

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

Date: 24 July 2024

Subject: GMP Update - HMICFRS Inspection Activity

Report of: Chief Superintendent Spragg 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 2024.

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 Nicola Spragg Nicola.Spragg@gmp.police.uk

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

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Results of the [Sustainability Decision Support Tool](#) to be included here:

A [training video](#) is available on how to use the tool.

Risk Management

None in the context of this report

Legal Considerations

None in the context of this report

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None in the context of this report

Financial Consequences – Capital

None in the context of this report

Number of attachments to the report: 0

1. Introduction/Background

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. GMP's last PEEL inspection was in July 2023, the next is likely to be in winter 2025.

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 meeting the needs of victims in the criminal justice systems (December 2023) and Crime Investigations (May 2024). 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. Recent inspection activity in GMP (2023-2024)

Date of inspection	Inspection Area	Type	Date report received
17-27 July 2023	GMP PEEL Inspection 2023	PEEL	December 2023
21-24 August 2023	GMP Custody Re-visit	Rolling Programme	N/A
25 – 29 September 2023 (File audit) 27 – 30 November 2023 (Onsite fieldwork)	Joint Inspection of effective case building by the police and CPS	Joint Thematic	January 2024
9-13 October 2023	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of services for children in Manchester	Joint Thematic	November 2023
30 October – 2 November 2023	Activism and Impartiality in Policing	Thematic	Not yet received
22 – 25 April 2024	Joint Targeted Area Inspection of services for children in Rochdale	Joint Thematic	12 th June 2024
13-17 May 2024	Organised Immigration Crime	Thematic	Not yet received

3 -7 June 2024	Crime Investigations	Thematic	Not yet received
22 July– 9 August 2024	Child Protection	Planning	N/A

Forthcoming HMICFRS Inspections

Date of inspection	Inspection Area	Status
TBC – expected winter 2025	PEEL	Awaiting notification, planning

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).

In cases where HMICFRS have serious concerns they will issue an accelerated CoC.

All of GMP’s CoC, AFIs and Recommendations relating to PEEL can be viewed by the public on the HMICFRS monitoring portal.

To give an indication of volume, currently GMP has one CoC, 26 AFIs, and 50 recommendations which are ‘open’ and needing further action. Progress since the beginning of this year has seen five CoC, 11 recommendations and 10 AFIs already closed.

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 two months, comprising a suite of briefings with Chief Officers across their business portfolios to provide challenge and scrutiny on progress. Within these meetings each CoC, AFI and recommendation is updated by owners and scrutinised by the appropriate Chief Officer. The day is also spent undertaking a conversation around self-assessments against each of the PEEL criteria with a view to being able to commission work to ensure GMP is meeting the criteria of 'good' (as set out by HMICFRS) with an ambition to progress to 'outstanding'. 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. A letter to demonstrate this must be to the satisfaction of the HMIC Oversight Board and the Chief Constable before submitting for closure to the HMICFRS Portal.

PEEL 25/27

PEEL 25/27 is currently in development within HMICFRS, as yet the methodology and question set have not been released to forces. It is anticipated that the cycle will start in later summer 2025, GMP do not yet know when PEEL 25/27 will happen in force, however preparations are already underway through action in the HMICFRS Oversight Board and subsequent evidence collection. In September 2024 GMP will hold a full day PEEL preparation meeting, and these will continue quarterly in addition to the regular HMIC Oversight Board.