



6th Nov 2023

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE JOINT HMICFRS INSPECTION: 'THE MULTI AGENCY RESPONSE TO ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IN BRIDGEND'

This report outlines our findings about the effectiveness of partnership working and of the work of individual agencies in Bridgend. The inspection found that overall, systems and relationships are in place to facilitate effective partnership working where a child is at risk of abuse and neglect.

It is reassuring that the inspection found good working relationships between the agencies within Child Protection. However, it is noted that there are significant workforce issues due to high turn over of staff within social services and although professionals make appropriate referrals, partner agencies, such as police and health, are struggling to resource the increase in child protection activity. As such, I note the recommendations within this report and will align these areas to our scrutiny and oversight of South Wales Police.

The Chief Constable and I are both eager to ensure that children are protected and agencies continue to work together to better serve those who are in need our protection. Assistant Chief Constable Jason Davies summarises his views on the report as follows:

'South Wales Police fully acknowledges the findings and recommendations made within the report following the Joint Inspection Review of Child Protection Arrangements for Bridgend County Borough Council, Cwm Taff Health Board and South Wales Police. It was both pleasing to note and reassuring to see that the inspectorate identified strong working relationships and structures within the child protection arena, allowing for prompt and accurate early child protection decision making. In addition, the clear ongoing focus of the force around vulnerability both at a strategic and partnership level, to take the learning from individual cases and drive improvement was also of note. However, the organisation acknowledges that the inspection has also identified room for improvement in some areas, including resourcing and the use of strategic assessments, which will be addressed proactively, and swiftly where possible. Since the inspection the organisation has created a multi-agency joint action plan, which has been submitted to Care

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



Inspectorate Wales with the sole aim of addressing those areas for improvement. The organisation has also been proactive in addressing some of those areas for improvement ahead of time. Significant investment in resourcing for example has already been committed, with a view to filling existing vacancies and strengthen existing posts. That uplift in resourcing has included the creation of an additional twelve conference officer posts, enabling the force to have a greater presence at child protection conferences.'

I am grateful for the Assistant Chief Constable's comments and the commitment to protecting children by working closely with partners across the region. I will ensure my office works closely with South Wales Police to support them in this process.

Rt Hon Alun Michael
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales

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Mae'r Comisiynydd a'i dîm yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
The Commissioner and his team welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English