

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
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Ein Cyf/Our Ref: AJ/HE/1944

Rhagfyr 06/December 2019

Annwyl Ysgrifennydd Cartref,

Dear Home Secretary ,

**Arolwg Diogelu Plant Cenedlaethol – Heddlu
Gogledd Cymru**

**National Child Protection Inspection – North Wales
Police**

Fel sy'n ofynnol drwy statud, rwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch gyda fy sylwadau ar Adroddiad Arolygaeth Heddluoedd a Gwasanaethau Tân ac Achub Ei Mawrhydi ar yr Arolwg Diogelu Plant Cenedlaethol – Heddlu Gogledd Cymru 8-19 Gorffennaf 2019.

As required by statute, I am writing to you with my comments on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service Report on National Child Protection Inspection – North Wales Police 8-19 July 2019.

Rwyf yn falch fod yr arolwg wedi nod fy mod i, y Prif Gwnstabl a'i uwch dîm wedi ymroi i ddiogelu pobl fregus, gan gynnwys plant. Fy mlaenoriaeth gyffredinol yn fy Nghynllun Heddlu a Throsedd yw lleihau cam-fanteisio troseddol ar bobl fregus. Mae'r rhai hynny sy'n fregus yn aml yn cael eu targedu gan grwpiau trosedd trefnedig ar gyfer cam-fanteisio'n droseddol ar blant (CSE), llinellau cyffuriau a chogio (cuckooing). Mae'r rhaglen Camau Cynnar Gyda'n Gilydd, a sefydlwyd i ymdrin â Phrofiadau Niweidiol yn Ystod Plentyndod, yn dechrau cael effaith gadarnhaol ledled ardal yr Heddlu. Gwneir hyn drwy ymyrraeth gynnar er mwyn torri cylchoedd cam-drin, cam-fanteisio a bregusrwydd yn y dyfodol.

I'm pleased that the inspectorate have identified that myself, the Chief Constable and his senior team are committed to protecting vulnerable people, including children. My overarching priority of my Police and Crime Plan is to reduce the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people. Those who are vulnerable are often targeted by organised crime groups for child sexual exploitation (CSE), county lines and cuckooing. The Early Action Together programme, set up to tackle Adverse Childhood Experiences, is beginning to have a positive effect across the Force area through early intervention in order to break cycles of abuse, exploitation and future vulnerability.

Mae argymhelliad cyntaf yr arolygaeth yn gofyn i'r Heddlu sicrhau fod pryderon a safbwyntiau plant yn cael eu derbyn a'u cofnodi. Cytunaf y dylai pryderon a safbwyntiau plant gael eu cofnodi mewn unrhyw achos diogelu plentyn er mwyn galluogi ymyrraeth gynnar ac atal profiadau niweidiol yn ystod plentyndod yn y dyfodol. Gwnaf fonitro cynnydd yr

The inspectorate's first recommendation requests that the Force ensures children's concerns and views are obtained and recorded. I agree that children's concerns and views should be recorded in any child protection incident to enable early intervention and prevent future adverse childhood experiences. I will monitor the Force's progress at

Heddlu yn y Bwrdd Gweithredol Strategol lle gwnaf ddwyn y Prif Gwnstabl yn atebol. Fel rhan o fy ymgysylltiad fy hun rwyf wedi sefydlu Comisiwn Ieuentid lle trafodir a rhennir barn a phryderon pobl ifanc ledled Gogledd Cymru. Mae'r Comisiwn Ieuentid yn cynnwys pobl ifanc rhwng 14-25 oed sy'n ymgynghori gyda'u cyfoedion ac yn datblygu eu blaenoriaethau plismona eu hunain. Gwnaiff adborth a dderbynnir gan y Comisiwn Ieuentid fy nghynorthwyo wrth i mi graffu ar yr Heddlu.

Mae'r ail argymhelliad yn gofyn i'r Heddlu gynnal adolygiad gyda gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol plant ac asiantaethau perthnasol eraill er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn bodloni ei gyfrifoldebau a amlinellwyd yn y Gweithdrefnau Diogelu Plant Cymru Gyfan. Edrychaf ymlaen at weld canlyniadau'r adolygiad hwn a pharhau i fonitro ei gynnydd drwy fy nghraffu.

Mae'r arolygaeth wedi crybwyll manteision Ymgyrch Encompass o fewn yr adroddiad gan nad oedd hwn mewn lle yng Ngogledd Cymru yn ystod yr arolwg. Rwyf yn fodlon bod yr Heddlu'n gweithio i oresgyn y broblem dechnolegol sydd ar hyn o bryd yn atal Ymgyrch Encompass rhag cael ei gyflwyno yng Ngogledd Cymru. Mae Ymgyrch Encompass wedi bod yn llwyddiannus ymhlith y tri Heddlu arall yng Nghymru wrth ddiogelu plant sydd wedi profi cyswllt â'r heddlu oherwydd cam-drin domestig. Mae'r Heddlu'n cysylltu ag ysgol y plentyn er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn ymwybodol o'r digwyddiad cyn 9yb a bod y plentyn yn derbyn cefnogaeth arbenigol. Bydd hyn mewn lle yn Heddlu Gogledd Cymru erbyn mis Ionawr 2020.

Pan mae plant yn mynd ar goll o gartref mae eu bregusrwydd yn cynyddu a dwyseir y risg o gamfanteisio'n rhywiol ar blant a ffurfiau eraill o gamfanteisio. Mae'r arolygaeth wedi argymhell bod Heddlu Gogledd Cymru yn gwella ei arfer o ran plant sy'n mynd ar goll o gartref. O ran Cyfweiliadau

the Strategic Executive Board where I hold the Chief Constable to account. As part of my own engagement I have set up a Youth Commission where the views and concerns of young people across North Wales are discussed and shared. The Youth Commission includes young people between the ages of 14-25 who consult with their peers and develop their own policing priorities. Feedback received by the Youth Commission will assist in my scrutiny of the Force.

The second recommendations request that the Force carries out a review with children's social care services and other relevant agencies to ensure its meeting its responsibilities set out in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures. I look forward to seeing the results of this review and continue to monitor its progress via my scrutiny.

The inspectorate have mentioned the benefits of Operation Encompass within the report as during time of the inspection this was not in place in North Wales. I am satisfied that the Force is working to overcome the technological issue which is currently preventing Operation Encompass from being introduced in North Wales. Operation Encompass has been successful throughout the other three Forces in Wales in safeguarding children who have experienced police contact due to domestic abuse. The Force contacts the child's school to ensure that they are aware of the incident before 9am and that the child receives specialised support. This will be in place in North Wales Police by January 2020.

When children go missing from home their vulnerability increases and the risk of CSE and other forms of exploitation are heightened. The inspectorate has recommended that North Wales Police improves its practice with regard to children who go missing from home. With regards to Return

Dychwelyd Adref (RHI) rwyf yn ddiweddar wedi cysylltu â phob un o'r Awdurdodau Lleol yn gofyn am wybodaeth am y ddarpariaeth bresennol o Gyfweiliadau Dychwelyd Adref a sut neu os yw'r wybodaeth hon yn cael ei rhannu gyda'r Heddlu. Pan yr ysgrifennwyd rwyf ymwybodol o'r prosesau presennol ym mhump o'r chwe awdurdod lleol. Mae'n anodd sefydlu agwedd gyson i RHI ledled Gogledd Cymru oherwydd natur wahanol y chwe awdurdod lleol. Mae bob awdurdod lleol yn gosod ei ganllawiau ei hun pan mae RHI yn angenrheidiol. Yn anffodus, mae hon yn broblem na ellir ei datrys gan yr Heddlu.

Roedd yn siomedig bod yr arolygaeth yn argymhell fod angen i'r Heddlu wella'r ffordd mae'n dyrannu ei ymchwiliadau diogelu plant a cham-fanteisio. Rwyf yn fodlon bod yr Heddlu yn awr yn dyrannu ymchwiliadau'n ddigonol yn dilyn gweithredu'r Brysbennu Dyrannu Trosedd (CAT). Mae'r CAT bellach yn ystyried nifer o ffactorau gwahanol sy'n gysylltiedig gyda dyrannu trosedd sy'n cynnwys bregusrwydd. Mae'r arfer hwn yn sicrhau fod ymchwiliadau'n cael eu dyrannu i dimau gyda'r sgiliau a'r gallu cywir.

O fewn yr un argymhelliad gwnaeth yr arolygaeth dynnu sylw nad oedd yr Heddlu'n rhannu gwybodaeth gyda gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol plant pan mae risg i blentyn yn hysbys. Nodwyd bod swyddogion yn ymateb i rai achosion heb hysbysu gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol am risg posibl i blentyn. Rwyf yn falch fod y broblem hon wedi'i datrys ac y rhennir gwybodaeth gyda gwasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol plant cyn i'r Heddlu weithredu o gwbl.

Mae'n peri pryder fod yr arolygaeth wedi nodi fod angen gwelliant di-oed o fewn rheoli Troseddwy Rhyw Cofrestredig (RSOs). O fewn fy Nghynllun Heddlu a Throsedd, cam-drin rhywiol yw un o fy mlaenoriaethau i sicrhau fod gan ddiodefwrwr yr

Home Interviews (RHI) I have recently contacted each of the Local Authorities requesting information on the current provision of RHI's and how or if this information is shared with the Force. At the time of writing I am aware of the current processes in five of the six local authorities. It is difficult to establish a consistent approach to RHI's across North Wales because of the differing nature of the six local authorities. Each local authority sets its own guidelines of when a RHI is necessary this unfortunately is an issue that cannot be resolved by the Force.

It was disappointing that the inspectorate recommended that the Force needed to improve the way it allocates its child protection and exploitation investigations. I am satisfied that the Force is now allocating investigations sufficiently following the implementation of the Crime Allocation Triage (CAT). The CAT now considers a number of different factors associated with a crime allocation which includes vulnerability. This practice ensures that investigations are allocated to teams with the correct skills and competency.

Within the same recommendation the inspectorate highlighted that the Force were not sharing information with children's social care services at the time that a risk to a child is known. It was identified that in some cases officers were attending incidents without informing social care services of a possible risk to a child. I am pleased that this issue has been rectified and information is now shared with children's social care services prior to any action taken by the Force.

It is concerning that the inspectorate identified an immediate improvement required within the management of RSOs. Within my Police and Crime Plan Sexual Abuse is one of my priorities to ensure that victims have the confidence to report offences

hyder i hysbysu am droseddau gan arwain at euogfarn. Fel rhan o fy nawdd 2019/20 fe wnes i gyllidebu ar gyfer recriwtio swyddogion ychwanegol i gyflawni rolau arbenigol. Er oedi cychwynnol o fewn recriwtio swyddogion rwyf yn fodlon y bydd y broblem hon yn cael ei chywiro drwy gyflogi staff ychwanegol o fewn yr Uned Troseddwr Difrifol a Threisgar.

Mae'r chweched argymhelliad yn gofyn i waith gael ei gyflawni rhwng yr Heddlu ac asiantaethau partner i sicrhau fod plentyn yn cael ei gymryd i fan diogel priodol. Nododd yr arolygaeth fod y defnydd o rymoedd diogelu'r heddlu yn gyffredinol dda gyda swyddogion a staff yn gwneud penderfyniadau gweithredol i ddiogelu plant. Fodd bynnag, codwyd pryderon ynghylch swyddogion yn defnyddio gorsafoedd heddlu fel mannau diogelwch. Rwyf yn fodlon y gwnaiff yr Heddlu fynd â phlant i fannau diogel priodol pan maent ar gael. Yn anffodus prin yw'r mannau diogelwch ledled Gogledd Cymru. Fodd bynnag, rwyf yn hyderus y gwnaiff Heddlu Gogledd Cymru roi diogelwch y plentyn ar y blaen o ran eu penderfyniadau. Mae cwblhau'r argymhelliad hwn yn hynod anodd pan mae diffyg cydweithrediad gan ein hasiantaethau partner.

O fewn argymhelliad olaf, nododd yr arolygaeth broblemau o ran cadw plant yn nalfa'r heddlu. Rwyf yn cytuno ei fod yn fanteisiol i'r plentyn fod oedolyn priodol yn cyrraedd yn brydlon er mwyn atal y plentyn rhag cael ei gadw'n hirach na sydd ei angen. Rwyf yn ei gweld hi yn annheg fodd bynnag fod yr arolygaeth yn dwyn yr Heddlu'n gyfrifol am allu oedolyn priodol i gadw'r amser.

Nododd yr adroddiad broblem ynghylch swyddogion dalfa yn deall yr angen am lety diogel ac anniogel. Rwyf wedi cael fy sicrhau y gwnaiff yr Heddlu roi hyfforddiant ychwanegol i'w swyddogion dalfa ynghylch y gofynion ar gyfer llety diogel neu anniogel.

resulting in conviction. As part of my 2019/20 funding I budgeted for the recruitment of additional officers to fulfil specialist roles. Although an initial lag within the recruitment of officers I am content that this issue will be rectified by the employment of additional staff within the Serious and Violent Offenders Unit.

The sixth recommendation requests work to be carried out between the Force and partner agencies to make sure that a child is taken to an appropriate place of safety. The inspectorate identified that the use of police protection powers was generally good with officers and staff making executive decisions to protect children. There were concerns raised however around officers using police stations as places of safety. I am satisfied that the Force will take children to appropriate places of safety when they are available. Unfortunately places of safety are limited across North Wales however I trust that North Wales Police will put the safety of the child at the forefront of their decisions. The fulfilment of this recommendation is extremely difficult when there is a lack of cooperation from our partner agencies.

Within the final recommendation the inspectorate identified issues surrounding the detention of children in police custody. I agree that it is beneficial for the child that an appropriate adult arrives promptly to prevent the child being detained longer than necessary. I find it unfair however, that the inspectorate is holding the Force responsible for the time keeping of an appropriate adult.

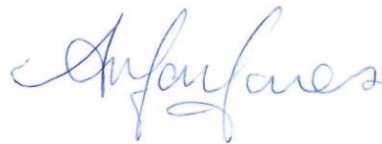
The report identified an issue surrounding the custody officers understanding of the requirement of secure and non-secure accommodation. I have been assured that the Force will provide additional training to their custody officers around the requirements for secure or non-secure

accommodation.

Rwyf yn siomedig fodd bynnag fod nifer o'r argymhellion a wnaed gan yr arolygaeth tu hwnt i reolaeth yr Heddlu oherwydd y diffyg cydweithrediad gan wasanaethau eraill. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth yr wyf yn teimlo y dylai'r arolygaeth ei ystyried ar gyfer arolygon yn y dyfodol.

I find it disappointing however, that a number of the recommendations made by the inspectorate are out of the control of the Force due to the lack of co-operation from other services. This is something that I feel the inspectorate should take into consideration for future inspections.

Yn gywir Yours sincerely



Arfon Jones
Comisiynydd Heddlu / Police Commissioner