



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

### **Counter-terrorism policing - An inspection of the police's contribution to the government's Prevent programme (March 2020)**

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

I welcome the "Counter-terrorism policing report" which provides an overview of an inspection of the police's contribution to the government's Prevent programme. The report provides a succinct summary of the qualitative research which took place throughout 2018 and into 2019.

In the same period, Wiltshire Police responded, excellently, to two nerve agent attacks in our county. In March, the force declared a major incident when Sergei and Yulia Skripal were found unconscious in Salisbury. Wiltshire Police was supported by nearly all other police forces across the country. This unprecedented incident garnered the attention of international leaders and media from across the world. The second incident unfolded in June 2018 and I am proud to say that the force's response and leadership received national recognition for the exemplary way in which it managed the incidents. During the course of 2018 and into 2019, the national threat level remained severe which in essence meant that an attack was highly likely. The threat level was reviewed and graded as substantial in November 2019.

This means that there remains a strong possibility of a terrorist attack, and therefore we all must be vigilant about the most direct and immediate threat to our domestic security. The Home Office is the key co-ordinator of the government's strategy for countering terrorism (CONTEST), and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a general duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being radicalised. The Prevent strategy is designed to safeguard individuals and vulnerable people in particular from exploitation from extremists.

I regard the partnership and multi-agency work with vulnerable people vital in order to recognise the signs of radicalisation. I support work the force is undertaking to strengthen these links through Community Safety Partnerships and our two local authorities. My office will continue to support this work and ensure relationships are working effectively.

It is crucial that radicalisation is stopped at its earliest stages or fully prevented. I commission services with an aim to reduce crime, support early intervention, and preventative services such as wider collaboration with a number of partners. Under my

strategic leadership, the Commissioning Team works in a successful partnership with both local authorities and their Youth Offending Teams to help young people stay away from crime and provide them with opportunities to ensure that they feel valued and productive members of the community. The YOTs form part of the wider Early Help Service provided by Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council. My office has also contributed to SMASH which is a pilot scheme offering mentoring service for children in schools. These projects showcase an excellent partnership work with local authorities and contribute to the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan.

All too often, we are seeing vulnerable people being caught up in crime and being exploited. I would like to reiterate that a multi-agency response is key in order to best reach those who need our help. That is why protecting the most vulnerable people in society is one of my priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21. I will continue to work with partners to find more effective and innovative ways of protecting the most vulnerable and dealing with their sometimes complex needs.

### Chief Constable's comments

Wiltshire Police notes the publication and accepts the recommendations held within the report, which will be progressed by our Prevent Lead, in line with regional considerations. The Chief Constable of Wiltshire is committed to addressing the recommendations highlighted; an overview is detailed below.

Recommendations	Wiltshire response
<p>With immediate effect, the NPCC national Prevent lead and each force Prevent lead should review the attendance of force representatives at Channel panels so that police are correctly represented by decision makers who can contribute to managing risk.</p>	<p>The Strategic Prevent Board is Chaired by ACC Blyth and membership includes all relevant partner agencies. This has been refocussed recently and drives prevent activity with Partner agencies. The Tactical Board is Chaired by Supt Williams as Head of Operations and focusses on driving Force activity. The membership of this board is mainly Police focussed with the only external party being NILO's from Ambulance and Fire.</p> <p>Channel Panels exist in both Swindon and Wiltshire Unitary Authorities. Wiltshire has an established Prevent Structure which reports well and is actively driven. Swindon has received new leadership and is actively progressing. Both panels are represented by Police and as an action, the Chair of the Tactical Board, Supt Williams will review Police attendance and ensure the correct representation to report back to the Strategic Board with progress.</p>
<p>Wiltshire Police notes the other 7 recommendations to the NPCC National Lead.</p>	<p>I have read the attached report and note the 7 recommendations. I will review and progress the above recommendation on behalf of Wiltshire Police.</p>

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