

# PEEL: Police effectiveness 2017

An inspection of Derbyshire Constabulary



March 2018

© HMICFRS 2018

ISBN: 978-1-78655-532-8

[www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs](http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs)

# Contents

<b>Force in numbers</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Risk-based inspection</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Effectiveness overview</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Protecting vulnerable people and supporting victims</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Identifying vulnerability .....	8
Initial response .....	9
Mental health .....	11
Investigating crimes involving vulnerable people .....	12
Partnership working .....	14
<b>Specialist capabilities</b> .....	<b>16</b>
National policing responsibilities .....	16
Firearms capability .....	16
<b>Annex A – About the data</b> .....	<b>18</b>

## Force in numbers



### Calls for assistance

Incidents per 1,000 population 12 months to 30 June 2017

Derbyshire Constabulary

**205**

England and Wales

**282**



### Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents per 1,000 population 12 months to 31 March 2017

Derbyshire Constabulary

**40**

England and Wales

**31**

Change in ASB incidents 12 months to 31 March 2016 against 12 months to 31 March 2017

Derbyshire Constabulary

**-4%**

England and Wales

**-0.05%**



### Crime (excluding fraud)

Crimes recorded per 1,000 population 12 months to 30 June 2017

Derbyshire Constabulary

**52**

England and Wales

**77**

Change in recorded crime 12 months to 30 June 2016 against 12 months to 30 June 2017

Derbyshire Constabulary

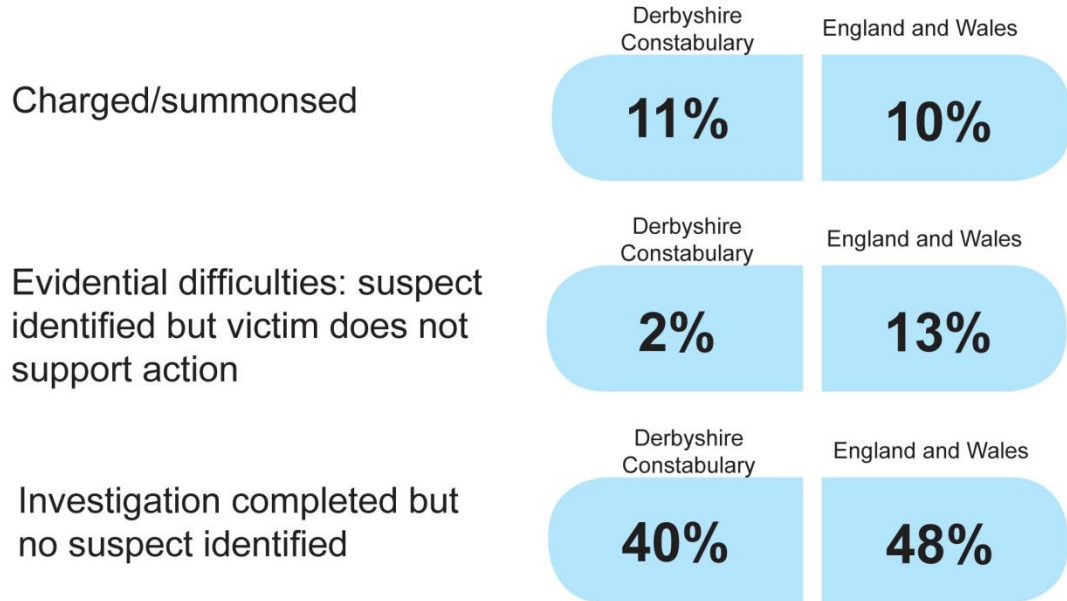
**+4%**

England and Wales

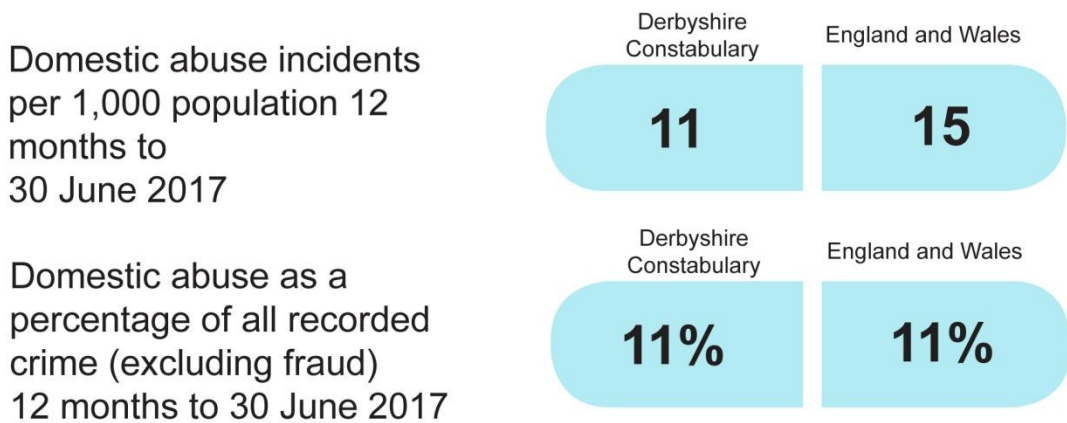
**+14%**



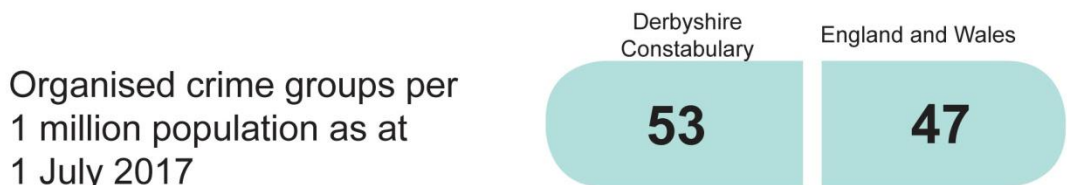
## Crime outcomes\*



## Domestic abuse



## Organised crime groups



\*Figures are shown as proportions of outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017. For further information about the data in this graphic please see annex A.

## Risk-based inspection

HMICFRS adopted an interim risk-based approach to inspection in 2017 in order to focus more closely on areas of policing where risk to the public is most acute.<sup>1</sup>

Under this approach, not all forces are assessed against every part of the PEEL effectiveness programme every year. Derbyshire Constabulary was assessed against the following areas in 2017:

- Protecting vulnerable people; and
- Specialist capabilities.

Judgments from 2016<sup>2</sup> remain in place for areas which were not re-inspected in 2017. HMICFRS will continue to monitor areas for improvement identified in previous inspections and will assess how well each force has responded in future reports.

---





<sup>1</sup> Full details of the interim risk-based approach are available from the HMICFRS website: [www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/how-we-inspect/2017-peel-assessment/#risk-based](http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/how-we-inspect/2017-peel-assessment/#risk-based)

<sup>2</sup> The 2016 effectiveness report for Derbyshire Constabulary can be found on the HMICFRS website: [www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/peel-police-effectiveness-2016-derbyshire](http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/peel-police-effectiveness-2016-derbyshire)

## Effectiveness overview

### Judgments

Overall effectiveness 2017  Good

Question	Grade	Last inspected
Preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour	 Good	2016
Investigating crime and reducing re-offending	 Good	2016
Protecting vulnerable people	 Good	2017
Tackling serious and organised crime	 Outstanding	2016
Specialist capabilities	Ungraded	2017

### Summary

Derbyshire Constabulary is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime. It consistently provides a good service to its communities, and continues to have an effective approach towards protecting vulnerable people and supporting victims. The force has a comprehensive understanding of the nature and scale of vulnerability in the community, helped by its strong working relationships with public-sector partner organisations, including local councils and charities.

Frontline officers and staff, including those in the control room, are confident in their ability to recognise the signs that someone may be vulnerable and identify appropriate safeguarding measures. The force has improved the way in which it

handles calls about domestic abuse. Officers in general conduct effective risk assessments at domestic abuse incidents, and an improvement in the quality of information that officers record underpins an effective referral process.

Two multi-agency safeguarding hubs operate in Derbyshire, where the force works alongside partner organisations to meet the needs of vulnerable adults and children. In addition, specialist officers and staff in two vulnerability units are effective in arranging support for vulnerable people and organising long-term safeguarding measures.

The force is committed to providing the best possible service to people with mental health conditions. Call handlers are trained to recognise mental health problems and are skilled in providing the best response to callers. Close co-operation takes place with mental health practitioners and expert advice is available to frontline officers while dealing with incidents.

Derbyshire Constabulary has the necessary arrangements in place to fulfil its national policing responsibilities and to respond in the first instance to an attack that requires an armed response. It has plans in place to test the effectiveness of this capability regularly.

# Protecting vulnerable people and supporting victims



Good

## Identifying vulnerability

Derbyshire Constabulary is good at identifying and supporting vulnerable people. Frontline officers and staff are confident about recognising the signs that a person might be vulnerable. The workforce takes a thorough approach and demonstrates a commitment to understanding the wider circumstances of the incidents they deal with. Officers and staff we spoke to described recent incidents in which they had identified people as vulnerable and had adapted their approach to provide the best service for that person.

The force has a comprehensive understanding of the nature and scale of vulnerability in the local community. Long-standing co-operation with local councils and many other health and social-welfare organisations means that information-exchange and working together is fundamental to how the force operates. This helps it to identify people who are vulnerable and provide a better service to victims. The Safer Derbyshire<sup>3</sup> research initiative, a multi-agency team that includes police officers, carries out detailed research to analyse data from many sources and provide information, to improve the understanding of vulnerability in the local community.

The force has taken action to identify and respond to vulnerability caused by less obvious types of harm, such as so-called honour-based violence, modern slavery and human trafficking. Vulnerability unit team members have received enhanced training to deal with reports of so-called honour-based violence; a separate team, known as Wilberforce, deals with all aspects of modern slavery and human trafficking. A comprehensive plan is in place to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking and the force works closely with local businesses, academic institutions, third-sector groups and other government organisations to develop intelligence, safeguard victims and investigate criminal networks committing this type of crime.

Derbyshire Constabulary continues to refine the way that it identifies vulnerable people when they first contact the force. Automated searches of computer records show whether it has received previous calls from the same telephone number, location or person. Call handlers then carry out further database searches, using information gathered during the call. They follow the standardised risk-assessment

---

<sup>3</sup> Further information on Safer Derbyshire available at: [www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/home.aspx](http://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/home.aspx)



method known as THRIVE<sup>4</sup>, which in turn defines how urgent the police response should be. We observed call handlers taking an empathetic approach to the public, recording information accurately and consistently; in our 2016 inspection, that recording had been inconsistent.

The force has recently adopted an enhanced process for handling calls about domestic abuse, using a supplementary set of questions at the initial contact stage. These questions are designed to reassure victims, establish the scale and nature of the abuse, and encourage victims to continue to work with the police. We found no evidence of inappropriate grading or poor attendance times during fieldwork. The force treats all domestic abuse incidents as a priority, allocating officers to meet the victim or witness as soon as possible.

## **Initial response**

Frontline officers and staff consistently demonstrate positive behaviour towards vulnerable victims. A new incident resolution team (IRT) made up of experienced officers now works alongside call handlers to help ensure that potentially vulnerable people are recognised quickly. Officers that initial respond to incidents are good at identifying and assessing risk, which helps to protect those who are vulnerable. Similarly, officers and staff from the vulnerability unit review incidents each day to check that frontline officers have taken all appropriate actions, and to identify repeat victims and serial offenders as early as possible.

Officers attending incidents of domestic abuse always conduct the necessary risk assessments with the victim face to face. We sampled more than 40 completed assessments and found that officers had made accurate conclusions about the scale of risk that each victim faced. The assessments demonstrated also that attending officers routinely see children present at the time of a domestic incident, to check on their welfare. The quality of information that officers record is improving as a result of a programme that requires all sergeants to spend time with staff and officers in the central referral unit (CRU). By doing this, they improve their understanding of how the CRU makes subsequent use of risk-assessment information, and therefore appreciate the importance of accurate initial risk assessments. This has led to better levels of supervision of initial assessments and higher quality information being shared with specialists and partner organisations.

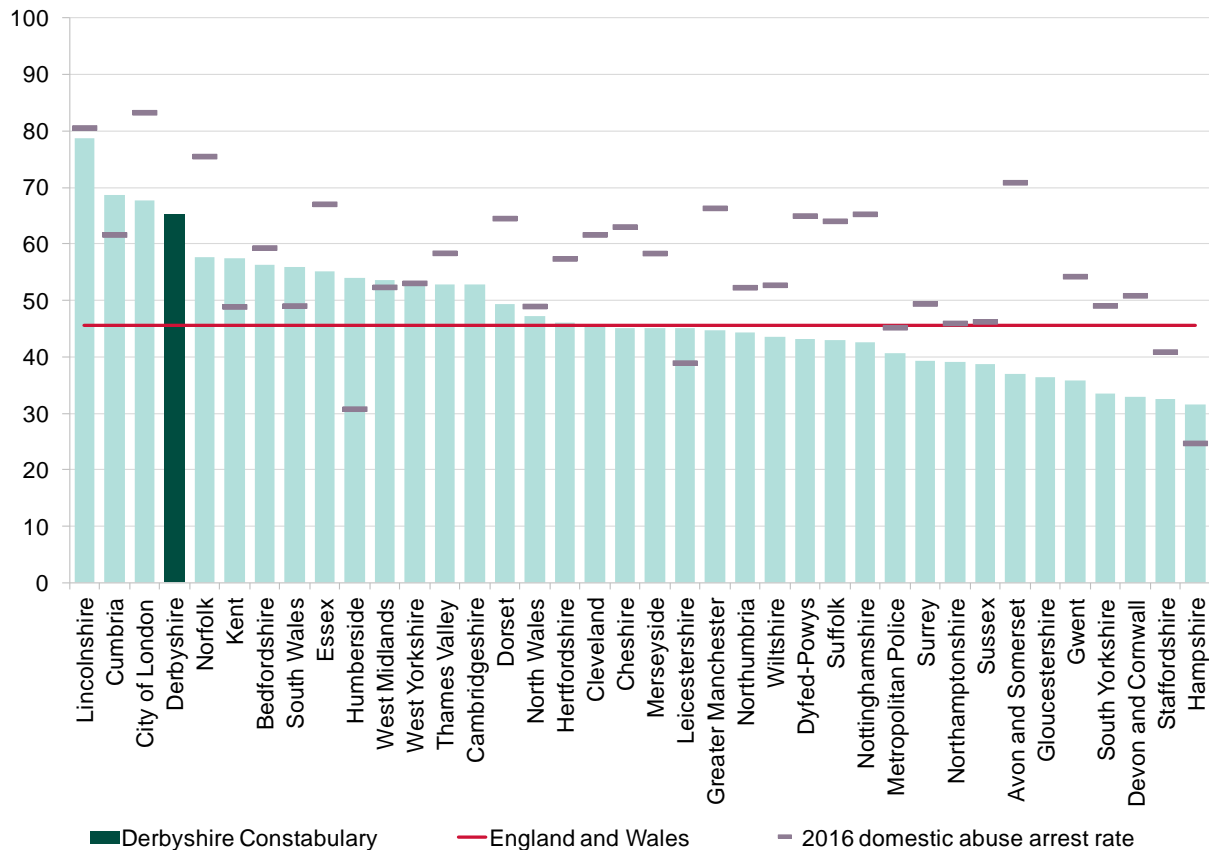
The rate of arrest for domestic abuse offences can provide an indication of a force's approach to handling domestic abuse offenders. Although for the purpose of this calculation arrests are not linked directly to offences, a high arrest rate may suggest

---

<sup>4</sup> The threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement (THRIVE) model is used to assess the appropriate initial police response to a call for service. It allows a judgment to be made of the relative risk posed by the call and places the individual needs of the victim at the centre of that decision.

that a force prioritises arrests for domestic abuse offenders over other potential forms of action (for further information, please see annex A). HMICFRS has evaluated the arrest rate alongside other measures during our inspection process to understand how each force deals with domestic abuse overall.

**Figure 1: Domestic abuse arrest rate (per 100 domestic abuse-related offences), by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017<sup>5, 6</sup>**



**Source: 2016 and 2017 HMICFRS data return, 2016 and 2017 Home Office domestic abuse crime data<sup>7</sup>**

**For further information about this data, please see annex A**

Derbyshire Constabulary takes positive action to protect victims and bring offenders to justice when dealing with domestic abuse incidents. For every 100 domestic abuse-related offences the force recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, there were 65.3 arrests made. This is high compared with the arrest rate for England and

<sup>5</sup> Durham, Lancashire, Warwickshire and West Mercia forces were unable to provide 2017 domestic abuse arrest data. Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Durham and Gloucestershire forces were unable to provide 2016 domestic abuse arrest data.

<sup>6</sup> North Yorkshire Police was unable to provide comparable domestic abuse arrest data. Therefore, it has been removed from the graph. For further information, please see annex A.

<sup>7</sup> The Home Office has provided HMICFRS with data on domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017. These data are more recent than those published by the Office for National Statistics.

Wales, which stands at 45.5 arrests per 100 domestic abuse-related offences. The force also deals with domestic abuse suspects by means of voluntary attendance<sup>8</sup>. This is when the force asks a suspect to attend a police station at a later date to help with the investigation but does not arrest them at the time. However, Derbyshire Constabulary does this only if it judges that the risk of harm to the victim is low, such as when the allegations are historic, or if the parties are not in contact; this happens in 12.8 cases per 100 domestic abuse-related offences. This is higher than the England and Wales rate of 7.0 cases per 100 domestic abuse-related offences.

All frontline officers carry body-worn video cameras, and footage from incidents has been used successfully to support prosecutions in cases when the victim has been unwilling to go to court to give evidence. We found that, where justified, frontline officers always consider arrest or separation of parties as the primary form of immediate safeguarding for victims. Officers also provide further information to victims and witnesses about local organisations that specifically support domestic abuse victims. Staff in the CRU conduct further assessments of risk based on available information and, where appropriate, make referrals to other organisations and police teams for longer-term safeguarding; this process is swift and effective. Domestic abuse specialists manage all high-risk cases, arranging tailored safeguarding plans. Staff from the vulnerability units and neighbourhood officers manage standard and medium-risk cases.

During the 2016 HMICFRS effectiveness inspection, we found the term 'domestic violence' being used widely, as opposed to 'domestic abuse'. This could prevent the workforce from recognising that domestic abuse can take many forms in addition to physical violence, such as coercive control and emotional abuse. The force has reacted to this by: replacing 'violence' with 'abuse' for all organisational titles and meeting names; updating all printed material; and ensuring that all internal and external communication (such as messages from senior leaders) uses the correct term. We found that although some members of the workforce still refer, incorrectly, to 'domestic violence', they were able to give a comprehensive account of the full range of behaviours linked to domestic abuse.

## **Mental health**

Derbyshire Constabulary is committed to providing the best service possible to people with mental health conditions. Call handlers are trained to recognise mental health problems and are skilled in making decisions about how to provide the best response for callers. New recruits to the force also receive training about mental health and on how the force works with other organisations to support people either

---

<sup>8</sup> A voluntary attendance is a police station interview when the 'volunteer' attends to assist the police with an investigation and they are not under arrest. Volunteers have the right to access independent legal advice and are free to leave the police station at any time unless and until they are arrested.

in crisis or with long-term conditions. A new training programme for the whole workforce, to reflect recent changes in legislation and best practice from mental health specialists, is due to start in early 2018.

The force actively supports the Derbyshire mental health working group. It has meaningful agreements in place with partner organisations, which form the basis of effective procedures for working together. We spoke to practitioners from several mental health organisations who said the force was good – and continually improving – in the way it supports people with mental ill health problems. Representatives from the force and partner organisations meet regularly to discuss data that they each gather about demand for their services, which is linked to mental ill health. By drawing on several sources of information, the force maintains a clear picture of current and emerging types of demand for its services.

All incidents that frontline officers and staff deal with that involve people with mental health conditions are referred to local vulnerability units. This helps to ensure that people in greatest need are identified, with care and support arranged to suit their circumstances. A force-wide approach to identify and help the most frequent users of police and other public and voluntary services is under development; it is planned to be in place in early 2018.

A mental-health triage facility, staffed by mental health practitioners, operates alongside call handlers each weekday from 4pm to midnight. Initially, a mobile triage service was used, where mental health professionals and police officers could be jointly deployed to incidents. However, the force and its partner organisations have decided that having the professional support available in the control room provides a more comprehensive service, covering a greater number of incidents with the resources available. Frontline officers and staff are encouraged to contact mental health practitioners by telephone outside these hours for advice and guidance. Those involved in providing this service are considering extending its hours of operation and broadening the range of triage services it can provide in the future.

## **Investigating crimes involving vulnerable people**

Derbyshire Constabulary investigates crimes involving vulnerable people well. We reviewed a small sample of crime investigations conducted by specialist investigators and frontline officers. We found that they identified potentially vulnerable people quickly and take appropriate care to support them throughout the investigation. The investigations were well structured, and cases involving either domestic abuse or sexual offences recorded particularly thorough oversight by supervisors.

The force has two vulnerability units, one in each division. Specialist officers and staff in these units oversee safeguarding activity, draw together organisations to help people in crisis or difficult circumstances and provide crime prevention advice or

personal safety services tailored towards vulnerable groups. The teams work proactively to help those people in greatest need, identifying them by the nature of assistance they seek from the police and other public services – and how often they seek help. Specific measures to help them are agreed at case conference meetings. The teams have a close working relationship with neighbourhood officers and police community support officers; this means they, too, have a clear understanding of who in their patrol areas is at the greatest risk of harm and who poses a threat to others. The combined knowledge of the officers and staff in both teams means that the understanding of vulnerability within local communities is comprehensive.

We spoke to specialist domestic abuse and sexual offence investigators across the force; all of them felt supported by their managers, were trained to a suitable standard and had manageable workloads. It is notable that, despite this, the force is obtaining an expert independent assessment of whether the public protection department is organised in an optimal way to manage cases and meet demand for its services.

HMICFRS examined the force's use of legal powers to protect victims. Derbyshire Constabulary uses the domestic violence disclosure scheme (Clare's Law).<sup>9</sup> This legislation allows the police to disclose a perpetrator's violent past to their partners to make them more aware of the level of violence they may face. Disclosure can be made when a victim asks for this information ('right to ask'), or when domestic abuse professionals believe an individual should be notified as a precautionary measure ('right to know'). In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, the force received 72 'right to ask' applications under Clare's Law; 18 of these applications were granted. The 'right to know' was used 30 times out of 67 applications. This rate of use is in line with the rate for forces across England and Wales.

The force continues to make use of wider powers to protect victims in the form of domestic violence protection notices (DVPNs) and orders (DVPOs);<sup>10</sup> these prohibit an offender from contacting a victim or returning to their home. In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, the force made less use of these than in the previous year, with the number of authorised DVPNs falling to 69, compared to 180 in the same period in 2016. The force is aware of this reduction but is not clear about why fewer notices are being issued. It has reminded investigators to consider all safeguarding options

---

<sup>9</sup> The domestic violence disclosure scheme, also known as Clare's Law, increases protection for domestic abuse victims and enables the police to better identify domestic abuse perpetrators. For more information, see: [www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/leadership-strategic-oversight-and-management/#domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-clares-law](http://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/leadership-strategic-oversight-and-management/#domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-clares-law)

<sup>10</sup> Domestic violence protection notices (DVPNs) may be issued by an authorised police officer to prevent a suspected perpetrator from returning to a victim's home and/or contacting the victim. Following the issue of the DVPN the Police must apply to the Magistrates for a domestic violence protection order (DVPO). The DVPO will be granted for a period of up to 28 days.

while a suspect is in custody, and has increased scrutiny of domestic abuse cases to ensure all appropriate measures are taken. The force provided figures during fieldwork to show that the volume of DVPNs issued more recently is returning to levels that are consistent with the previous year. In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, the force applied for 69 DVPOs, of which the courts granted 62. The number of DVPOs granted per 100 domestic abuse-related offences is comparable with forces across England and Wales.

The rate of domestic abuse investigations leading to a charge or summons has decreased over the last year, to 25.5 cases out of every 100 domestic abuse-related crimes; however, this still compares favourably with the England and Wales rate of 18.6 charge or summons per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes. It is also notable that the force is comparatively successful in maintaining victim support throughout investigations. The rate of cases that end because of evidential difficulties where a suspect is identified and the victim does not support further police action amounts to 14.5 cases per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes; this compares with 41.8 cases per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes across England and Wales.

## **Partnership working**

Derbyshire Constabulary has drawn on its well-established and effective working relationships with local councils, the NHS and third-sector organisations to join forces in helping to protect vulnerable people. Safer neighbourhood teams and the vulnerability units work closely with other public-sector organisations and charities, taking a joint approach to safeguarding and reducing the risk people face within the local community. A pilot event for year-six school children in the summer of 2016 that the force co-ordinated gathered pupils at a central venue to learn physical and cyber-safety messages from eight different organisations. Similarly, the most vulnerable groups of road users – novice drivers and the elderly – receive tailored safety messages from the local road safety partnership.

Two multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASHs<sup>11</sup>) are in operation, hosted in city and county council buildings respectively. The process for receiving referrals about children and adults at risk is very efficient. There are few backlogs in processing risk assessments and the prioritisation of cases is appropriate. Information sharing between partner organisations is very good, with representatives working side by side; this has been strengthened recently by closer co-operation with GP surgeries.

---

<sup>11</sup> A multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) brings together into a single location key safeguarding agencies to better identify risks to children (and in some areas, vulnerable adults), and improve decision-making, interventions, and outcomes. The MASH enables the multi-agency team to share all appropriate information in a secure environment, and ensure that the most appropriate response is provided to effectively safeguard and protect the individual.

The geography and spread of population across the force area means that up to five multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) can take place each week. A MARAC is a meeting where the police and other specialists, including local independent domestic violence advisors who support victims, share information about the highest-risk domestic abuse cases. The frequency of the meetings means that victims are safeguarded more effectively and can receive the best available services in the shortest possible time; the alternative would be to wait for an arbitrary volume of cases to accrue before calling a MARAC. The number of cases discussed at MARAC per 10,000 adult females in Derbyshire has fallen by 17 percent compared with the 12 months to 30 June 2016. However, this figure remains in line with the rate for England and Wales.

The force has a comprehensive and up-to-date domestic abuse action plan to improve its services further, and has made progress in all areas. A refreshed problem profile, using analysis of police and partner data, was under development at the time of our fieldwork.

Feedback is collected from victims via telephone surveys for all cases, irrespective of an investigation's outcome (although cases are excluded if contact might place victims in jeopardy). That information and feedback from partner organisations is used to improve existing services or define new means of support for victims and witnesses.

