

Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world

July 2015

Background

In July 2015 HMIC published a national thematic report 'Online and on the edge: real risks in a virtual world' which considered the police response to child sexual exploitation.

Dealing with child sexual exploitation in a virtual world requires a different style of policing from the conventional methods of the past. This report set out findings from an inspection of the police service's efforts to tackle online child sexual exploitation, and concluded that forces need to better understand the nature and potential scale of this type of offending to ensure that more is done to protect children from harm, and bring perpetrators to justice.

Police & Crime Commissioners Response

I welcome the report describing the results of Her Majesty of Inspectorates national thematic review of the police response to child sexual exploitation.

Devon and Cornwall police continue to develop their response to these challenging and demanding offences in collaboration with their partners. My office supports this effort through effective stakeholder engagement and commissioning support services for victims.

Safeguarding children is a clear priority in my Police and Crime Plan and child sexual exploitation is an issue that receives a special focus both in relation to the harm that it represents but also in how the police can more effectively identify and prevent offending.

I regularly review performance in relation to safeguarding and have undertaken detailed reviews that have included specialists in the field. I will be asking the Chief Constable to provide a formal response to the report and the issues raised will be considered in a future deep dive meeting.