



NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Inspection title	Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help
Type of inspection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
Date inspection published	7 th November 2023
Deadline for PCC response (56 days)	2 nd January 2024
Recommendations	<input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local

NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the report on the multi-agency response to children and families who need help. Early help is vital – it is so important that we have strong multi-agency partnerships in place that allow us to deliver effective support when children and families need it.

This report is based on five joint targeted area inspections which reviewed the practices of individual agencies, as well as the effectiveness of multi-agency working arrangements, including across children’s social care, health services, schools and the police. Sunderland City Council was one of the five areas inspected.

In summary, the inspection found Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSP) arrangements to be well established and effective. Partners work persistently and creatively together in an environment of significant and extensive local deprivation to coordinate and deliver an array of multi-agency early help services that are successfully reducing harm and preventing risks to most children receiving services from escalating. I’m so pleased that several positive practices from Sunderland were highlighted in the inspection report, including good examples of professional curiosity, providing sensitive and child-centred interventions, and having effective oversight and evaluation arrangements.

The Chief Constable has provided me with a position statement in respect of Northumbria Police (NP) regarding the areas highlighted for improvement.

In response to the consideration and analysis of children’s ethnic identity, cultural heritage and diverse needs in referrals, assessments, and plans, Northumbria Police captures ethnic identity data, but while current operational systems do not allow for the easy capture and identification of cultural heritage and diversity, there is an opportunity for officers to use the free text sections to identify ethnicity and cultural heritage (ECH) and in particular any risks associated in that community. Observations within domestic abuse records or child and adult concern notifications are quality assured by the MASH. Any additional risks associated with the ECH such as honour-based violence or female genital mutilation are considered within the risk level. ECH risks are considered within the morning triage, strategies and Initial Child Protection Conferences.



Regarding multi-agency audits, the Local Safeguarding Partnership audit regime is overseen by the quarterly MASH operations group and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership has appointed a new business manager who will oversee the multi-agency audits.

Awareness and refresher training for front line officers and staff including MASH will be undertaken and embedded.

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