The force is well organised in how it manages the risk posed by dangerous and sexual offenders. A single team of experienced, suitably skilled officers conducts risk assessments and carries out visits to offenders. A nationally recognised risk-assessment tool is used, and the force uses ancillary orders to protect vulnerable people. The workload of the team is manageable, although its efficiency could be improved by access to the mobile technology that frontline colleagues use. The force might consider accelerating its existing plans to do this, and achieve them sooner, given the purpose of the team. There is a good working relationship with the national probation service; this helps the force to prepare for offenders approaching release from prison, and review existing management plans for offenders in the community. Neighbourhood teams can access up-to-date information about dangerous and sexual offenders in their area, and officers in these teams report intelligence when appropriate.

The force continues to tackle reports of online paedophilia and indecent images of children effectively. There is no backlog of cases referred to the force for investigation. Warrants are executed up to four times per week to arrest suspects and seize computer equipment for further examination.

## Specialist capabilities

### Ungraded

#### National policing responsibilities

*The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)*<sup>12</sup> specifies six national threats: terrorism, cyber-crime, public order, civil emergencies, child sexual abuse and serious and organised crime.

Derbyshire Constabulary has the necessary arrangements in place to ensure that it can fulfil its national policing responsibilities. The force has assessed its capability to respond to the six national threats included in the SPR.

Responsibility for the threats rests with senior officers and the chief officer team assesses the force's preparedness to respond to each of them each month. We found this to be an effective means of identifying risks, engaging the workforce and developing the skills and experience the force requires. Measures have been put in place to rectify the situation when concerns have been raised about the force's capabilities.

A regular programme of training exercises has been established. This is run in conjunction with the local resilience forum – a statutory body that brings together emergency services, the health service and other organisations, such as local councils, which are responsible for crisis management and disaster recovery. Recent training exercises have tested the force's ability to respond to a terrorist attack and provide humanitarian relief should serious flooding occur in the area.

The force carefully de-briefs all training exercises and major incidents; this identifies how improvements can be made and develops better ways of working on a consistent basis.

#### Firearms capability

HMICFRS inspected how well forces were prepared to manage firearms attacks in our 2016 effectiveness inspections. Subsequent terrorist attacks in the UK and Europe have meant that the police service maintains a firm focus on armed capability in England and Wales.

---

<sup>12</sup> The SPR is issued annually by the Home Secretary. It sets out the latest national threats and appropriate national policing capabilities required to counter them. National threats require a co-ordinated or aggregated response from police forces, national agencies or other partners. *The Strategic Policing Requirement*, Home Office, March 2015. Available from: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/417116/The\\_Strategic\\_Policing\\_Requirement.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417116/The_Strategic_Policing_Requirement.pdf)



It is not just terrorist attacks that place operational demands on armed officers. The threat can include the activity of organised crime groups or armed street gangs and all other crime involving guns. *The Code of Practice on the Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons*<sup>13</sup> makes forces responsible for implementing national standards of armed policing. The code stipulates that a chief officer be designated to oversee these standards. This requires the chief officer to set out the firearms threat in an armed policing strategic threat and risk assessment (APSTRA). The chief officer must also set out clear rationales for the number of armed officers (armed capacity) and the level to which they are trained (armed capability).

Derbyshire Constabulary has an adequate understanding of the potential harm facing the public, and its APSTRA conforms to the requirements of the code and the College of Policing guidance.<sup>14</sup> The force last reviewed its APSTRA in September 2017. We found that the designated chief officer scrutinises the APSTRA closely. He formally approves its content, which includes the levels of armed capability and capacity that the threats require. His decisions and the rationale on which they are based are clearly auditable.

However, the APSTRA could be improved in two areas. First, it could include more analysis of the locations, such as crowded places that are attractive targets for terrorists. Second, it would benefit from greater consideration of how armed organised crime groups or street gangs can affect the local area. This information would help operational planning and should be central in deciding the areas in which armed response vehicles should patrol.

---

<sup>13</sup> *Code of Practice on Police use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons*, Home Office, 2003.

<sup>14</sup> College of Policing authorised professional practice on armed policing available at: [www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/armed-policing/?s](http://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/armed-policing/?s)

## Annex A – About the data

The information presented in this report comes from a range of sources, including data published by the Home Office, the Office for National Statistics, inspection fieldwork and data collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales.

Where HMICFRS collected data directly from police forces, we took reasonable steps to agree the design of the data collection with forces and with other interested parties such as the Home Office. We gave forces several opportunities to quality assure and validate the data they provided us, to ensure the accuracy of the evidence presented. For instance:

- Data that forces submitted were checked and queried with those forces where data were notably different from other forces or were internally inconsistent.
- All forces were asked to check the final data used in the report and correct any errors identified.

The source of the data is presented with each figure in the report, and is set out in more detail within this annex. The source of Force in numbers data is also set out below.

### Methodology

#### Data in the report

British Transport Police was outside the scope of inspection. Any aggregated totals for England and Wales exclude British Transport Police data, so will differ from those published by the Home Office.

Where other forces have been unable to supply data, this is mentioned under the relevant sections below.

#### Population

For all uses of population as a denominator in our calculations, unless otherwise noted, we use Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-2016 population estimates. These were the most recent data available at the time of the inspection.

For the specific case of City of London Police, we include both resident and transient population within our calculations. This is to account for the unique nature and demographics of this force's responsibility.

## **Survey of police staff**

HMICFRS surveyed the police workforce across forces in England and Wales, to understand their views on workloads, redeployment and the suitability of assigned tasks. This survey was a non-statistical, voluntary sample which means that results may not be representative of the workforce population. The number of responses varied between 16 and 1,678 across forces. Therefore, we treated results with caution and used them for identifying themes that could be explored further during fieldwork rather than to assess individual force performance.

