

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2014**



## **HMIC finds that Lancashire Constabulary provides a good service to victims of domestic abuse**

In a national inspection of how police forces respond to cases of domestic violence, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that Lancashire Constabulary provides a good service to victims of domestic abuse in all areas and help to keep them safe and the public can have confidence in the forces approach.

Nationally, HMIC has identified that the police response to domestic abuse is not good enough and must be improved. HMIC's inspection considered the effectiveness of the police approach to domestic abuse and whether risks to victims are adequately managed.

In Lancashire, domestic abuse accounts for 7% of calls to the police for assistance and domestic abuse accounts for 10% of all recorded crime. The force also recorded 9,789 assaults with injury, of these 3,452 were domestic abuse related. This is 35% of all assaults with injury recorded for the 12 months to end of August 2013. For every 100 domestic abuse crimes recorded, there were 90 arrests in Lancashire - for most forces the number is between 45 and 90.

In Lancashire, HMIC found that:

- **Identifying victims** - victims of domestic abuse are identified by the constabulary when a call is received in the constabulary's call management centre (CMC). If a victim attends a police station then public enquiry staff will call for officers to attend and deal with the victim.
- **Keeping victims safe** - domestic abuse is regarded as important and a priority for the constabulary.
- **Management of risk** - the constabulary works hard to make victims safer from the first point of contact. HMIC found that there is a strong focus on safeguarding the victim as well as dealing with the offence.
- **Organisational effectiveness for keeping people safe** - the constabulary has a process by which any learning from domestic homicide reviews from across the nation are evaluated and its own processes improved in line with recommendations.

### **HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Northern Region, Roger Baker said:**

*"The public in Lancashire can have confidence that police officers and staff provide a good service to victims of domestic abuse in all areas and help to keep them safe. Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for the constabulary which has invested in well-trained and specialist staff. HMIC found staff demonstrated a high level of commitment and awareness and that they work well with partners. This report outlines a number of areas where the constabulary could further strengthen its response."*

ENDS

### **Notes to editor**

- A copy of the full report can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
- On 06 September 2013, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to conduct a thematic review of the police response to domestic violence and abuse across England and Wales.

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies.
- For further information, HMIC's press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
- HMIC's out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.