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Sir Paul Stephenson
Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
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Ref:
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Dear Commissioner

Inspection of progress made in the provision of safeguarding services in the London Borough of Haringey

At the conclusion of the above joint inspection, as well as generic verbal feedback to the Local Authority and partners on the overall emerging findings, each of the three organisations concerned (social care, health and the police) was given individual tailored feedback by the relevant inspectorate (Ofsted, Care Quality Commission and HMIC). Following publication of the joint inspection report, HMIC also agreed to provide the MPS with consolidated written feedback. This is now attached and its purpose is:

- to give more detailed information on the police-specific issues identified within the joint report, and
- to provide feedback on those areas of relevance to the MPS, but which were excluded from the scope of the joint inspection.

Although full information is provided within the feedback document, the key areas of progress are summarised below for ease of reference:

- **Child Risk Assessment Matrix** - although the CRAM had only been implemented in the Haringey CAIT for approximately six weeks prior to the inspection, there was good evidence of compliance and a number of the anticipated benefits were already being realised:
 - there was evidence of a more structured and systematic approach to identification and management of risk, together with greater proactivity on the part of the police in relation to information sharing with social services
 - supervision was found to be more structured and consistent, particularly in relation to the referral and child protection plan processes
 - there was early evidence of the process beginning to prompt a more consistent and systematic level of supervisory scrutiny on the Referral Desk
- **Recording** - there has been a concerted effort to move from paper to electronic CAIT records across the MPS and improve consistency in the way that information is recorded. A business case for CRIS enhancement to further support the CRAM is currently under active consideration. **These developments are strongly supported by HMIC.**
- **Staffing Levels** - CAIT staffing levels were generally found to be good, and overall workload was described as manageable. There had been a further increase in supervisory

establishment since the last joint inspection and, although a small number of supervisory gaps had recently arisen, these were being actively managed.

- **Case Conference Attendance** - at the time of the second inspection in June 2009, police attendance at Initial Case Conferences had improved and there was increased attendance at Review Case Conferences. The current inspection found further progress, with police attendance being more consistent and structured, and with greatly improved planning, preparation and supervision.
- **Strategic Oversight** - there was consensus across Haringey CAIT staff at all levels that child protection had become a much more visible priority for senior management. The increases in staffing and the introduction of more structured risk identification and supervisory processes in particular were regarded by staff as signs of greater awareness and recognition of the risks associated with this area of work. The establishment of the Modernisation Programme to oversee implementation of the changes and growth emerging from the action plan developed following the inspection in 2008, and the associated evidence provided for this inspection, demonstrate the strategic commitment to achieving improvement across the MPS. **Real progress has been made, and it essential that the momentum and commitment is maintained.**
- **Performance Management** - the Haringey child abuse investigation team has been the subject of ongoing management scrutiny over the last year and for this reason, together with the timing of this inspection of progress, it has not yet been inspected under the new MPS programme. Although the impact of the MPS reviews, therefore, could not be assessed, **HMIC considers the review process to be an important development in improving strategic oversight of CAIT performance and in ensuring that the lessons learned from Haringey are transferred across the force.**
- **Recommendation from previous inspection of progress (published July 2009)** - the Metropolitan Police Service should ensure that borough police activity is incorporated within and monitored through the Metropolitan Police Service action plan.

The main issue at the time of the last inspection was that, although borough police activity was consistent with the Metropolitan Police Service action plan, it had not been formally incorporated into the action plan and was, therefore, not subject to the same level of monitoring and evaluation. It was not the intention that all borough-based activity within Haringey would automatically be considered for wider development or implementation across the MPS. However, there was a need to ensure that, where local activity had the potential to impact on the CAIT, it would be monitored through SCD5. **This recommendation has now been met.**

I trust the foregoing is of assistance, however, if any further information is required, the HMIC liaison officer for this work is Superintendent Lesley Warrender, who can be contacted on 07901 715990 or by email to lesley.warrender2@hmic.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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