

Please ask for: Arron Cullen
Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



West Midlands Police PEEL Causes of Concern Revisit Letter. Response from Simon Foster, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

In September 2023, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), visited West Midlands Police (WMP) as part of their PEEL (police efficiency, effectiveness, and legitimacy) inspection programme. During the inspection, four causes of concern were identified.

I have treated these with the utmost seriousness and as a top priority. HMICFRS returned to WMP in May and June 2024, to assess progress against these concerns. I am pleased to report that, in less than six months since being placed in Engage, WMP has made significant improvements and three of the concerns are now resolved.

The three concerns that have been addressed are:

- More effective multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC).
- Managing risks posed by registered sex offenders.
- Managing risks posed by online child abuse offenders.

WMP has successfully eliminated the backlog of high-risk cases for MARAC discussions and has established clear operational arrangements, to determine which cases are suitable for MARAC review. The inspectorate found that, supervisors are accurately adhering to the Force's guidance on this screening process.

In addition, WMP has also demonstrated effectiveness in managing registered sex offenders. The new operating model and additional resources have improved information sharing and management, allowing for better performance and risk management. WMP now assigns cases appropriately to sex offender managers, who are trained to national standards.

In relation to the management of online child abuse offenders, WMP has successfully addressed the increased demand for support, from its online child sexual exploitation team (OCSET). They have reduced the backlog of cases awaiting OCSET assessment and enhanced their management of intelligence and surges in demand.

One cause of concern remains, which is the effectiveness of investigations and their outcomes for victims of crime. WMP has acknowledged the need for improvement and is committed to supporting victims and enhancing investigative standards. This ongoing improvement work is being carried out through Operation Vanguard. Recent performance improvements have been achieved in 2023/24, reaching a positive outcome rate of eight per cent and recorded crime has reduced by ten per cent.

It is crucial, that WMP continues to build on the improvements they have made. Sustaining progress in these areas is essential for maintaining the enhanced performance levels and ensuring that WMP remains effective in addressing key concerns.

I will closely monitor the ongoing performance of WMP in these areas, scrutinising their efforts to ensure that improvements are not only maintained, but also continually advanced. I hold the Chief Constable to account for the Force's performance, ensuring that they remain committed, to upholding high standards and effectively addressing all existing and any emerging issues.

Yours faithfully,

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

Simon Foster

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner