

## **RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT**

### **Effectiveness of police and law enforcement bodies 'response to group-based child sexual exploitation'**

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

I welcome HMICFRS inspection into the effectiveness of Wiltshire Police when tackling group-based child exploitation. Most recently, the force actioned Operation Makesafe in Feb 2024 urging businesses and organisations to tackle child exploitation through increased awareness and training. The campaign is designed to train business owners and their employees to identify potential victims of child exploitation and, where necessary, alert police officers to intervene and prevent harm.

The force completes an annual problem profile which comprehensively assesses child exploitation in all forms. The profile includes an assessment of the nature and extent of group-based/organised Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). A 4 P (Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect) plan allows all business areas to channel their resources, thus heightening performance.

It needs to be of the highest priority that the Wiltshire and Swindon Safeguarding Partnership Executives launch the exploitation strategy. The force will co-ordinate and support Home Office disruption deliverables, alongside governance through the partnership Strategic Exploitation Boards. Wiltshire Police continue to report the highest average number of serious and organised crime disruptions per 1000 population across all 41 forces in the last year.

The CSE tracker system informs governance boards such as CETAC (Child Exploitation Tactical meeting) and the PPD (Public Protection Department monthly performance board) providing an effective monitoring system and ensuring children at high risk of harm are identified and steps are taken to prevent harm. My Office will monitor performance outcomes through the developed dashboard and challenge as required.

The Force Continued Professional Development (CPD) in Child Protection was delivered by the Hydrant Programme in June 2023. It was complemented by an array of training to eradicate victim-

blaming language delivered to frontline operational officers and staff, covering victim blaming and attitudes towards Violence against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and stalking, exploring victim blaming attitudes, rape myths, cultural norms and intersectionality.

Responding effectively to child sexual exploitation requires all partners to take responsibility for their own work and to work collaboratively with each other to identify and combat the offenders committing these offences.