

Police, Fire & Crime Panel Report

January 2020



Crime Data Integrity Inspection Report

Overview

This report covers the Crime Data Integrity (CDI) reinspection by HMICFRS, the areas for improvement and actions intended or already underway to meet these.

The findings of the CDI report are very positive, and the Commissioner is grateful for the hard work that has gone into improving how crime is recorded. There is more work to be done to ensure this is embedded and sustainable, but the Commissioner is now better assured that NYP's data is better reflective of what is reported by the public.

Crime Data Integrity

The Commissioner is very pleased that NYP has significantly improved its crime recording arrangements since the 2017 inspection. Of those forces that have been re-inspected, NYP achieved one of the most impressive levels of improvement. Inspectors found the force has:

- significantly improved its overall crime recording standards, including for violence and sexual crimes;
- improved its recording standards for rape crimes;
- improved its recording of crime reports received directly into its public protection department from partner organisations (such as social services);
- developed and implemented a crime data integrity action plan to address recommendations and areas for improvement and drive systemic cultural change;
- substantially improved the number of crime reports it records within 24 hours; and
- invested in additional resources to scrutinise and improve crime recording decision making and data quality.

HMICFRS did not make any formal recommendations but did identify some areas that the force could improve further including officers and staff understanding of how to record some types of crime, such as common assault, harassment and malicious communications and encouraged NYP to continue to explore how it can improve its collection of information to better understand and respond to the effect of criminality on identifiable groups within communities. The Commissioner has been advocating this for some time, particularly regarding rural communities and to identifiable groups within those communities and will continue to work with the Chief Constable as this is resolved.

Conclusions

The Commissioner is glad that HMICFRS have confidence that NYP will address these gaps in knowledge through its crime recording training programme which began in January 2019 and will be provided to all officers and staff who make crime recording decisions. HMICFRS also noted that chief officer leadership and governance arrangements for crime recording have contributed significantly to these improvements. Governance is managed through a CDI improvement board which meets monthly and is chaired by the deputy chief constable (DCC). The force reports its own crime recording audit results to the board and adds any resulting recommendations to the CDI action plan and monitors progress through the board.