

HMIC – QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Quality Assurance visit undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in February 2009 in respect of civil contingencies, critical incidents and public order.
2. The Force has considered the findings and this report is to assure Members of the action being taken. The report also provides feedback from HMIC on the positive involvement of the Chair of the Protective Services Committee within this area of business.

BACKGROUND

3. In February 2009, HMIC carried out a Quality Assurance Visit around civil contingencies, critical incidents and public order. As part of the process, the Chair of the Police Authority and Strategic Development Manager (Corporate Business) were interviewed by HMIC.
4. The visit identified a large number of strengths and a very small number of areas for improvement.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

5. HMIC identified the following strengths in respect of Police Authority involvement, specifically in respect of critical incidents:
 - The Police Authority is actively engaged in the scrutiny of professional standards issues through the Professional Standards Board and the Human Resources committee. Members received training on the impact of the Taylor reforms at the same time as Professional Standards Branch staff which was delivered by an external speaker.
 - There is an effective relationship between the chief officer team and Police Authority Members with regular informal phone contact to apprise them of incidents of note in addition to more formal arrangements through regular champions meetings on divisions.
 - The Chair of the Police Authority and a Police Authority secretariat officer are Members of the Force Protective Services Programme Board. The Police Authority formally scrutinises Force activity through the Protective Services Committee.
6. In respect of the issues identified in respect of the Force, it is evident that the majority of areas for improvement have already been identified by the Protective

Services Project Team. Those that are not already in progress are being reviewed and an appropriate course of action will be taken. Progress will initially be determined through the Protective Services Project Board on which the Chair of the Protective Services Committee sits.

OPTIONS/RISK

7. Humberside Police received a quality assurance visit and not a full inspection, whilst a number of other forces (23) were subjected to a formal inspection. This approach was determined by HMIC using a risk-based approach.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Unknown.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Unknown.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10. None identified.

CHILDREN ACT 2004

11. Not applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

12. It is important that the Police Authority is aware of the visit and that adequate action is being taken by the Force in respect of any areas for improvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. It is recommended that Members:
 - i. Discuss the work being undertaken by the Force in respect of the small number of areas for improvement; and
 - ii. Receive a report on progress as appropriate.

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Background Papers: None