

# Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable  
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Year ending 31 March 2018

September 2018



# Contents and Introduction



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This paper provides the Independent Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditor.

The paper also includes:

- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to you; and
- a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider (these are a tool to use, if helpful, rather than formal questions requiring responses for audit purposes)

Members of the Independent Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications. Click on the following link to be directed to the website <https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/>.

If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, or would like to register with Grant Thornton to receive regular email updates on issues that are of interest to you, please contact either your Engagement Lead or Engagement Manager.

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# Progress at 20 August 2018

## 2018/19

We have begun our planning processes for the 2018/19 financial year audits.

Our formal work and audit visits will begin later in the year and we will discuss the timing of these visits with management. In the meantime we will;

- hold regular discussions with management to inform our risk assessment for the 2018/19 financial statements and value for money audits;
- review minutes and papers from key meetings; and
- review relevant sector updates to ensure that we capture any emerging issues and consider these as part of audit plans.

## Other areas

### Meetings

We have got liaison meetings scheduled in September to meet with key finance officers and internal audit regarding emerging developments and to ensure the audit process is smooth and effective.

### Events

We ran our latest Police Audit Conference event alongside the Police Auditor Group meeting in Warwick on 12 July 2018, which brought together police Audit Committee members from around the country.

We are working with members and officers to arrange a local event for members of the South West forces later in the year.

Further details of the publications that may be of interest to the members are set out in our Sector Update section of this report.

# Sector Update

Policing services are rapidly changing. Increased demand from the public and more complex crimes require a continuing drive to achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of police services. Public expectations of the service continue to rise in the wake of recent high-profile incidents, and there is an increased drive for greater collaboration between Forces and wider blue-light services.

Our sector update provides you with an up to date summary of emerging national issues and developments to support you. We cover areas which may have an impact on your organisation, the wider Police service and the public sector as a whole. Links are provided to the detailed report/briefing to allow you to delve further and find out more.

Our public sector team at Grant Thornton also undertake research on service and technical issues. We will bring you the latest research publications in this update. We also include areas of potential interest to start conversations within the organisation and with audit committee members, as well as any accounting and regulatory updates.

- [Grant Thornton Publications](#)
- [Insights from sector specialists](#)
- [Accounting and regulatory updates](#)

More information can be found on our dedicated public sector and police sections on the Grant Thornton website by clicking on the logos below:

[Public Sector](#)

[Police](#)

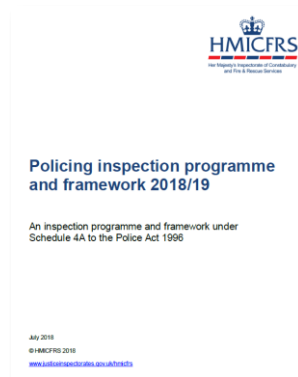
## HMICFRS publishes its policing inspection programme and framework 2018/19

New inspections into hate crime, county lines and older people in the justice system, are central to the programme and framework of policing inspections published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The document sets out HMICFRS's programme of policing inspections up until the end of the financial year, and details those inspections already taking place. The programme and framework builds upon findings from inspections in 2017/18 and continues to place importance on how forces deal with vulnerable people with this element being examined across all inspections.

Proposed thematic inspections this year include hate crime, counter-terrorism, fraud (including cyber-enabled fraud), older people in the criminal justice system, cybercrime and HMICFRS's rolling programmes concerning child protection and crime data integrity. Crime data integrity inspections assess whether police forces record and categorise crimes correctly, and thematic work on county lines will begin in 2018/19.

The programme can be accessed by clicking on the cover of the report below.



## Police must grasp 'one chance' to take action for victims of hate crime

In its first ever report into hate crime, HMICFRS have urged forces to prioritise the service to victims against a background of rising hate crime reported in recent years.

The report emphasises the importance of the police getting their response right first time and at the beginning of their contact with victims. Unless victims feel confident in coming forward and police forces ensure hate crime is recorded properly, there is limited opportunity to root out and proactively prevent hate crime from taking hold within communities.

The inspection which took place last year, revealed that some forces:

- incorrectly flagged hate incidents and crimes;
- did not gather comprehensive data about hate crime victims;
- did not gather sufficient intelligence about hate crime;
- did not always provide adequate information to hate crime victims; and
- did not consistently refer hate crime victims to support services.

However, the inspection identified that police forces across the country have worked hard to raise the awareness of hate crime among staff and in their communities, and most forces have produced information on hate crime and how to report it.

Click on the report cover to read the national report.



# Police Transformation Fund 2018/19



Home Office

The Home Office has awarded over £100 million to police transformation projects.

The Home Secretary has approved up to £70 million for investment in 2018/19 in four national major police-led programmes covering forces in England and Wales, designed to ensure maximum benefits are shared among forces. The programmes will transform how police use technology, make it easier for the public to engage with police online, and boost capacity to deal with major threats.

The Home Office also announced 15 successful bids to the fund, totalling £42.7 million across 2018/19 and 2019/20, as well as £0.7 million of additional funding awarded under Phase 1 of the Police Transformation Fund 16/17 and 17/18.

