

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey



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Response from Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the HMIC reports on 'In harm's way: The role of the police in keeping children safe' and 'Online and on the edge: Real risks in a virtual world'

The national reports issued in July 2015 from HMIC on keeping children safe from exploitation and online are timely. Following recent high profile cases and a debrief on our own local inspection from HMIC in Surrey, this is a major area of focus for Surrey Police and for me as the PCC for Surrey.

Both of the reports published provide detailed information on what police forces need to do to improve, with the Online report providing recommendations for action. I have set-up a specific scrutiny of Surrey Police's child protection arrangements and as part of that have asked Surrey Police to provide information on how they will be using the findings from the HMIC reports.

The protection of children in all parts of their life against crime is important. At a time of reducing budgets I will also be working with Surrey Police on how we can invest as needed in implementing these findings whilst balancing other needs for policing in Surrey, such as responding to calls for help and neighbourhood police patrols.

In terms of online risk, it is crucial that we work on the prevention of crimes and giving children, and those who work with children, tools to help protect themselves. To this end, I am funding a project within my office to develop an online resource for professionals and practitioners that work with vulnerable groups including children. The Cyersafe network brings together news, alerts, resources and intelligence into one place meaning that those working with our communities have easy access to the latest material. A website resource has recently launched which I invite you to view at www.cybersafesurrey.org.

