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|  | PO Box 412  Guildford  Surrey  GU3 1BR  Tel: 01483 630200  Fax: 01483 634502  e-mail: [surreypcc@surrey.police.uk](mailto:surreypcc@surrey.police.uk)  Website: [www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk)  3 July 2015 |

***Response from Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the HMIC report on an unannounced inspection visit to police custody suites in Surrey.***

Overall this is a positive report from HMIC on their unannounced inspection of custody facilities in Surrey.   I am pleased to see that the inspectors have recognised the work from police and health partners in Surrey to reduce the numbers of detainees held in police cells under section 136 of the Mental Health Act and that detainees are provided with a good standard of care and their diverse needs are being met by well-trained, professional and courteous staff.  There has been investment in the custody facilities in Surrey and it is encouraging that the inspectors found good conditions and clean facilities.

In terms of the recommendations, although progress has been made on detaining people with mental health needs, I share the inspectors’ concerns that more could be done.   Police and Surrey County Council should also ensure that the right accommodation is given to children.  I will continue to oversee the work of Surrey Police and partners in taking these areas forward.  Surrey Police has recognised the staffing issues in custody and a new structure and shift pattern has been recently introduced.

I am pleased to note the positive comments on the Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Scheme, managed by my office.  ICVs will work with the Force to ensure that the health and welfare and rights elements the inspection are implemented.

As part of my governance of Surrey Police, I will work with the Chief Constable to consider the report and monitor how the recommendations are taken forward.