



## **RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT: A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders**

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's comments**

The national understanding of Mental Health has undergone significant advancements in recent years leading to positive change in Wiltshire. It is my job to support these developments funding community safety partnerships work and scrutinising Wiltshire police performance in this area.

During my first year in office, I have increased the funding I offer for mental health support services, recommissioned the contact centre mental help triage and furthered collaborations with partner agencies providing court ordered Mental Health Treatment via a mental health support programmes and Turning Point.

Where important changes are not seen, my aim is to challenge Force strategic planning to ensure improvements are enabled in a timely manner. It is therefore encouraging to see the force roll out new vulnerability training to ensure all investigations make mental health a key consideration. Equally, it is good to see the force is working with the OPCC to launch Trauma Informed Practices, to support positive outcomes for the vulnerable and keep pace with the needs of a modern police force.

I am delighted to see this includes providing operational staff with the ability to assess the needs of those in the community and promptly access support where required. It is my hope new supervisory audit oversight will ensure the force measure performance against their delivery plan making even greater strides toward ensuring it meet the needs of our community long term. I think there is opportunity for further work between police and the NHS and think new initiatives which see police and NHS staff team up valuable initiatives.