



**Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 7th April 2020
Our Ref: MJ/AW/BS/HMIC-2020-021

HMI Zoe Billingham
HMICFRS
6th Floor Globe House,
89 Ecclestone Square,
London,
SW1V 1PN.

Dear Zoe,

Subject: HMICFRS National Thematic Child Protection Inspection Report (Published 27 February 2020)

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

I welcome the report and its findings which are based on the learning gathered from 18 HMICFRS child protection inspections and some 21 reviews of progress conducted since the previous national thematic report in 2015. The recommendations made by this report will I hope make a significant impact on the overall approach taken to safeguarding vulnerable children, ensuring they receive the right help and protection at the right time.

Every child deserves the right to grow up in a safe environment cared for and protected from harm. As a father I recognise the importance of this work and that it represents a vital element of effective policing. The report highlights that success relies on multiple agencies acting in a co-ordinated way to protect children at risk from harm and deliver a service that the police alone should not and cannot provide.

Continually increasing demand faced by police officers and the growing complexity involved in safeguarding children exposed to risk, presents a significant challenge to Forces nationally and the wider partnerships in which they work. Lincolnshire is no exception, and much progress and improvement has been made locally as recent Force specific inspections have confirmed. However, I recognise that there remains much still to be done to deliver the best possible service, with our finite resources, to protect and promote the welfare of children in our local communities.

I remain committed to driving the improvements required in this area of work and in supporting and challenging the chief constable to realise the recommendations made within this report. I also look-forward to the national bodies identified working towards the creation

of a national early help and prevention strategy to address the root causes of harm to vulnerable children.

I can confirm that my office and I will monitor the progress made against the recommendations via the use of a bespoke HMICFRS 'tracker' document which records Force progress against all 'Areas for Improvement' and 'Recommendations' made within HMICFRS Inspection reports. A copy of this tracker document is also provided to our Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) quarterly to help provide assurance on current Force remedial activity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a thin oval border. The signature appears to read "Marc Jones".

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire