

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMICFRS) - Evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions (January 2020).

[The report can be found here](#)

In February and March 2019 HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPPI) together with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) took part in joint fieldwork visiting four Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Areas namely Cymru–Wales, Mersey–Cheshire, Thames and Chiltern, and West Midlands, and four police forces namely Cheshire, Gwent, Hertfordshire and Staffordshire.

The inspectors examined 200 magistrates courts domestic abuse files finalised between June and November 2018 which were a mixture of successful and unsuccessful outcomes and 40 cases where no further action was advised.

Inspectors examined 78 police files that had been finalised as 'Outcome 16' and not sent to the CPS for a charging decision. These files were drawn from four police forces: Cheshire; Gwent, Hertfordshire and Staffordshire. This is a national report which excludes Nottinghamshire Police but nevertheless there are some useful findings to consider.

I am pleased to learn that Inspectors found that at all levels in the police and CPS there was a clear recognition that domestic abuse is a priority area of work and there is a desire to achieve the best possible outcomes for victims.

I also agree with Inspectors that officers and prosecutors should ensure that, at the outset of a case, consideration is given to how to prosecute the case if the victim were to withdraw support. That would then lead to a more detailed investigation at the scene, such as evidence from neighbours, forensic and photographic evidence, etc. When prosecutors consider the evidence (either at charge or review stage) they should be raising this with officers.

The report makes 8 recommendations 5 of which are directed to the police service to improve sharing of best practice, increase awareness, refresher training around domestic abuse, early evidence gathering and robustness of supervisory oversight.

The Chief Constable and I consider this to be a priority area, and a whole system 'deep dive' will be undertaken this year to identify any areas where improvements can be made.

The Force will continue to use its dedicated 4ACTION database for tracking and responding to all HMICFRS recommendations and areas for improvement overseen by the Deputy Chief Constable. The Force also provides regular HMICFRS update reports to my Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (JASP) who provide additional scrutiny in these important areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paddy Tipping".

Paddy Tipping
Police and Crime Commissioner