

## **Increasingly everyone's business: A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse December 2015**

### **Background**

The HMIC report 'Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse' was published in March 2014. It found significant weaknesses in the service provided to victims of domestic abuse, and made a series of recommendations aimed at helping forces to improve. The report published in December revisited the findings of the early report and provided a revised view of how the national policing service has responded to the challenges that were highlighted.

Overall the latest report suggests that the police service has acted to address the issues raised and now sees tackling domestic abuse as an important priority. This is resulting in better support for and protection of victims. However, HMIC found there are still a number of areas for improvement in the way the police respond to, support and protect domestic abuse victims.

### **Police & Crime Commissioners Response**

I welcome the report describing the results of Her Majesty of Inspectorates national thematic review of the police response to domestic abuse.

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

Domestic abuse is a clear priority in my Police and Crime Plan with the focus on the provision of a high standard of support to victims translated into increased confidence of victims to report incidents to the police.

I regularly review performance in this area and have undertaken detailed reviews that have included specialists in the field. However, this is a complex area to understand and one where statistical data does not always give an accurate view.

I welcome this report as adding further detail to our understanding and while the report suggests significant progress has been made I am still seeking to better understand how this is reflected in the victim's experience.

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.