

Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA

Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu De Cymru
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales



26 August 2021

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS INTERIM REPORT: 'INSPECTION INTO HOW EFFECTIVELY THE POLICE ENGAGE WITH WOMEN AND GIRLS'

This interim report makes positive recommendations in relation to one of the aspects of this wider inspection on police engagement with women and girls. All three of the recommendations in this report relate to Violence Against Women and Girls, and I welcome them.

The report has rightly recognised the extent of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the UK and the fact that that all agencies need to act together to tackle it, that more needs to be done, and that this cannot be delayed. I am pleased that Recommendation 1 in this report calls upon the UK Government, as well as other agencies, to prioritise this issue and allocate sufficient resources to promote a whole-system approach to protecting victims.

I am also encouraged to see that Recommendations 2 and 3 refer to the need to tackle perpetrators and to appropriately allocate structures and funding to support VAWG. I support the recommendations to forces, and I'm particularly pleased to see how many recommendations are being directed towards the Home Office in order to assist Chief Constables and Commissioners with tackling VAWG centrally and in wider society. The approaches being considered as part of this report support the approach we are taking in Wales by working with wider partners and the public sector to improve support to victims.

I am also encouraged to see the importance being placed on tackling perpetrators as an essential aspect of the wider VAWG agenda. South Wales is currently running a very successful DRIVE perpetrator programme, commissioned within my team, and we are seeing excellent results. The DRIVE programme is an innovative approach that challenges the behaviour of high risk, high harm perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse. It has been shown to reduce violence, victimisation and reoffending. I will of course continue my commitment to tackling perpetrators in my ongoing Police & Crime Plan for this term and will work proactively with partners to ensure investment and commitment to perpetrator services are effective and sustainable in the long-term.

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Mae'r Comisiynydd a'i dîm yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
The Commissioner and his team welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English

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The Chief Constable shares my commitment to tackling VAWG and has commented on this interim report as below:

'The force is absolutely committed to tackling violence against women and girls. The scrutiny and recommendations in this report are useful in benchmarking our plans and understanding where and how we can make improvements.'

South Wales Police acknowledges the findings of the report and will continue to work relentlessly with partners to ensure that our response to violence against women and girls remains an absolute priority and to ensure that victims receive tailored and consistent support and are made to feel safe'.

I look forward to receiving the final report in the autumn, which will cover other issues and will hopefully provide further details on the issues raised in the interim report.

Rt Hon Alun Michael
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