



The Rt Hon Priti Patel
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Via email

16 August 2019

HMICFRS National Child Protection Post Inspection Review

Dear Home Secretary,

I welcome the recent HMICFRS National Child Protection Post Inspection Review report which assessed the progress being made by Northamptonshire Police against the recommendations made in the Child protection Inspection in March 2018.

As the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, I have been very clear that the protection of vulnerable people and , in particular children and young people, is central to my Police and Crime Plan and a priority for the Force locally.

I am very disappointed that the Inspectors have found that Northamptonshire Police has not been improving in the area of child protection as quickly as we would all like, particularly as I know how important this area of work is to me and everyone in the county.

Clearly some progress has been made since the original report and I know that the new Chief Constable and his team have been working hard to address the issues raised as priorities since the Inspectors visited in February. The Chief Officer team has been enhanced by the addition of a new Deputy Chief Constable and additional Assistant Chief Constable, latter with a specific responsibility for safeguarding. However, progress still needs to be made at pace.

I am also grateful that the Inspectors have recognised that the Force has historically been underfunded. I am also conscious that the financial circumstances of key partners in the county responsible for protecting children and young people has an impact on the capacity of services to meet demand.

Working effectively with partners to keep young people safe is of paramount importance. The county has now implemented its new safeguarding arrangements in line with the requirements of Working Together 2018 and Northamptonshire Police are actively engaged with strategic partners in the Council and Health to prioritise the way in which child and young people are safeguarded in the county. I will be looking as a matter of urgency at the Chief

Constable's plan to make progress as quickly as possible and doing everything I can to support him in that.

In addition, within my own Office I have a team of ACE officers delivering early intervention support to families and am in the process of recruiting to a diversionary and outreach Youth Service to enhance the early support available to children, young people and families to prevent future demand for child protection services. My Director for Early Intervention is also working closely with colleagues in Northamptonshire Police and Children's Services to improve our collective response to child protection and early intervention services.

I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable, the County Council and other partners to support the development of the Force's approach to dealing with Child Protection. As part of my Accountability Board rolling schedule of assurance, the recommendations and suggested areas of improvement as set out in the report will be incorporated and tracked accordingly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mold', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Stephen Mold
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

c.c. Sir Thomas Winsor