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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent:
Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD



The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

2nd September 2019

Dear Home Secretary

HMICFRS Inspection – The poor relation: The police and CPS response to crimes against older people

As required by statute, I am writing to you to respond, from a Gwent perspective, to the recommendations directed towards all Chief Constables within the HMICFRS 'The poor relation: The police and CPS response to crimes against older people' inspection report.

I am pleased to advise you that Gwent Police are holding monthly meetings and an action plan has been developed to address the recommendations raised within the report. Progress with this action plan will be monitored at the Gwent Police Vulnerability Board before feeding through to the Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness Board for further scrutiny by a Chief Officer. A member of my team acts as a 'critical friend' at both of these meetings and will continue to offer any support as appropriate in order to assist with the progression of these recommendations. I am assured that regular updates are also being provided to HMICFRS on progress with this work.

In order to increase knowledge in this area and to support the development of the improvements required to the services Gwent Police offer, the Detective Superintendent leading the Public Protection Unit also attended a HMICFRS workshop in July 2019, which included the specific theme of older people,

The Chief Constable has acknowledged that there is work to do to ensure that officers appropriately refer victims to enable them to receive the support and information that they require. I intend to continue to monitor and scrutinise this work in order to ensure that improvements are made,

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg, a phan ddaw i law, byddwn yn ateb yn y Gymraeg – ni fydd hyn yn gohirio ein hymateb. Os hoffech dderbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg o hyn ymlaen, neu os ydych wedi cael eich gwahodd i gyfweiliad neu gyfarfod ac yr hoffech ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg, anfonwch e-bost at: Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk. Darperir gwasanaethau cyfieithu.

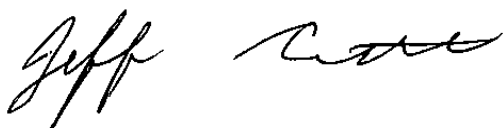
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and where received, we will reply in Welsh - this will not delay our response. If you wish to receive correspondence in Welsh hereafter or if you have been invited to an interview or meeting and you wish to use Welsh, send email to: Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk. Translation services will be provided.

I have recognised the need for specific support for older people through my funding of Age Cymru. As a result of this funding, an Older People's Caseworker is based within Connect Gwent which is a multi-agency hub that was established by my office in 2015 to assess and provide the information and practical and emotional support required by victims of crime.

Gwent Police has also invested in a Financial Abuse Coordinator and Safeguarding Officer who provide intervention and support to victims of financial abuse. This includes older victims of financial crimes such as romance fraud and banking scams. Part of the Fraud Triage Team, the role works closely with Connect Gwent as part of the multi-agency approach to supporting victims and is linked into national fraud capabilities.

Prior to the release of the inspection report, my office had identified a need to develop our understanding of police services offered to older people; this work is still ongoing and is expected to be finalised in 2019. This will assist the Chief Constable in understanding the demand placed on Gwent Police as well as the support offered by other agencies and will contribute towards improving the provision for older people within the communities of Gwent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Cuthbert', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

cc Wendy Williams. HMICFRS