

Response of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire to the Ethics Panel's report into the Casey Review

I committed to the creation of an Independent Ethics Panel in my Police and Crime Plan, with the intention of providing wider reassurance to the public. To maintain public confidence in policing, I recognised the need for transparent scrutiny and would like to express my gratitude to the Panel in supporting me to achieve this objective.

The Ethics Panel met in April 2023, and raised concerns that issues highlighted in the report published by Baroness Casey into standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service could impact on how the police are perceived nationally, and the impact this could have on public confidence.

In response to this, the Panel considered:

- Recruitment and Vetting
- Misconduct Process
- Stop and Search
- Neighbourhood Policing

It was reassuring that the Constabulary was deemed to have acted in an open and cooperative manner during the recent meeting. The concluding report makes clear the reason for their inquiry was not due to any concerns, but came from the perspective of how prevailing issues could be impactful on local forces.

I am incredibly appreciative of the detailed report and will act upon the conclusions as follows:

1. Recognising the Ethics Panel's concerns, I will conduct a thematic scrutiny session where the matters raised can be scrutinised in a meaningful and transparent way. Furthermore, I will ensure members of the Panel are invited to speak directly to the Chief Constable and myself.
2. I will continue to visit Local Policing Units as well as liaise with staff networks to speak with officers and staff to obtain, first hand, a view on cultures and behaviours that may exist in the force for minority groups.
3. The Constabulary has been recognised for their significant focus on protecting women and girls, and I would like to provide reassurance to the Panel that my office has been responsible for securing funding which also supports this agenda (Appendix A).
4. Through my Engagement Team, I will listen to what our communities have to say, and ensure any concerns are relayed to the Constabulary for further consideration to maintain a high level of public confidence.
5. It would be beneficial for members of the Ethics Panel to attend the Public Scrutiny Board to provide an independent perspective.

John Dwyer
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire
May 2023

Appendix A

Domestic Abuse

- Delivery of the CEASE programme – range of services provided by Remedi to address issues presented by Domestic Abuse for young people
- Perpetrator programme is being delivered in Custody looking at early intervention
- Domestic Violence advocates x3- working alongside area investigation teams having secured £150,000 from Home Office
- Engage: Whole Family Engagement Programme (Respect accredited) supports Domestic Abuse perpetrators and families (moving beyond denial to acceptance); and build rationale/motivation for engagement in longer term behaviour change (group work and/or 1to1 for all family members).
- Reset: Early intervention programme educating teenagers around Domestic Abuse /warning signs. Focusing on children/adolescents displaying problematic behaviour towards their parents/carers, (CAPVA). The programme increases young people (YP) knowledge around healthy/happy relationships, self-identification of harmful behaviours.
- Funding for Safe and Together Domestic Abuse in Cheshire. Focuses on developing the understanding of coercive control on children and promotes a 'whole family' approach in addressing domestic abuse.

Sexual Offences

- Enhanced support given to Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) to deliver Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) services
- Additional funding secured to provide specialist ISVA support to those with learning difficulties
- Working with Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service have obtained funding for extended counselling capacity for victims
- Working with Survive to address historical sexual abuse cases through counselling and therapy sessions.

Stalking and Harassment

- Worked alongside the Harm Reduction Unit to submit a bid for innovative working to enhance conviction rates and support for victims.

Honour Based Abuse

- Worked with Savera UK to deliver support for victims of harmful practices and honour based abuse in Cheshire.

BAME

- Working with Pearls of Cheshire to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse amongst the black and ethnic minority community, ensuring we understand the challenges and cultural differences which may impact on victims accessing or seeking support, and how as officers and professionals we can adapt and refine our offer.

Safer Spaces

- Safe space buses are out in the night-time economy with a range of materials and equipment to help keep people safe.
- Training being delivered to those working in the night-time economy (NTE) to enable them to create safer spaces in our NTE for those in Cheshire.
- Training to those working in the beauty sector and how to respond to disclosures and give access to support services.

Victim Support

- Good SAM- ability to live link victims, located vulnerable people and capture evidence early. Funded by Home office via my office
- Hollie Guard- Mobile safety app to enable people to feel safe, map routes and alert contacts if in danger. Enhanced vouchers being given to vulnerable victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- Enhanced services for hate crime victims. Victims are receiving valuable support via Remedi.
- The establishment of a new victims panel.