

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

10th May 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

An inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence

I write with regard to the thematic inspection report published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on 8 March 2023.

Tackling violence and making our city safer is my number one priority. I'm determined to be tough on crime and tough on the complex causes of crime. This includes making sure we have the best systems in place to reduce the risks posed to the public and victims. I welcome the findings of this inspection report that offer clear recommendations on how this can continue to improve.

I was pleased to note the extensive partnership arrangements that were specifically noted in the report that exist between London's Violence Reduction Partnership (VRU) and partners. Information sharing between partners is extremely important, and I hope that the good practice that HMICFRS highlighted in London can help other PCC areas define how they work. I am working with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to enhance partnership working further by introducing neighbourhood Superintendents, which will push the local partnership aspects forward and provide consistency across London.

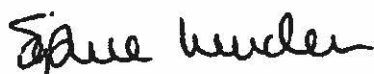
The inspection report focuses on the need for forces to understand racial disproportionality. The MPS performance framework for 2023/24 now includes victim demographic data for serious violence and is reported to its Performance Board, chaired by its Deputy Commissioner. The force uses the data to inform its tasking process, which will ensure that resources are deployed intelligently on the basis of data analytics. I am assured by this process but will continue to use my oversight role to engage in regular

dialouge with the MPS about its work on serious violence, and continue to hold them to account for delivering improvements.

Following the highest number of homicides for ten years in 2019, and a significant increase in the number of teenage homicides between 2012 and 2021, the Mayor asked MOPAC to consider how best to tackle homicide as a priority in order for the loss of further lives to be prevented. In response to this, I oversaw the establishment of the Reducing Teenage Homicide Partnership. The partnership's aim was to bring key stakeholders together, from across MOAPC, VRU, MPS, local authorities, HM Prison & Probation, Youth Justice Board, London Adolescent Safeguarding Oversight Board and TfL, in order to drive down the levels of homicide in the capital through collaborative working. The partnership allowed for information, data and best practice sharing to take place, provided a space for partners to discuss and learn about the different strategic and operational approaches to reducing homicide, and was able to identify gaps and offer solutions on tackling teenage homicide in the capital. As the numbers of teenage homicides decreased significantly across 2022, a decision was taken by the partners to expand the remit of the meeting in 2023 to look at homicide across all age groups, whilst maintaining a focus on teenage homicide. The partnership will continue to meet throughout the rest of the administration, and I have asked that they consider how they can support the recommendations made in the HMICFRS report.

I hope this provides a useful summary of how MOPAC and the MPS are actively working to reduce serious youth violence in London.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime