



Rt Hon Suella Braverman
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Our Ref:
Date: 10 May 2023

Dear Suella

I write to you in response to your inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence, published on 2nd March 2023.

The inspection of 12 forces and the subsequent national report examined the police response to serious youth violence, including how the service works with Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) and partner organisations to take a public health approach and reduce serious youth violence; use of powers; and understanding of racial disproportionality.

I note that the report highlighted the excellent work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit, particularly the pilot scheme involving nine football clubs' community foundations, focusing on children at risk of being excluded from school as well as the work the Constabulary was undertaking with health professionals, through A&E departments, to support those involved in serious youth violence.

HMICFRS made 4 recommendations following the inspection, two of which were for Chief Constables.

Recommendation: By 31 March 2024, Chief Constables should make sure their officers are trained in the use of outcome 22.

In relation to Outcome 22, Lancashire Constabulary has updated the guidance and the Criminal Justice Team are now leading on a piece of work to introduce the new guidance for Outcome 22 and Community Resolutions by May 2023.

Recommendation: By 31 March 2024, Chief Constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas

I am encouraged that the Constabulary already has the capability to extract the relevant data in relation to this recommendation and as a force this is an area they are reviewing to address the recommendation by March 2024 to produce centralised data.

Currently, the Constabulary produces reports that reference ethnicity within them regarding serious youth violence as well as providing a ADR150 return to the Home Office that shows stop search proportionality.

Finally, in relation to tackling serious violence, through the GRIP programme, where data analysis shows there is a risk of serious violence (hot spotting) there has been an increase in stop searches to tackle serious violence.

I will continue, as Commissioner, to use the findings from the national HMICFRS report to inform the ongoing activity of my office in overseeing and scrutinising how the police work with partners to prevent and reduce serious youth violence.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Snowden
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire