Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA

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



16th Oct 2023

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS INSPECTION REPORT: 'HOMICIDE PREVENTION: AN INSPECTION OF THE POLICE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREVENTION OF HOMICIDE'.

This report details the findings from thematic inspections of police forces. This HMICFRS inspection looked at how effectively police forces are contributing to the prevention of homicide. The inspection found found that most police forces were able to identify the patterns and causes of homicide effectively. And they were able to prioritise and allocate the right resources to tackle them.

I am pleased to see that HMICFRS found that many forces had clear and effective leadership of homicide prevention, which I believe can be seen within South Wales Police. Furthermore, 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 this area. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Meyrick summarises her views on the report as follows:

'South Wales Police acknowledges the findings and recommendations made within the report and is fully committed to the prevention of homicide. The force has a new Homicide Prevention Strategy underpinned by a Violence and Homicide Prevention governance structure at tactical and strategic levels to drive operational activity; tailored to the specific needs and demands of our local communities, remaining cognisant of the national Homicide Prevention strategy.

Our approach is supported by analytical products and concentrates on the key drivers that lead to homicide, areas of focus that have the greatest impact on homicide, with lead responsible officers for effective delivery. We remain committed to continuous improvement, identifying and learning lessons with partners through statutory reviews and revised non-statutory review processes to identify, share and implement learning from homicides and near-miss incidents..'

I am grateful for the Assistant Constable's comments and the commitment to continuous improvement in preventing homicide. I will ensure my Scrutiny &

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Accountability Board works closely with South Wales Police to consider oversight in this area.

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