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Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:

HMICFRS Report on Policing Online Child Sexual Abuse and Managing Registered Sex Offenders (April 2026)

I welcome this report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. I am in support of recommendations seeking a review of processes and practices relating to online child sexual abuse and the management of registered sex offenders to ensure that the Force delivers the best possible service to local communities.

There are nine recommendations for Chief Constables outlined in this report, and in my capacity as Police and Crime Commissioner, I will monitor the Force's progress in implementing the changes required.

I am pleased to say that work is already underway in Dyfed-Powys Police to achieve these recommendations. They will be implemented in full by the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Delivery Group which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.

I set out below my thoughts and reassurances I have received from the Chief Constable in relation to the report.

Investigation of online child sexual abuse

Recommendation 1

By 31 October 2026, forces should:

- A. Review existing practices to make sure they use the Kent internet risk assessment tool and the prioritisation tool to prioritise referrals for all children and adult suspects;**
- B. Review their procedures to make sure there is regular assessment of intelligence and risk for online child sexual abuse and exploitation suspects, both prior to enforcement and throughout the lifecycle of the investigation; and**
- C. Make sure investigations allocated outside online child sexual abuse and exploitation teams remain under the team's management oversight, including a central escalation policy.**

I have been informed that Dyfed-Powys Police has embedded and continue to utilise the KIRAT (Kent Internet Risk Assessment Tool) to prioritise referrals for all children and adult suspects received from the National Crime Agency regarding online behaviours. The second and third elements of this recommendation remain ongoing via the VAWG Delivery Group mentioned above.

Recommendation 2

- D. By 30 April 2027, forces should review existing staffing levels in online child sexual abuse and exploitation teams to make sure that they have enough officers and staff to manage demand effectively and that workloads are manageable.**

Dyfed-Powys Police has advised that this recommendation has been documented and will inform future Strategic Planning and Assurance Cycles, recognising the impact of year-on-year exponential increase in Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) referrals.

Recommendation 4

By 31 October 2026, forces should:

- E. Review their online child sexual abuse procedures and make sure that arrest and bail is considered and recorded for all suspects; and**
- F. Make sure that when online child sexual abuse suspects are on bail, conditions are proactively checked at least once per applicable bail period.**

I have been assured that all use of voluntary attendance, bail and repeated bail is scrutinised by Dyfed-Powys Police. Further to this, work will continue to ensure use of Release Under Investigation in exceptional circumstances in cases of online child sexual abuse. In addition, the recently implemented Sexual Risk Order Panel assesses the suitability of interim civil orders to enable effective management of suspects.

Recommendation 5

- G. By 30 April 2027, forces should make sure that third-party provision is in place to support families of online child sexual abuse suspects and that leaflets with contact details of support organisations are available.**

I am pleased to hear that Dyfed-Powys Police has ensured that the offer of, and signposting to third party support provisions are now routinely provided to suspects and their families. This has been built into the POLIT standard operating procedure.

Offender management

Recommendation 6

By 30 October 2026, forces should:

- H. Review their operating models and governance frameworks to make sure they have a consistent approach to managing registered sex offenders across all teams, including use of the Violent and Sex Offender Register in line with Home Office standards; and**
- I. Review the data they collect, how they collect it and how it is presented and make sure that it represents what is on the Violent and Sex Offender Register to accurately assess and manage the risk of registered sex offenders.**

Existing governance structures and audit frameworks have been developed by Dyfed-Powys Police to ensure a consistent approach to the management of sex offenders within the Dyfed-Powys area.

I have been informed that Dyfed-Powys Police's Offender Management Unit Threats Group, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Operational Group and MAPPA Strategic Management Board enable oversight and scrutiny of effective management of registered sex offenders. These governance frameworks are where key data pertaining to Home Office and College of Policing Authorised Approved Practice guidelines are reported upon.

Recommendation 8

By 31 October 2026, forces should:

- J. Use previous demand trends and review predicted demand for management of sexual offenders and violent offenders' teams for five years to make sure that they have enough offender managers and supervisors to manage this;**
- K. Make sure that management of sexual offenders and violent offenders team abstractions are recorded, reviewed, don't happen on a regular basis and don't have a negative effect on workload completion;**
- L. Make sure that management of sexual offenders and violent offenders' teams have manageable numbers of outstanding active risk management systems assessments, risk management plans and visits and that these are assessed by both risk level and how overdue they are; and**

M. Make sure that supervisors are completing reviews of active risk management systems assessments, risk management plans and visits promptly and within one month.

I have been informed that these recommendations are being considered in future Strategic Planning and Assurance Cycles for Offender Management. The current governance structures in place enable oversight of workloads of offender managers based around risk gradings and timeliness.

Recommendation 10

By 31 October 2026, forces should make sure that:

- N. Home visits are unannounced and carried out in pairs to comply with the College of Policing authorised professional practice for the management of sexual offenders and violent offenders;**
- O. Visits that don't comply with the authorised professional practice for the management of sexual offenders and violent offenders are authorised, the rationale is recorded on the Violent and Sex Offender Register and that a system is in place to allow assessment of the decision;**
- P. Any reactively-managed registered sex offenders meet the conditions set out in the authorised professional practice for the management of sexual offenders and violent offenders; and**
- Q. They carry out and assess Police National Database checks on registered sex offenders.**

I have been assured that all of the points within this recommendation are embedded practice within Dyfed-Powys Police. Each of the recommendations have good governance arrangements, and Dyfed-Powys Police has committed to ensure full compliance and achievement of this recommendation.

Recommendation 15

By 31 October 2026, forces should:

- R. make sure psychological health screening is mandatory and provided at least annually (as per guidance from the National Police Wellbeing Service) for management of sexual offenders and violent offenders and online child sexual abuse and exploitation team members and supervisors with access to follow-on well-being services; and**

S. Make sure that management of sexual offenders and violent offenders and online child sexual abuse and exploitation team supervisors have regular trauma-informed training and knowledge sharing to identify signs of trauma, burnout and other well-being issues and that they can refer to and access timely support and treatment where needed.

Dyfed-Powys Police informed me that there are 'Protecting Vulnerable People' and 'Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders' Continuing Professional Development training plans in place. This includes a focus on mental health and welfare as recurrent themes. Further benchmarking activity is currently underway with leading forces in this area to understand the best practice and any gaps in this area.

Recommendation 16

T. By 31 October 2026, forces should make sure that they have a strong service level agreement in place with the Probation Service and that they have a two-way process for review, feedback and escalation to make sure safeguarding opportunities aren't being missed.

Dyfed-Powys Police assured me that they have well embedded governance structures which enable review, feedback and escalation effectively. These include the MAPPA Operational Group and MAPPA Strategic Management Board.

I am grateful for the publication of this report and its recommendations. My team and I will continue to work closely with Dyfed-Powys Police representatives, as well as other relevant partners across England and Wales to ensure that these recommendations are implemented.