

PRESS RELEASE

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Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner with regard to the HMIC Domestic Abuse Report

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Olly Martins said: "Victims of domestic abuse, whether it is the partners of violent perpetrators or indeed the children involved, are some of the most vulnerable people the police encounter. That is why I identified them as a priority in the Police and Crime Plan I published for the county shortly after I was elected, and why I have actually said I want to see an increase in the reporting of domestic violence incidents because this will demonstrate victims have the confidence to seek help. I have spent time meeting providers and speaking to service users of Women's Refuge and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers so I know how important this issue of confidence is.

"I also know that Bedfordshire Police officers and staff are dedicated to supporting and protecting victims of domestic violence, and this is confirmed by HMICs report. However, it is undeniable that the report highlights some organisational and systemic issues that make for uncomfortable reading.

"Nevertheless, it is important to recognise this report is the result of an inspection rather than a serious case review. As such it provides scrutiny at a particular point in time. Since arriving in the Force Chief Constable Colette Paul has provided a new focus on victims' needs, especially the most vulnerable, and has already put in place an improvement programme that I am confident is addressing the very issues HMIC are highlighting. I will of course hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering the improvements we need to see."

A copy of the HMIC Report can be found [HERE](#)

Ends

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