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Secretary of State for the Home Department
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Dear Home Secretary

Response to HMICFRS report into the progress to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigations (August 2023)

I am writing to you with my comments on the above progress report as required by Section 55 of the Police Act 1996. I fully welcome this report and thank His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) for the recommendations made which will I believe will help improve the service all forces provide to victims of sexual offences, as well as more fully understand their needs.

I am assured that the recommendations highlighted in the update report are already well into a delivery phase where appropriate, and I believe that victims are already feeling the positive effects of these changes, which will continue in the coming months and years.

Operation Soteria is already a regular feature in my bi-monthly Accountability Board, where I have been supporting local development and monitoring progress following the pilot and pathfinder forces rollout. The Force is on target to complete the key workstreams locally, with NOM implementation due for sign-off by 30 November 2024. The number of officers trained locally will also exceed the national requirements. The Force is working with Yorkshire and the Humber CPS RASSO team to deliver the requirements around Operation Soteria. When embedded locally, the approach will ensure that Humberside RASSO investigations are victim centered, suspect focused and context led. The Force is already performing well in relation to positive outcome rates for Serious Sexual Offences and is striving to improve further.

In addition, it is worth mentioning some work being done within my own office. I recently re-commissioned the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (YP ISVA) service, working with key stakeholders to build the vision for Humberside. Support includes helping victims to report abuse and receive emotional support throughout the whole judicial process, forensics, and DNA retrieval, dealing with trauma and access to counselling. The commissioned service works in partnership with other specialists to build resilience around reducing repeat victimisation.



In conclusion, the HMICFRS update report has created a much-needed focus and is something I have addressed in my upcoming Police and Crime Plan. I know that the Chief Constable will continue to take important steps towards improving the service provided to victims, particularly around those most vulnerable in our communities.

I will post this response onto my website for public access.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Evison
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

