**24th April 2020**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys**

**Response to the National Child Protection Inspection 2019 Thematic Report**

Following discussions and correspondence with the Chief Constable and my staff's continued oversight of Dyfed-Powys Police's performance, I am assured that the appropriate progress is being made against the recommendations within this national report.

My Out of Court Disposals (OOCD) Scrutiny Panel Members recently reviewed a number of youth OOCDs issued for possession of knife offences, and concluded there were inconsistencies in the application of policies between the Youth Bureaus within Dyfed and Powys. I raised this matter with the Chief Constable and am pleased that prompt action was taken, through the agreement of a revised policy by the regional Criminal Justice Board. This has also had national sign-off and ensures that young people are not unnecessarily criminalised. Individual circumstances and needs are placed at the centre of decision making to ensure young people are supported to change offending behaviour before it escalates.

The Force's introduction of the Vulnerability Hub and Secondary Risk Assessment Unit facilitates constant multi-agency dialogue and consistency of approaches to identify those children at risk of falling into crime. As processes mature further outcomes will be possible, as together, agencies will be able to provide early intervention to divert young people from a life of crime.

I am pleased that Dyfed-Powys Police has already worked with its most similar forces to learn from inspections they have already been through. This learning directly led to the conducting of an audit into Section 46 Children Act processes. The outcome has seen the development of a regional multi-agency protocol and undertaking a 'through-life' audit conducted in conjunction with the Regional Safeguarding Board to consider Police and Social Services’ response to S46 Police Protection.

My team and I continue to work closely with Dyfed-Powys Police representatives to ensure all relevant learning from insights generated through HMICFRS' activity is acted upon in order to improve the policing service for the residents of Dyfed and Powys.