



Agenda Item 05

JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE
11 December 2025

HMICFRS Update

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide members of the Committee with oversight of HMICFRS Inspection activity and recommendations.

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 WMP continues to operate under the HMICFRS *default phase of monitoring*. We have one remaining Cause of Concern for Investigations with two open recommendations specific to outcomes that we continue to address ahead of any re-inspection during the 25/27 PEEL assessment programme.

Since the last JAC, we have had no inspections take place. We continue to prepare for our next round of PEEL with HMICFRS observing a number of Strategic and Operational meetings as part of their evidence gathering.

3 **RECOMMENDATIONS, CAUSES OF CONCERN and AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

- 3.1 Since the last JAC there has been 3 reports published resulting in recommendations for WMP.
- 3.1.1 Diverting Children from the Criminal Justice System – The effectiveness of diverting children from the Criminal Justice System: meeting needs, ensuring safety and preventing reoffending. (Published 15/10/2025)

WMP were one of six forces that took part in this inspection – their focus being Walsall and Solihull. This was a joint inspection with HMI Probation.

18 recommendations were made in total, of which 1 is applicable to Chief Constables.

Read the report: <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/effectiveness-of-diverting-children-from-the-criminal-justice-system/>

- 3.1.2 Effectiveness of police & law enforcement response to group-based child sexual exploitation progress (Published 24/10/2025)

This was a follow up look by HMICFRS into the progress that forces had made in response to the 2023 Group Based CSE report where 9 recommendations and 1 AFI had been made. We were

one of the forces who took part in this further re-inspection activity – it coincided with our National Child Protection Inspection.

6 recommendations were made in total, of which 4 are applicable to Chief Constables.

Read the report: <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/effectiveness-of-police-and-law-enforcement-response-to-group-based-child-sexual-exploitation-progress/>

3.1.3 West Midlands Police: National Child Protection Inspection

This report sets out the findings of the 2025 inspection of child protection services in West Midlands Police. The inspection focuses on the experiences of children who come into contact with the police when there are concerns about their safety or well-being.

7 Areas for Improvement were given to the force.

1. Recording children’s demographic information
2. Assessing ongoing risk with scheduled appointments
3. Recording the voice of the child and sharing information with partners
4. Sharing good quality referrals with partners
5. Flagging children in exploitation risk and perpetrators
6. CSE investigators and supervisors
7. Decisions, investigations and joint working with safeguarding partners

Read the report: <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/west-midlands-national-child-protection-inspection-november-2025/>

3.2 The force continues to concentrate its efforts upon our cause of concern and outstanding recommendations and AFI’s held on the HMICFRS portal under the direction of our DCC through his HMIC Oversight Board which is held on a monthly basis.

Open recommendations / Areas for Improvement:

Report Year	Previous JAC report	Total Number Open
2022	2	2
2023	17	11
2024	12	13
2025	17	27
Total	48	53

4 INSPECTION ACTIVITY

4.1 Since the last JAC report, there has been no inspection activity.

4.2 Forthcoming inspection activity

PEEL 2025/27

Formal inspection window for PEEL 25/27 began week commencing 8th September whereby any observations, interviews, reality testing, and focus groups taking place post this date will fall within the evidence window.

We are anticipating formal notification of inspection in early January 2026. The inspection itself will take place in July 2026 for two weeks.

CONTACT OFFICER

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