

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
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6 April 2016

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Inspection: 'The depths of dishonour: Hidden voices and shameful crimes – An inspection of the police response to honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation'

In line with my statutory responsibilities I am writing in formal response to the HMIC 'The depths of dishonour' report from December 2015. I welcome the opportunity to provide a considered response now that Dorset Police have had time to fully consider the report recommendations and implement any required changes.

The implementation of any action required as a result of the report recommendations is overseen by the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Board locally.

Research and analysis

Locally, Dorset Police and the OPCC have engaged with partner agencies in the delivery of two significant conferences to raise awareness and encourage crime reporting from within affected communities. The Force also works closely with Karma Nirvana in developing understanding and training for officers and staff within the organisation. A cadre of specialists who undertake honour based violence and forced marriage risk assessments have also been trained. In addition to this the force has recently appointed a dedicated Detective Inspector to focus on adults at risk of harm.

I am informed that Dorset Police has seen an increase in the reporting of honour based violence and forced marriage crimes and incidents as a result of this work.

Information management processes

All victims of honour based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation are flagged on the Force records management system and additional risk assessments conducted by the trained specialists referred to above.

Honour based violence and forced marriage cases are managed by domestic abuse specialists who have received enhanced training and work closely with local authority and other partners.

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At the time of responding, I believe that Dorset Police is one of only a few in the country who have successfully applied for a Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) with partner local authorities.

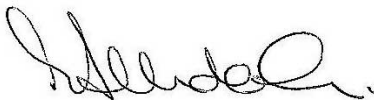
Clear policies and joint working structures

Dorset Police has a comprehensive policy in place relating to honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. All cases involving victims in these areas are managed through closed Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements to ensure their safeguarding.

Work continues to enhance and develop arrangements locally in response to these crime areas, including improvements to the management of offenders alongside other domestic abuse perpetrator work.

I can confirm that I have consulted with the Chief Constable in formulating this response and trust that this provides you with the necessary reassurance around action being taken locally by Dorset Police in response to the relevant HMIC report recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Underhill
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner