

## **Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:**

### **An inspection of the effectiveness of the police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation in England and Wales**

I welcome the report and findings of this national thematic inspection on an exceptionally important area of policing. The inspection report was raised as a topic for discussion at a meeting of the Policing Board on 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. This is the forum at which I hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing services across the Dyfed-Powys area.

I acknowledge the recommendations outlined within the report and will continue to monitor this through my Policing Board and scrutiny activity.

In my Police and Crime Plan, I shared that Dyfed-Powys Police anticipated a rise in child exploitation, online protection issues and violence against children (in relation to the Removal of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment). I made it my priority for the vulnerability of children and young people, as victims or perpetrators, to be recognised and responded to in a child-centred, trauma-informed way.

Dyfed-Powys Police is not named in the report as one of the Forces inspected as part of the inspection by HMICFRS, however the Force was inspected earlier this year as part of HMICFRS's "An inspection of how well the police and National Crime Agency (NCA) tackle the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children."

Dyfed-Powys Police takes a preventative approach on child sexual exploitation, and this was recently highlighted in the most recent PEEL Assessment (2023-25). The Force has already informed my office of work being undertaken in relation to the PEEL Assessment's areas requiring improvement in this field. Further information about the PEEL Assessment and my response can be found on my website.