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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/CH

Your Reference:

11 April 2014

Thomas P Winsor
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary
6th Floor
Globe House
89 Ecclestone Square
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Dear Tom

While not required to respond to your recent publication, 'State of policing: annual assessment of policing 2012/13', after reading it I felt it appropriate to contact you with some reassurance that many of the themes you have picked out are already in my thinking, and some additional observations that I have.

Your report did not highlight anything I felt I was not already aware of, and to my knowledge I have provided a response to West Yorkshire reports where it has been appropriate to do so. Many of the issues you raise within your report are already included in the Police and Crime Plan 2013/18 (which can be found at <http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/our-business/the-police-crime-plan.aspx>) or will be included once the refresh has been agreed (due for publication on 7 May 2014). In particular:

- Crime prevention will feature more heavily within the refreshed Plan, covering issues such as personal and societal responsibility, the role of all partners and not just the police, problem solving in communities, preventing crime upstream and the use of volunteers.
- Safeguarding children, stop and search, integrity, serious and organised crime and counter-terrorism already feature strongly in the Plan.

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- The issue of crime recording is a new addition, but one that I feel is key as it can have a large impact on public confidence. I have made a commitment to ensure the findings from the HMIC data integrity inspection are given due regard and addressed within a reasonable timescale, and will ask for more regular updates and internal audits to be undertaken.
- Cyber crime – both cyber and cyber-enabled - is a new priority for 2014 given its prominence as a crime type and increasing threat.
- A mental health street triage pilot is being undertaken in West Yorkshire, and also a pilot around liaison and diversion.
- Treatment and support of victims and witnesses is a key outcome within the Plan.
- I have established a Safer Communities Fund using some of the money recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act, which is being used to fund local projects linked to the outcomes and priorities in the Plan, and this includes activities for young people.

My West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan was heavily influenced by partners and, in essence, is about partners working together to achieve the outcomes and priorities that we would all like for our communities. It isn't, and cannot, be about the police alone. I would therefore like to advocate more joint working with other inspectorates to look across different partners when conducting inspections rather than focusing solely on the contribution of one organisation. For instance the recent inspection into domestic abuse, while providing police forces and police and crime commissioners with some invaluable feedback, could have benefited from looking across the piste and assessing how partners together are addressing the needs of both victims and perpetrators of abuse. Integrated joint working and delivery with Community Safety Partners is key to keeping communities safe and feeling safe and the inspection regime increasingly needs to acknowledge and reflect this.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire