



**TO:** Business Co-ordination Board

**FROM:** Chief Constable

**DATE:** 22nd May 2013

## **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

### **1. Purpose of Paper**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the OPCC. This will cover: E-CINS, Alert, the review of PCSO's, use of Cautions, naming on arrest/charging and extended use of Tasers.

### **2. E-CINS**

2.1 E-CINS is a secure, encrypted cloud-based neighbourhood management IT tool that provides a more integrated and consistent system for dealing with vulnerable people and communities, including victims and offenders. It brings together data in one place allowing practitioners from various agencies to access it in real time and to carry out joint tasking over the internet.

2.2 The ECINs Partnership Steering Group met for the first time on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013, chaired by Dan Horn from Fenland District Council. Fenland District Council has now procured the IT system for two years on behalf of the County at a cost of £60k. Cambridgeshire County Council Community Safety Team is now co-ordinating collection of committed funds from all six Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and from the Troubled Families and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) business areas. All CSPs are now working to implement ECINs locally with advice from Fenland who have shared key documentation.

2.2 The Partnership Steering Group is due to meet again on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013, where progress across the County in preparation for implementation of ECINs will be reviewed.

### 3. ALERT

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Alert is a web-based community messaging and communication IT system, which will enhance two-way information flow between the Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch schemes, Key Individual Networks (KINs), and local residents and businesses.
- 3.2 Currently e-Cops is used as the sole community messaging system for the Constabulary. However e-Cops does not allow the bespoke messaging of particular community groups, is not easy to use, and does not link to social media, or allow easy access to membership / subscriber information.
- 3.3 The Constabulary is purchasing a full 'User License' for Neighbourhood Alert, and the price of this for Cambridgeshire has been based on a calculation of 321,000 households. This equates to a cost of £8,525 per annum, plus £8,410 as a one-off set up fee. The one-off set up fee would include transfer of existing Cambridgeshire contact details (data) to the Alert system, staff training on use of the system, and mapping of all data utilising GIS. It is also possible to extend the license to allow the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to also make use of the Neighbourhood Alert System.
- 3.4 The vision of engaging more effectively with communities, and developing Watch schemes and volunteers (as set out in the Police & Crime Plan) requires an effective two-way communications system to be achieved. Neighbourhood Alert delivers the following functionality, which is not currently provided by any single Constabulary system:
- Effective messaging of communities by interest group, Mosaic profile or membership of Watch scheme
  - Maintains and manages contact details for Watch schemes and community groups
  - Allows community groups and Watch schemes to access and manage their own membership details, and send messages to these members
  - Messages by e-mail, Facebook and Twitter using one single portal
  - Allows cross-border crime alerts and messages to be received in those border areas of the Constabulary
  - Links with the national Our Watch and Business Watch systems
  - Is a genuine two-messaging system, which allows community members to generate messages and reports, rather than only being able to reply to a message received
  - Links with the Constabulary Mosaic License, to make use of this socio-demographic information for messaging and survey work
  - Provides detailed information around engagement, and analysis of this

- Branded microsites for different geographical or thematic interest groups (e.g. Local Area Commands, Countryside Watch, Neighbourhood Watch)
  - Access available for any member of staff / department (incl. CIB, Corporate Communications, CPD) to utilise Neighbourhood Alert for their own messaging.
- 3.5 Neighbourhood Alert (which was developed and funded by the Home Office in 2011) is also being utilised by Bedfordshire to manage and communicate with their Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

#### **4. Review of PCSOs**

- 4.1 Phase 1 of the project has now been completed. Phase 1, in line with the project plan, was focused on communication to and engagement with staff, particularly PCSOs and staff organisations. A Project team has been established and seven workshops have been held covering all local policing areas which were focused on PCSOs and their line-managers. Over 100 staff attended and feedback was positive. Key individuals were contacted including project representatives of Operation Metis, the Investigation Management Unit, Staff Associations and Senior Managers. An advisory group has been established to include representatives of HR, Corporate Communications, Territorial Policing and Finance. A literature review of published academic research/governmental reports has been conducted.
- 4.2 Phase 2 of the project is now underway and will run until August. It will include the following actions: external most similar force (MSF) review, internal workshops, structured Interviews, external engagement, crime research, data mining, and survey.
- 4.3 Initial work on Phase two has begun and has included contact with key partners by way of letter explaining the remit of the project and inviting them to be involved through engagement with the project team to understand the role that PCSOs working with their organisations have. Feedback has been positive and a contacts list is being collated.
- 4.4 The project will produce a final report in September 2013 based on all the research conducted the proposed possible alternate models of PCSO deployment including an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the various models. This will allow for an informed debate and decision making process by senior officers before moving into formal consultation and restructuring based on the new model. The proposed models will include variations on the existing model that allow for a range of service delivery options balanced against financial savings through alternative PCSO establishments, distributions, job description and shift-working arrangements.

