

**Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA**

Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu De Cymru  
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales



4 September 2021

## **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOINT INSPECTION REPORT: 'NEURODIVERSITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – A REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE'**

This joint report looks at the subject of neurodiversity in criminal justice, and helpfully considers evidence and puts forward recommendations across the whole criminal justice landscape. It is clear that this is an area that requires partnership and joined-up working to provide the best possible outcomes, and I welcome the recommendations the report makes.

Neurodiversity is thankfully becoming increasingly recognised as an area that requires more attention from public services in order to better meet people's needs. The report rightly points out that data on neurodivergence is limited and unsatisfactory. However, our partner organisations estimate that between 10% and 15% of the UK population are neurodivergent, so it is imperative that we do much more to understand how the needs of neurodivergent people should be met in criminal justice.

The Chief Constable and I have already recognised that neurodiversity is an area that needs more attention in South Wales Police. This is why it features as one of the equality objectives in our Joint Equality Plan (2019-2023). In this plan we jointly commit to improving the standard of service to those with neurodiverse conditions and to raising internal awareness about neurodiversity. Work has been progressing on this objective over the last two years and we are continuing to assess where improvements can be made.

It is reassuring and helpful to find that this report makes recommendations to ensure these commitments are made across the criminal justice system. I am particularly pleased to see that there are recommendations that will provide more structure and leadership, including a new strategy, on how neurodiversity is considered within criminal justice nationally, including in Wales. I note that Welsh Government are included in the recommendations, which is also positive and reassuring.

I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this inspection and how they materialise in practice. I am fully supportive of prioritising this subject and will continue to work with the Chief Constable in South Wales to ensure we play a vital part.

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The Commissioner and his team welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English

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