

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2LT
Telephone (01522) 947192 Fax (01522) 558739
E-Mail: lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk

Alan Hardwick **The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire**

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Ms Zoë Billingham
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region
HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
6th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1PN

Dear Zoë

CJJI Report "A join inspection of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system"

I am pleased to present my comments in response to the above report within the meaning of s55 (5) of the Police Act 1996. This letter will be forwarded to the Home Secretary and published on my website.

I welcome the report and its findings. The treatment of offenders must always be fair and equitable; monitoring and improving the way in which the Police deal with individuals who are considered mentally vulnerable is of vital importance.

Lincolnshire was one of a number of force areas inspected. I am pleased to recognise the findings of the report which relate to Lincolnshire Police, and the potential improvements which result from it.

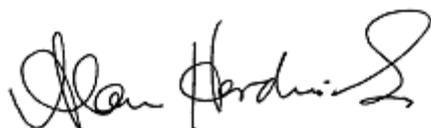
The report noted a 'general lack of understanding' among police officers around the difference between mental health issues and learning disabilities. It made two subsequent recommendations with regard to effective screening in custody suites and ensuring sufficient knowledge for custody staff. In response to this, Lincolnshire Police have adopted a new custody assessment procedure to better identify those with learning difficulties and disabilities. They will also provide updated training to all Custody Sergeants.

Also mentioned in the report was a concern over the provision of good quality Appropriate Adult schemes. As part of its overall custody audit process, Lincolnshire Police will dip sample records to see if there are any documented concerns and, if so, that an Appropriate Adult was provided.

One of the most notable improvements is the adoption of a mental health 'triage' car in Lincolnshire as of the 1st of April 2014. This is a partnership between East Midlands Ambulance Service, Lincolnshire Police and Lincolnshire NHS Trust. It was highlighted by the report as an area of good practice in helping to divert people away from custody suites if they display potential learning or mental disabilities.

I will continue to review the progress of Lincolnshire Police to ensure that a high standard of service is provided to all offenders with both learning and mental disabilities.

Yours sincerely



Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: The Rt Hon Theresa May MP – Home Secretary