## 5. Use of Cautions re Sexual Offences

5.1 Sexual offences are categorised in the following way for police recording and detection purposes:

Rape and attempted rape, sexual assaults and other sexual offences.

5.2 The below table shows the results of searches for cautions under those headings since April 2008 until March 2013.

	<b>April 2008 to Mar 2009</b>	<b>April 2009 to Mar 2010</b>	<b>April 2010 to Mar 2011</b>	<b>April 2011 To Mar 2012</b>	<b>April 2012 to Mar 2013</b>
Rape including attempts	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	14	5	7	3	4
Other Sexual Offences (inc Sexual Activity & Familial offences only)	2	8	5	3	8

5.3 It is of note that there have been no cautions for rape or attempted rape in this time frame and that to consider a caution for such an offence the Crime Prosecution Service has to agree that is an appropriate decision, showing justifications.

5.4 In reviewing the cautions for 2012-2013 the figures above show offences that suggest a form of assault, sexual activity or incitement. The sexual assaults cautions appear to be appropriately justified by a Detective Inspector in line with policy. Four are relating to inciting a child under 16 to engage in sexual intercourse and relate to sexually explicit texts or phone messages again they appear appropriately justified.

5.5 There are some additional cautions that fall into the other sexual offences category that are not listed in the table above. These include two exposure offences, four offences relating to prostitution, five in relation to sex offenders failure to notify the monitoring officer of a change of address within the required time frame or a minor breach of an order, again these all appear appropriate.

5.6 Below is a table showing the increase in detection rates for recorded rape allegations over the last year. There was a similar increase in detections for other serious sexual offences. It is believed the instigation of a centralised Serious Sexual offences team has been instrumental in this improved performance.

2011-2012			2012-2013		
No. of Recorded Rape Crimes	Number of Detected Rapes	% of Crimes Detected	No. of Recorded Rape Crimes	Number of Detected Rapes	% of Crimes Detected
193	38	<b>19.7%</b>	198	60	<b>30.3%</b>

## 6. Naming on Arrest/Charging

- 6.1 Recent media attention around the police response to Lord Leveson's report has brought into sharp focus the challenge police face in balancing a duty to manage personal information fairly and responsibly with the public and media right to know.
- 6.2 There are two issues which are in danger of being confused. These are naming individuals at point of arrest and naming individuals at point of charge. ACPO current position on this reads;  
 "Most forces give the name and age, with details of the charge and forthcoming court appearance at the point of charge. Some also give the occupation. The address can be given unless there are compelling operational reasons not to do so – such as that the location is still subject to sensitive inquiries."
- 6.3 The suggestion in the media that some forces have moved away from this practice of naming individuals who are charged, leaves police open to criticism for a lack of transparency. ACPO advises forces to name those who have been charged in response to inquiry and that position will not change. The CPS have advised that if there are circumstances where an individual is not named at the point of charge that decision should be taken in conjunction with them.
- 6.4 New proposals dealing with the issue of naming suspects on arrest will be discussed by the Chief Constables' Council via the College of Policing in the next few weeks.

## 7. Extended Use of Taser

- 7.1 The extended use of TASER project was launched within Cambridgeshire on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 and at the time of writing the paper had been live for ten days. The launch was received with significant media interest which has been balanced and public comment sought through and made in response to the articles has been largely positive.
- 7.2 Operationally TASER has been authorised seven times for Specially Trained Officers (STO's) and used twice both of which have been 'red dots' i.e. not an actual discharge of the device. The first deployment of a device by a

Cambridgeshire STO underlines the value of the rollout. This was in support of colleagues dealing with a male who was in possession of a knife, and who had threatened to harm both officers and himself with it. At the point of 'red dotting' the officers in attendance had already used tactical communications and PAVA spray without being able to resolve the incident. The STO engaged with the individual and when increasingly aggressive behaviour was displayed the officer 'red dotted' the individual who became compliant and put the knife down almost immediately. This incident was resolved with no further use of force.

- 7.3 In reviewing the early stages of the project there has been one piece of organisational learning gained; an officer make a mistake when undertaking a check on the device whilst it was being issued leading to an accidental discharge. There was no risk to other officers or to any member of the public as these checks would always be carried out in a safe environment within the station. The incident has been fully investigated and minor learning points distributed to all STO's.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 The OPCC is requested to note the update.