

**REPORT OF THE  
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY  
TO THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**27 NOVEMBER 2015**

**REPORT ON HMIC REPORTS**

1. I am required to publish comments on reports relating to the Force sent to me and the Chief Constable by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Comments may be published in such a manner as appears to be appropriate by me, however I first invite the Chief Constable to submit comments on the reports issued by the HMIC.
2. The protocol agreed was that the Chief Constable would present comments to the Policy, Planning and Performance meetings to facilitate transparency and accountability. I am required to publish my response to the reports and forward the response to HMIC. My response(s) can be found on my website.
3. I received at the last Policy, Planning and Performance meeting the following HMIC reports:
  - In harm's way: the role of the police in keeping children safe
  - Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world
  - Building the picture: an inspection of police information management
  - The welfare of vulnerable people in police custody
4. I have set out below my responses on the above reports:
5. The first two reports ("In harm's way" and "Online and on the edge") are both inextricably linked. While no specific fieldwork was carried out in Thames Valley Police, there are a number of themes and issues which are familiar across all forces. The findings and recommendations of the reports reflect the issues and challenges that Thames Valley Police had already identified. The scale and significance of these challenges - most importantly for their impact on children - are not underestimated. Thames Valley Police have already implemented or are developing solutions for these challenges, with proportionate governance procedures in place.

6. With regards to the third report (“Building the Picture”), Thames Valley Police recognises the importance of effective information management and welcomes the national focus on this area. However, some of HMIC’s recommendations are challenging in terms of cost and timescales, and dependent on the delivery of other recommendations made to the College of Policing. However, after reviewing the Force’s action plan in relation to these national recommendations, I was satisfied that TVP’s response was proportionate.
7. After considering the Force’s response to the welfare of vulnerable people in police custody report – which included an update on the progress of TVP custody strategy in relation to vulnerable people in custody, I was satisfied with the Force’s approach in meeting the challenges of HMIC. The issues relating to vulnerability in TVP custody suites were recognised by the Force. The development of a structured strategic plan, oversee by a ‘vulnerability panel’ including external scrutiny would serve to ensure that TVP produced a fair, transparent custodial service to the whole community and that the Force would be in a strong position to fully meet expectations for police custody by HMIC.
8. I have a particular interest in two of the recommendations of the report to ensure data was better utilised to promote transparency and accountability, and would therefore continue to monitor Force developments closely.

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police and Crime Commissioner