

**Police, Fire & Crime Panel – Public Question**

---

**Question(s) Posed:**

*‘Concerning the HMIC inspection findings highlighting Staffordshire Police **‘not effectively safeguarding children’**. What **exactly** is the PFCC doing about this to **‘bring the force to account’**?’*

*What **significant, specific, measurable, publicly accountable, actions are being taken** by the PFCC. We don’t want to hear from the Chief Constable, as this is irrelevant due to the understandable widespread mistrust of the police, as recognised by the government, Home Affairs Inquiry, etc.*

*We have seen no **proportionate** response locally. HMIC’s conclusions, even with their restrictions, come after previous inspections assessing our police force as falling short in their care for the vulnerable, therefore leaving this for them to resolve is unacceptable. Particularly concerning is that with Stoke-on-Trent Childrens services still in ‘special measures’ after 6 consecutive Ofsted inspection failures, **the city now has no agencies capable of keeping children and families safe**. We need visible, concerted action, urgently.’*

**Panel Member: Public Question**

**Question Date: 31/05/2022**

---

**Commissioner Response:**

In response to HMICFRS Inspection Findings, the force has initiated a Child Protection Improvement Programme along with command arrangements to oversee its implementation. The programme consists of detailed actions designed to deliver the required improvements in response to the individual recommendations made by HMICFRS. All actions are specific and have clear ownership and time frames.

The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for performance at a monthly Strategic Governance Board and Public Performance Meetings held three times a year. Progress in implementing the Child Protection Improvement Plan is a top priority in this scrutiny and accountability process. The Chief Constable provides written and verbal updates to these meetings on progress against all actions in the Improvement Programme.

**Contact Officer:**

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Ralph Butler</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Interim Joint Chief Executive</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>9 June 2022</b>