

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

Date: 18 September 2023

Subject: GMP HMICFRS Inspection Activity Update

Report of: Chief Superintendent McNamara, Head of Corporate Development Branch,
Greater Manchester Police

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel of areas of business within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) that have been subject to inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) during 2023.

It also provides an overview of HMICFRS published reports, progress against recommendations arising from those inspections and provides a look forward to future inspections and preparatory activities.

Recommendations:

The Panel is requested to:

1. Note the contents of the report.

Contact Officers

Chief Superintendent Richard McNamara Richard.McNamara@gmp.police.uk

Report authors must identify which paragraph relating to the following issues:

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

No issues for consideration.

Risk Management

No issues for consideration.

Legal Considerations

No issues for consideration.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

No issues for consideration.

Financial Consequences – Capital

No issues for consideration.

Number of attachments to the report:

1. Introduction

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspects and monitors the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, reporting to the public and their elected representatives on how well the police do their job. Their purpose is to promote improvements in policing and fire and rescue services, to make services safer for everyone and to independently assess the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces and fire and rescues services in the public interest.

Types of inspection

- PEEL assessments – The PEEL inspection programme is an assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of police forces in England and Wales. Its principal aim is to promote improvements in policing. The PEEL assessment provides graded judgments on aspects of forces' performance. It identifies where forces need to improve and helps the public understand how well their force is performing. All forces are subject to this inspection.
- National thematic inspections – these can vary and will reflect emerging priorities for policing. These inspections look to gather information and understand what constitutes good policing practice and how all forces can achieve it. Recent examples include vetting and counter corruption, as well as digital forensics. A sample of forces will often be selected for onsite inspection and evidence gathering.
- Rolling programmes – HMICFRS also have an ongoing schedule of inspections and re-inspections which assess services such as child protection and custody provision across all forces.

2. HMICFRS GMP Inspections 2023

2.1. Recent activity

Date of inspection	Inspection Area	Type	Report publication
17 – 27 July 2023	GMP PEEL Inspection 2023 (Force wide reality testing and fieldwork)	PEEL	November 2023 TBC
22 – 26 May 2023	Victim Services Assessment	PEEL	November 2023 TBC
24 – 27 April 2023	Management of Serious and Violent Offenders	PEEL	November 2023 TBC
13 – 17 March 2023	Homicide Prevention	Thematic*	August 2023
6 – 10 February 2023	Serious and Organised Crime	PEEL	November 2023 TBC

*GMP was one of the eight forces who were visited as part of the Homicide Prevention inspection.

2.2. Forthcoming activity

Date of inspection	Inspection Area	Status
25 – 29 September 2023 (File audit) 27 – 30 November 2023 (Onsite fieldwork)	Joint Inspection of effective case building by the police and CPS (thematic)	Preparations underway
To be confirmed (expected late 2023)	GMP Custody Re-visit (rolling programme)	Preparations underway

To be confirmed (expected early 2024)	Child Protection Inspection (rolling programme)	Preparations underway
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2.3. Publications (January – August 2023)

Report title	Publication	CoC	AFI's	Recs	Type
Race and policing: An inspection of race disparity in police criminal justice decision-making	Aug-23	0	0	4	National
An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide	Aug-23	0	0	2	National
An inspection of how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms	Jul-23	0	0	8	National
PEEL Spotlight - Police performance: Getting a grip	Jul-23	0	0	3	National
Values and culture in fire and rescue services	Apr-23	0	0	1	National
An inspection of how well the police and National Crime Agency tackle the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children	Apr-23	0	0	11	National
An inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence	Mar-23	0	0	2	National

Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Greater Manchester	Feb-23	6	13	6	GMP
TOTAL 8 reports		6	13	37	

All HMICFRS reports generally contain recommended actions for chief constables to progress. In circumstances where HMICFRS identify serious, critical or systemic shortcomings in a force, it will be reported as a cause of concern (CoC). These will be supported by recommendations and areas for improvement.

In the period January to August 2023, HMICFRS have published eight reports, containing six CoC, 37 recommendations and 13 areas for improvement.

Of these eight reports, one was specific to GMP and seven were national thematic reports (of which GMP may have been involved in the fieldwork, for instance Homicide Prevention and the report into the effectiveness of firearms deployment).

3. Governance and Oversight

Upon publication of a HMICFRS report, the Deputy Mayor (as the local policing body for Greater Manchester), has a statutory responsibility to respond to findings that relate to their force, as set out in Section 55 of the 1996 Police Act.

The Deputy Mayor invites GMP to provide a briefing setting out our initial position against the findings, from which she can formulate and publish her response. The Deputy Mayor has 56 days to publish a response to the inspection report, which are available on the GMCA website.

The Force ensures accountability and ongoing reassurance to the Deputy Mayor on actions taken in response to HMICFRS reports and inspection findings by submitting regular update reports to the Deputy Mayor's Executive.

Internally, within GMP, corporate governance arrangements exist to support the preparations for HMICFRS inspections and to monitor progress and proactively manage the implementation of recommendations through the HMIC Oversight Board. This whole day meeting takes place every month, comprising a suite of briefings with Chief Officers across their business portfolios to provide challenge and scrutiny on progress. The day

culminates in a dedicated two-hour board meeting, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, which includes key stakeholders from the Deputy Mayor's Office and HMICFRS.

To provide reassurance to members of the Panel, it should be noted that for HMICFRS to consider a force has fully implemented a recommendation or AFI, or for a Cause of Concern to be deemed resolved, a portfolio of evidence must be compiled to demonstrate successful and sustainable implementation. This must be to the satisfaction of the HMIC Oversight Board and the HMICFRS Force Liaison Lead (FLL). In some circumstances, this will be accompanied by fieldwork and on-site reality checking.

As at the end of August 2023, GMP currently has 80 ongoing recommendations, 26 AFI's and seven CoCs.

Since December 2020, the force has progressed and completed 207 recommendations and AFI's (including a small number that HMICFRS have deemed no further action necessary or superseded). GMP has also resolved ten causes of concern to the satisfaction of HMICFRS.

Significant and sustainable progress will continue against these remaining CoC and associated Recommendations, and AFI's.

In 2023, GMP has been subject to its latest HMICFRS PEEL inspection. The final results are expected in Autumn with the report due to be published in late October 2023.