

Response from Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, to Mistakes Were Made – HMIC review into allegations and intelligence material concerning Jimmy Savile between 1964 and 2012

I welcome the HMIC review into the allegations and intelligence material concerning Jimmy Savile between 1964 and 2012.

It is clear that there were areas of learning for Surrey Police from this case. This has been recognised by the Chief Constable who has accepted the HMIC conclusions and recommendations. The Chief Constable has carried out an internal review into the allegations resulting in an action plan. I have recently received a report on this review and on the progress being made against the actions identified.

Prior to the publication of the HMIC report into the Savile cases, the Chief Constable invited the College of Policing to conduct a peer review into the force's approach to historic child sex investigations and the care of victims and witnesses. I commend the frankness the force has shown in recognising where it could have done better and the proactivity shown by the Chief Constable in seeking to address that.

One of the six priorities in my Police and Crime Plan is putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system. Professionals in the Police service and the Courts service sometimes forget that they are there to work for victims. That is unacceptable and I have made my expectation clear that every partner in the criminal justice process has a duty to provide a quality service to victims, from reporting a crime right the way through to giving evidence in court.

I hope to encourage reporting of under-reported crimes and give people the confidence to report and to know that something will be done. Giving victims assurance that their case will be handled with integrity, efficiency and humanity is an important step towards that.

This fits within the context of my intention to move away from the target-driven, management culture which has permeated policing in recent years. I am a passionate advocate of zero-tolerance policing and the mindset that the police should look to do the right thing every time and never turn away from a problem. We should do those things not in pursuit of a numerical target, but *because they are the right thing to do*. I want to liberate officers and staff to do what they joined to do in the first place – make things better for the public.

In recognition of the breadth and depth of the issues around victim care within policing and criminal justice system, I will be working to ensure that I have proper oversight of this important area of work. I will be looking at ways we can check policies and processes without being overly bureaucratic, how we can encourage people to report offences and how we can better support them when they do.

Kevin Hurley