview for CSE. Further chapters are being progressed and one of these chapters will specifically relate to group-based CSE.

Recommendation 4 *(By 31 December 2024, all chief constables and the relevant business user groups for police record management systems should make sure there are sufficient measures in place to identify group-based child sexual exploitation.)*

- It is believed that the replacement force system which was due in 2023 would have allowed progress towards this recommendation. With a replacement records management system now not due until 2025-26, it is likely that this action will be difficult to achieve effectively. Manual mitigation procedures have been put in place with reporting of group-based CSE that meets the definition reported into the force Exploitation Threat Group. This will remain in place until an alternative automated flagging solution can be identified.

Recommendation 8 *(By 30 June 2024, all chief constables of forces that are yet to receive the Hydrant Programme's continuing professional development offer should arrange it.)*



- Hydrant have been to the force and delivered training in spring 2023. Engagement with Hydrant will continue surrounding further CPD offerings to ensure Northumbria have the most recent and updated training delivery.

Recommendation 9 *(With immediate effect, all chief constables should take effective steps to eradicate victim-blaming language in their forces.)*

- This action is noted and although coming directly from this report will cover victim blaming language more generally across offences. Discussion surrounding ownership and progression of this action to be undertaken with DE&I and People. The force has however already utilised the online NIK portal to educate staff specifically in relation to victim blaming language with updates in April and December 2023.

Area for Improvement *(All chief constables should work with their statutory safeguarding partners to review, promote and make sure that relevant group-based child sexual exploitation disruption and prevention initiatives are implemented effectively in their forces. This should include consideration of options such as the advice given in the Home Office disruption toolkit and an Operation Makesafe (a national police initiative to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in the business community) type of approach.)*

- This action will be subject to the ongoing discussion with Prevention Hub and new 6 Area Command model for delivery across the safeguarding partnerships. The force is aware of the Operation Makesafe model and take part in the national Op Makesafe working group. Now the forces' new NPT model is developed tasking is forthcoming in relation to Op Makesafe activity. The Home Office disruption toolkit contains details of legislations which may be relevant in child sexual or criminal exploitation investigations and a number of orders which can be sought to prevent offending and maximise safeguarding of vulnerable victims. These are detailed in relevant policy and procedure and utilised across the force.

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