The four police-led national programmes, which are already underway, include:

- The National Enabling Programme: focused on delivering a unified IT system across policing to deliver more joined-up working within and between forces. In Cumbria, for example, cloud-based note-taking technology allows officers preparing to question suspects in custody to view real-time information from victim interviews being conducted by other officers elsewhere, improving the response offered to those affected by crime.
- Specialist Capabilities Programme: this will improve force-to-force resource sharing in key crime areas like roads policing and armed policing. In cyber-crime, for example, the programme seeks to ensure forces can tackle digitally-dependent crime, with oversight provided through regional organised crime units (ROCs).

- The Digital Policing Portfolio: this aims to improve police's use of technology, including by creating a single online hub. The hub allows members of the public to report low-level incidents – such as minor road collisions – online rather than having an officer manually record the information at their local station, providing a better service to the public and improving efficiency for the force.
- Transforming Forensics: this will improve how biometric services and digital forensics are used, including the development of a 24/7, faster, fingerprint identification service.

The national programmes are expected to deliver cash savings, as well as improving efficiency by, for example, freeing up officers for frontline policing roles. Funding will be released in stages to the programmes subject to progress in delivery to provide ongoing assurance of this major investment.

Devon and Cornwall were successful in obtaining £50,000 funding for the Exploration of a merger between Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Police.

The full list of successful projects can be found [here](#).



### Police workforce, England and Wales: 31 March 2018

Statistics on police workforce numbers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police have been released. Statistics cover police officers, police staff, police community support officers, designated officers, special constables and police support volunteers.

The statistics include a number of indicators in respect of promotions, joiners and leavers, frontline and local policing, diversity and officer wellbeing.

The key findings of the report note that the police workforce numbered just under 200,000 full-time equivalents at 31 March 2018, an increase of 1,066 (0.5%) on the 198,686 employed as at 31 March 2017. This is the first yearly increase in police workers since 2010. There were also an additional 11,690 special constables in post as at 31 March 2018.

However, the latest rise was due to an increase in the number of police staff and designated officers rather than officers. The number of police officers fell to 122,404 from 123,142 at 31 March 2017 (down 0.6%). The continued fall in officers means this is the lowest number of police officers since comparable records began in 1996. While records earlier than this are not directly comparable, this is the lowest number of officers since 1981.

The report can be accessed by clicking [here](#), which includes links to the relevant data tables.

### Police pay award 2018/19

Police officers will receive a pay rise of 2% in 2018 to 2019. The increase will consist of:

- a 2% pay increase for all police officer ranks;
- a 2% increase to the London weighting payment; and
- a 2% increase to the dog handlers' allowance.

The Police Remuneration Review Body had recommended that the 1% non-consolidated award received in 2017 to 2018 be consolidated, and that a further 2% consolidated award be given to all police officers. Police employers, however, advised that the maximum affordable award would be a 2% increase. This was recommended by both the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

### PCC expenses

The Home Secretary's determination on Police and Crime Commissioner expenses has been updated. The guidance sets out the kinds of allowances that can be claimed, setting out any key restrictions and rates that can be claimed. The guidance also re-confirms that all PCC expenses should be reviewed by the Chief Executive, with a breakdown of the details required to be published. The guidance can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

# Other Home Office news



Home Office

## Early Intervention Youth Fund

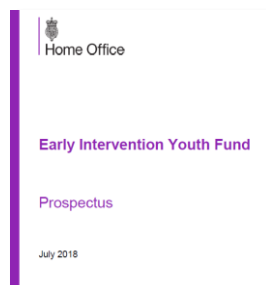
The government's serious violence strategy sets out a programme of work to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide. The strategy included a commitment to provide £11 million over 2 years for a new early intervention youth fund, which has subsequently been doubled to £22 million.

The fund is open to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales as lead bidders. PCCs must work with community safety partnerships (or the local equivalent partnership) to bid for funding to support targeted early interventions and prevention activity for serious violence.

The aims of the fund are:

- delivering services to support and prevent young people from getting involved in crime by supporting positive activities;
- delivering positive outcomes for young people, focused on addressing risk factors which are linked to serious violence;
- building on, and developing, our understanding of what works in practice for tackling these risks factors;
- driving improved local, multi-agency partnership working; and
- reducing the levels of serious violence and crime

The scheme opened for bids on Monday 30 July, and the full details of the fund and the assessment criteria are set out in the prospectus which can be accessed by clicking the report cover below.



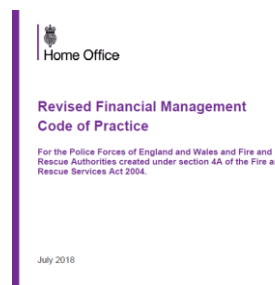
## Financial Management Code of Practice

A revised financial management code of practice has been released. The financial management code of practice provides clarity around the financial governance arrangements within policing and provides high level guidance to help ensure effective and constructive relationships in all financial matters. The revised code of practice also applies to Police and Crime Commissioners in England who are also Fire and Rescue Authorities under section 4A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

The revised financial management code of practice came into effect on 24 July 2018, replacing the previous version which had effect from 1 November 2013.

The code continues to include guidance on a number of areas of financial governance including roles and responsibilities, schemes of governance, accounting, value for money, transparency, collaboration and partnerships.

The new code can be accessed by clicking on the report cover below.





The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect your business or any weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.



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