## **Ipsos MORI survey of public attitudes towards policing**

HMICFRS commissioned Ipsos MORI to survey attitudes towards policing between 21 July and 15 August 2017. Respondents were drawn from an online panel and results were weighted by age, gender and work status to match the population profile of the force area. The sampling method used is not a statistical random sample and the sample size was small, varying between 300 and 321 individuals in each force area. Therefore, any results provided are only an indication of satisfaction rather than an absolute.

The findings of this survey are available on our website:

[www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/data/peel-assessments](http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/data/peel-assessments)

## **Review of crime files**

HMICFRS reviewed 2,700<sup>15</sup> police case files across crime types for:

- theft from person;
- rape (including attempts);
- stalking;
- harassment;
- common assault;
- grievous bodily harm (wounding);
- actual bodily harm.

Our file review was designed to provide a broad overview of the identification of vulnerability, the effectiveness of investigations and to understand how victims are treated through police processes. We randomly selected files from crimes recorded between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017 and assessed them against several

---

<sup>15</sup> 60 case files were reviewed in each force, with the exception of the Metropolitan Police Service, West Midlands Police and West Yorkshire Police where 90 case files were reviewed.

criteria. Due to the small sample size of cases selected per force, we did not use results from the file review as the sole basis for assessing individual force performance, but alongside other evidence gathered.

## **Force in numbers**

A dash in this graphic indicates that a force was not able to supply HMICFRS with data or the data supplied by the forces were not comparable.

### **Calls for assistance (including those for domestic abuse)**

These data were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales. In 2017, the data requested from forces contained a different breakdown of occurrences where the police were called to an incident.

### **Recorded crime and crime outcomes**

These data are obtained from Home Office police recorded crime and outcomes data tables for the 12 months to 30 June 2017 and are taken from the October 2017 Home Office data release, which is available from:

[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables)

Total police-recorded crime includes all crime, except fraud offences, recorded by all police forces in England and Wales. Home Office publications on the overall volumes and rates of recorded crime and outcomes include British Transport Police, which is outside the scope of this HMICFRS inspection. Therefore, England and Wales rates in this report will differ from those published by the Home Office.

Data referring to police-recorded crime should be treated with care, as recent increases may be attributed to the renewed focus on the quality and compliance of crime recording since HMICFRS' national inspection of crime data in 2014.

Suffolk Constabulary was unable to submit 2017 outcomes data to the Home Office due to data quality issues, relating to the changing of its crime recording system to Athena. Therefore Suffolk Constabulary has been excluded from the England and Wales figure.

Other notable points to consider when interpreting outcomes data are listed below.

- Crime outcome proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 that have been assigned each outcome. This means that each crime is tracked or linked to its outcome. Therefore these data are subject to change, as more crimes are assigned outcomes over time.

- Under the new framework, 37 police forces in England and Wales provide outcomes data through the Home Office data hub (HODH) on a monthly basis. All other forces provide these data via a manual return also occurring on a monthly basis.
- Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire forces participated in the Ministry of Justice's out of court disposals pilot. This means they no longer issued simple cautions or cannabis/khat warnings and they restrict their use of penalty notices for disorder as disposal options for adult offenders, as part of the pilot. These three pilot forces continued to operate in accordance with the pilot conditions since the pilot ended in November 2015. Other forces subsequently also limited their use of some out of court disposals. Therefore, the outcomes data should be viewed with this in mind.
- Direct comparisons should not be made between general crime outcomes and domestic abuse-related outcomes. Domestic abuse-related outcomes are based on the number of outcomes for domestic-abuse related offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, irrespective of when the crime was recorded. Therefore, the domestic abuse-related crimes and outcomes recorded in the reporting year are not tracked, whereas the general outcomes are tracked.
- For a full commentary and explanation of outcome types please see Crime Outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017, Home Office, July 2017. Available from:  
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/633048/crime-outcomes-hosb0917.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633048/crime-outcomes-hosb0917.pdf)

### **Anti-social behaviour**

These data are obtained from Office for National Statistics data tables (year ending 31 March 2017), available from:

[www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables)

All police forces record incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported to them in accordance with the provisions of the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR). Forces record incidents under NSIR in accordance with the same victim-focused approach that applies for recorded crime, although these data are not subject to the same quality assurance as the main recorded crime collection.

Incident counts should be interpreted as incidents recorded by the police, rather than reflecting the true level of victimisation. Other agencies also deal with ASB incidents (for example, local authorities and social landlords), but incidents reported to these agencies will not generally be included in police data.

When viewing this data the reader should be aware that Warwickshire Police had a problem with its incident recording. For a small percentage of all incidents reported during 2015-16 the force could not identify whether these were ASB or other types of incident. These incidents have been distributed pro rata for Warwickshire, so that two percent of ASB incidents in the reporting year for 2015-16 is estimated.

### **Domestic abuse**

Data relating to domestic abuse-flagged offences is obtained through the Home Office for the 12 months to 30 June 2017. These are more recent data than those previously published by Office for National Statistics. The Home Office collects these data regularly and requires all forces to record accurately and flag domestic abuse crimes. Domestic abuse flags should be applied in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules<sup>16</sup> to ensure consistency across forces, and within published data sets.

Data relating to domestic abuse arrests and outcomes were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales.

Further information about the domestic abuse statistics and recent releases is available from:

[www.ons.gov.uk/releases/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesyearendingmarch2017](http://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesyearendingmarch2017)

When viewing this data the reader should be aware that North Yorkshire Police was unable to give the Home Office comparable data on domestic abuse-flagged crimes. The force extracted data for HMICFRS on the powers and outcomes used to deal with these offences by using an enhanced search. This search examined additional factors (such as the victim / suspect relationship) and included a keyword search to identify additional domestic abuse crimes which may not have been flagged.

The force used a simpler search, which identified domestic abuse crimes by flagging alone, to extract data it supplied to the Home Office. As North Yorkshire Police's data on domestic abuse are not comparable with other forces, we have excluded the data.

---

<sup>16</sup> Home Office Counting Rules are rules in accordance with which crime data – required to be submitted to the Home Secretary under sections 44 and 45 of the Police Act 1996 – must be collected. They set down how the police service in England and Wales must record crime, how crimes must be classified according to crime type and categories, whether and when to record crime, how many crimes to record in respect of a single incident and the regime for the re-classification of crimes as no-crimes.

## **Organised crime groups (OCGs)**

These data were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales. City of London Police is excluded from the England and Wales rate as its OCG data are not comparable with other forces due to size and its wider national remit.

As at 1 July 2017 City of London Police had recorded 46 OCGs. However during the inspection we found that only six OCGs were within the force's geographical area and the remaining 40 were part of the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau's remit.

## **Figures in the report**

Not all forces' reports will contain all the figures we mention in the sections below. This is because some forces' data was incomplete or not comparable with England and Wales data, and in 2017 HMICFRS undertook risk-based inspections.

More details about our risk-based approach can be found here:

[www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/how-we-inspect/2017-peel-assessment/#risk-based](http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/how-we-inspect/2017-peel-assessment/#risk-based)

## **Rate of anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers per 1 million population, by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017**

These data were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales. HMICFRS collected data on anti-social behaviour powers, including:

- criminal behaviour orders;
- community protection notices;
- civil injunctions;
- dispersal orders.

Together these powers form the anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers considered in this report.

The Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced ASB powers which can be applied by both local authorities and the police. The ASB powers data provided in this report covers police data. Therefore, results should be treated with caution as they may not include instances where local authorities exercised these powers.

When viewing this data the reader should be aware of the following:

- Bedfordshire Police, Greater Manchester Police and the Metropolitan Police Service were unable to provide data on anti-social behaviour powers as the data are not held centrally within each force.

- Greater Manchester Police was unable to provide any 2016 ASB use of powers data. Greater Manchester Police intends for its new integrated operational policing system to incorporate recording of ASB powers.
- Suffolk Constabulary was only able to provide data for the southern area of the force in 2017. Therefore its data are excluded.
- The forces highlighted above are not included in the figure or in the calculation of the England and Wales rate.
- Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Humberside and Merseyside forces were only able to provide partial 2017 ASB use of powers data.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Constabulary were unable to obtain data regarding the number of civil injunctions as their local authorities lead the application of these.
- Humberside Police was unable to provide data on community protection notices and civil injunction notices as its local authorities lead the application of these. The force does not collect data on criminal behaviour orders and dispersal orders.
- Merseyside Police was unable to provide data on dispersal orders as these orders are attached to individual crime files.

**Proportion of investigations where action was taken, by force, for offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017**

Please see 'Recorded Crime and Crime Outcomes' above.

Suffolk Constabulary was unable to provide 2017 crime outcomes data. Dorset Police was unable to provide 2016 crime outcomes data. Therefore, these forces' data are not included in the figure.

Dorset Police was unable to provide 2016 crimes outcome data, because it had difficulty with the recording of crime outcomes for the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This was due to the force introducing the Niche records management system in spring 2015. Problems with the implementation of Niche meant that crime outcomes were not reliably recorded.

**Domestic abuse arrest rate (per 100 domestic abuse-related offences), by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017**

Please see 'Domestic abuse' above.

- The arrest rate is calculated using a common time period for arrests and offences. It is important to note that each arrest is not necessarily directly linked to its specific domestic abuse offence recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 in this calculation. It is also possible to have more than one arrest



per offence. In addition, the reader should note the increase in police-recorded crime which affected the majority of forces over the last year. This may mean arrest rates are higher than the figures suggest. Despite this, the calculation still indicates whether the force prioritises arrests for domestic abuse offenders over other potential forms of action. HMICFRS evaluated the arrest rate alongside other measures (such as use of voluntary attendance or body-worn video cameras) during our inspection process to understand how each force deals with domestic abuse overall.

When viewing this data the reader should be aware of the following:

- Durham, Lancashire, Warwickshire and West Mercia forces were unable to provide domestic abuse arrest data. North Yorkshire Police was unable to provide comparable domestic abuse crime and arrest data, so a rate could not be calculated. Therefore, these forces are not included in the figure.
- Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Durham and Gloucestershire forces were unable to provide 2016 domestic abuse arrest data. Therefore, these forces do not have 2016 data included in the figure.

When viewing domestic abuse arrest data for 2016, the reader should be aware of the following:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary was unable to provide 2016 domestic abuse arrest data due to a recording problem that meant it could only obtain accurate data from a manual audit of its custody records.
- Lancashire Constabulary had difficulty in identifying all domestic abuse-flagged arrests. This affected 23 days in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. The force investigated this and confirmed that the impact on the 2016 data provided to HMICFRS would be marginal and that these are the most reliable data it can provide.

### **Rate of organised crime groups (OCGs) per 1 million population, by force, as at 1 July 2017**

Please see 'Organised crime groups' above.

Organised crime group data from City of London Police are not comparable with other forces. Therefore, its data are not included in the figure.

For data relating to 2016 the number of OCGs in Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police force areas is a combined total of OCGs for the two force areas. The OCGs per 1 million population rate is based upon their areas' combined population. For the 2017 data Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police force split their OCGs into two separate force areas.