



To: Business Co-ordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 25th April 2013

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Board on recent high profile operations Op. Darcy, Op. Style and Op. Earle.

2. Op. Darcy

2.1 Operation Darcy was launched following the discovery of a body in a ditch in Newborough, near Peterborough, on March 30 2013. Two bodies were discovered at Thorney Dyke, near to Peterborough on April 3rd and are now also being investigated as part of Op. Darcy and the deaths are being treated as a murder investigation. All three died as a result of stab wounds.

2.2 A total of six people have now been arrested in connection with Op Darcy which is being conducted by the collaborated Major Crime Unit based in Cambridgeshire. This inquiry is a priority for the Force and a large team of detectives are working on it. The Major Crime Unit is part of the Protective Services area which is headed up by an Assistant Chief Constable on behalf of the three forces. This Directorate is directly responsible for delivery of section five of the Police and Crime Plan, which aims to protect the public from serious harm.

3. Op. Style

3.1 Op. Style, which went live on 3rd April 2013, is a year- long project being run by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in partnership with the University of Cambridge.

3.2 The project focuses on the idea of 'Hotspot Policing'. Hotspots are identified through detailed statistical analysis of crime figures - in Cambridgeshire's case four years' worth. This is one of just three trials being conducted in England and Wales on reducing street crime through the use of Hotspots.

- 3.3 Hotspots are areas of high crime concentration and resources are directed into the Hotspot areas in order to target crime and antisocial behaviour. Patrols are very structured and precisely monitored by the use of Airwave Radio Location System (ARLS).
- 3.4 This approach has been thoroughly researched all over the world by the most eminent criminologists in the field and has been seen to work in other countries. The UK studies differ as Cambridgeshire Constabulary will be utilising PCSOs, as opposed to police officers, to complete the experiment.
- 3.5 The experiment is being run in the Peterborough district and led by Inspector Rob Hill. The fact that PCSOs will essentially be executing this experiment is seen to be both unique and ground breaking.
- 3.6 Additionally, this experiment is not just important to Peterborough but to Cambridgeshire Constabulary, all forces nationwide and to the discipline of criminology. It is hoped that this will help promote an important piece of research which can not only save resources but also make communities safer.
- 3.7 Sixty-eight Hotspot areas have been identified and half of these have been selected at random to be used in the experiment. The other half will not be given this special patrol treatment but will be used to compare results as it has been recognised that policing tactics need evaluation and assessment regarding the impact and outcome, service delivery, public need and expectations in a time where efficiency and effectiveness are high on the policing agenda.
- 3.8 Research has identified that fifty per cent of incidents occur in just five per cent of locations and therefore the Constabulary must be smarter about focussing patrol time using hard evidence. This experiment seeks to prove that if the right areas are targeted a sustainable and significant reduction in crime and calls for service may be achieved.
- 3.9 This area of work related to section one in the Police and Crime Plan which aims to deliver enhanced local policing responding to local priorities through close working relationships with communities and volunteers.

4. Op Earle

- 4.1 The Constabulary is currently carrying out an investigation into the potential sexual exploitation of young people in the Peterborough area. This is a joint investigation with the local authority and other partner agencies. Six men are currently on bail and work is on-going to identify and safeguard any potential victims.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Board notes the updates and the link to delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.