

South Yorkshire
Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

31 December 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 report – Inspection of the effectiveness of police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation. A progress report.

I welcome the publication of this progress report on what remains an exceptionally important area for policing and partner agencies.

It is vital that all enforcement bodies act on the recommendations from the original report to ensure that group-based child sexual exploitation is understood fully, investigated robustly and that perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly. I am disappointed to note that, nationally, some recommendations remain incomplete. This is not the case in South Yorkshire where, I am pleased to say, those recommendations directed to Chief Constables have all been implemented.

Additionally, there are four new recommendations set out in this progress report. These have been accepted by South Yorkshire Police (SYP). The recommendations include:

Recommendation 1: By 31 March 2026, the Home Office, Department for Education, all police forces and law enforcement bodies, that are yet to do so, should adopt the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's definition of an 'organised network' as a definition of group-based child sexual exploitation. Also, they should make sure they use this definition in all relevant policies, training products, procedures and guidance.

Recommendation 2: By 31 March 2026, all police forces should adopt fully and use the Hydrant Programme's child sexual exploitation problem profile template as a minimum, when preparing their 2025/26 child sexual exploitation problem profiles

Recommendation 4: By 31 July 2026, all chief constables should use the Hydrant Programme's guidance so forces can efficiently, and accurately identify child sexual exploitation, and group-based child sexual exploitation in their police record management systems.

Recommendation 6: By 31 July 2026, all police forces should devise a strategy to implement Operation Makesafe consistently and include this in their child sexual exploitation

data returns to the Hydrant Programme. This strategy should include the adoption and use of the rebranded Operation Makesafe police and partnership marketing materials.

Two of the recommendations relate to the Hydrant Programme. I am pleased that South Yorkshire Police already make use of Hydrant Programme materials to support their work, including training and investigations.

Through the governance arrangements in place with SYP, I can see that all four of these new recommendations have already been implemented.

We know that Child Sexual Exploitation presents serious threats and significant harm to children, young people and the wider community. It remains a key priority in South Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Kilvinder Vigurs'. The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name 'Kilvinder' and last name 'Vigurs' clearly legible.

Kilvinder Vigurs

Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime