OLIVER COPPARD
MAYOR
OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE

South Yorkshire
Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
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Date 29 August 2025

To: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

Dear Chief Inspector

Response from Kilvinder Vigurs, South Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor, to the HMICFRS 2023-25 Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection of South Yorkshire Police

I welcome the findings and recommendations of this report.

I am pleased that His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recognise the force's investment in neighbourhood policing and its commitment to evidence-based practice. As demonstrated in the assessment area "preventing and deterring crime and ASB, and reducing vulnerability", South Yorkshire Police have continued to focus on crime prevention initiatives through innovative problem-solving approaches. These efforts are vital to building safer, more resilient communities across our region.

It is good to see areas of promising practice identified at South Yorkshire Police, including the development of a scenario-based learning facility focusing on crime prevention and awareness raising with young people and community groups. We know that education is critical if we are to get upstream of offending and harm, and so I am pleased to see this positive work acknowledged.

The report also acknowledges the force's provision of a timely service to members of the public who contact it using the 999 system. This is an area where we have seen continued and promising improvements. Whilst there is more to do in ensuring ease of access for the public across the range of contact methods, I consider this to be a key to improving trust and confidence and will continue to monitor progress closely.

The areas for improvement detailed in the report have been accepted by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

The gradings awarded were:

- Police powers and public treatment – **Adequate**
- Preventing Crime – **Good**
- Responding to the public – **Adequate**
- Investigating Crime – **Requires Improvement**

- Protecting Vulnerable People – **Adequate**
- Managing Offenders and Suspects – **Adequate**
- Developing a positive workforce – **Requires Improvement**
- Leadership and Force Management – **Adequate**

As the Deputy Mayor with PCC responsibilities in South Yorkshire, I have oversight of the implementation of these recommendations through local governance arrangements. The report highlights that further work is required in several areas. There cannot be any complacency, and I will work with the force to improve performance around crime investigation, victim support, and officer welfare. I am assured by the Chief Constable and her team that the force has already started to address these points. I will be monitoring the implementation of these improvements as well as seeking demonstrable progress across all areas highlighted in this report.

The other area yet to be graded is:

- Disrupting serious and organised crime – this is inspected on a regional basis, rather than at local force area. The inspection is completed but the report is not yet published.

Commenting more broadly, I think it is important to acknowledge the financial constraints and operational challenges that South Yorkshire Police face, including during the timeframe of this inspection. This includes the significant disorder in the summer of 2024 in relation to the events at Southport and the subsequent riots that occurred at Manvers. Officers demonstrated remarkable bravery, resilience, and professionalism. However, incidents like this combined with the ongoing pressures of daily policing can take a significant toll on the wellbeing of the workforce. South Yorkshire Police faces higher levels of demand than the national average, despite having fewer officers per 100,000 residents.

Public safety is not negotiable. The people of South Yorkshire must be assured that their police service is equipped to respond appropriately and investigate effectively to tackle crime. I will continue to scrutinise the force's performance rigorously and transparently, ensuring it meets the high standards that our communities expect and deserve.

We look forward to keeping the dialogue open with HMICFRS.

Yours sincerely

Kilvinder Vigurs

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Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime