



31st May 2023

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS INSPECTION REPORT: 'AN INSPECTION OF HOW WELL THE POLICE AND NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY TACKLE THE ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN'.

This report details the findings from thematic inspections of police forces. This HMICFRS inspection looked at how effectively police forces and the National Crime Agency are combating the growing issue of online sexual abuse with a particular focus on children. The inspection found many dedicated teams and passionate investigators in policing who are eager to work diligently and persistently to protect children online.

This issue is very important, especially for the generations of young people who use online applications, such as social media as part of their everyday lives. I note the recommendations of the report and will align any areas of concern to our scrutiny and oversight of South Wales Police.

The Chief Constable and I are both eager to ensure the highest standards of systems and dedicated teams are in place in order to be relentless in our pursuit of combating online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.

The Chief Constable summarises his views on the report as follows:

'South Wales Police acknowledges the findings and recommendations made within the report and is fully committed to tackling the growing problem of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.'

The force has recently amended its command structure and centralised strategic management of dedicated teams and has invested in its capabilities to improve its response to these atrocious and insidious crimes. This change in structure and additional focus seeks to enhance our investigative capability and getting better outcomes for children.'

Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA

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



South Wales Police will continue to work in collaboration with statutory safeguarding partners in relentless pursuit to combat online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and to safeguard children by identifying and swiftly bringing to justice those offenders who pose a risk to children whilst supporting victims.'

I am grateful for the Chief Constable's comments and the commitment to safeguarding children online. It is clear that South Wales Police are dedicated to tackling this growing issue. I will ensure my Scrutiny & Accountability Board works closely with South Wales Police to consider further oversight in this area.

Rt Hon Alun Michael
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales

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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