



**RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT CYBER: KEEP THE LIGHT ON: AN INSPECTION OF THE POLICE RESPONSE TO CYBER-DEPENDENT CRIME (OCTOBER 2019)**

**Chief Constable’s comments**

Within Wiltshire Police, there is a well-established Stay Safe Online Program, run by the Bobby Van Trust where volunteers will spend time providing cybercrime protect messaging to vulnerable adults. The Digital Investigations & Intelligence Unit (DIU) also run a Pipeline Program for students at Swindon UTC with specialist cyber skills, bringing them in as volunteers and working with them on developing the young people at the same time as them suggesting ideas and discussing emerging technology with the team.

Area for improvement	Wiltshire response
Chief constables should evaluate the use that their force makes of cyber specials and volunteers to ensure that they are used effectively.	A role profile in relation to a volunteer consultant has recently been developed in force. This will enable effective recruitment and utilisation of those working in specialist fields within cyber to act on a consultancy basis for the DIU. Work is ongoing with Corporate Communications to raise awareness of this role in the public domain, and seek a volunteer to assist in the effective running of the program. This program will look to recruit volunteer consultants on the basis of their skills, to enhance the capabilities and knowledge of the DIU. Development of the program features on the ‘4P’ continuous development plan for the DIU, overseen by Detective Superintendent Carter.

**Police and Crime Commissioner’s comments**

It’s widely acknowledged that cybercrime is on the rise and I welcome the publishing of HMICFRS’ national report in relation to their cybercrime inspection earlier this year. Cybercrime knows no boundaries and so it’s important that these issues are being looked at from a national perspective rather than solely at an individual force level.

Wiltshire Police was one of the forces inspected and I am reassured that we are taking positive steps towards tackling an area of crime where the front line is all too often the front

room. Whilst I welcome the fact that HMICFRS has deemed the overall response to cyber dependant crime to be 'good' I echo the sentiment that there is still more we can do together.

In my Police and Crime Plan I am putting Victims and Witnesses at the heart of what we do – the perpetrators of cybercrime often target the most vulnerable in our communities; the elderly and the young for example. I am keen that we continue to help protect people from becoming victims of cybercrime wherever we can. The work of our online safety volunteers within the Bobby Van Trust is a great example of this and online safety continues to feature within the programme of safety education delivered to children across Wiltshire and Swindon via the Junior Good Citizen scheme. I also fund the Horizon Victim and Witness Care Unit which supports the most vulnerable victims of cybercrime across the County – helping them through the criminal justice process and signposting to other support available.

Cybercrime continues to evolve and adapt – it is important that the police continues to build their operational capabilities and this is something that in Wiltshire we have placed a particular emphasis on. The money from the latest precept increase has enabled me to provide additional funding to the Chief Constable to put together a brand new Digital Investigations and Intelligence Unit that has already seen some great results.

Cc: Wendy Williams, HMI  
Chief Constable Kier Prichard, Wiltshire Constabulary