

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

27 August 2019

Dear Home Secretary

Response to the HMICFRS/HMCSI Joint Thematic Inspection Report: Crimes Against Older People

In line with my statutory responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner and following consultation with the Chief Constable, I am pleased to provide the following response to the HMICFRS and the Secretary of State for the Home Office in respect of the above Joint Thematic Inspection Report: "The poor relation: the police and CPS response to crimes against older people", published on 17 July 2019.

The Chief Constable and I welcome the findings and recommendations of the report and are keen to ensure ongoing improvements in this area.

It was pleasing to note that the report praised officers over their initial dealings with older victims of crime, including attending promptly to reports of crime from older victims. The Chief Constable and I were however concerned to note that safeguarding referrals for older victims of crime to the local authority could not always be evidenced and that there were inconsistencies in referrals for older people to victim support services.

Dorset Police takes the issue of crimes against older people extremely seriously and is keen to improve its response where possible.

We will be ensuring that the recommendations from the report are scrutinised through robust governance mechanisms, with clearly ownership and accountability for delivery.

In particular we will: make sure that victim needs assessments are completed, analyse current and future demand for adult safeguarding and assess the current demands on the police made by older people.

I will work with the chief constable and our partner organisations to review whether victim support services can be provided in a better way.

I trust this response provides reassurance around the work being undertaken in Dorset in response to the HMICFRS findings. I will continue to take a keen interest and scrutinise this area of business closely and this response will be published on the OPCC website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martyn Underhill', written in a cursive style.

Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner