



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 29 April 2015

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the Business Coordination Board ("the Board"). The paper covers Cambridgeshire Constabulary's ("the Constabulary") recent performance, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspections, significant operations and effective and efficient policing.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

3. Performance Update (12 months data to 28th February 2015)

3.1 **Victim Based Crime levels** have remained stable in the last three months, and comparable to the 12 and 36 month averages in February. The 12 month indicator remains higher than the benchmark and at year end. The Cambridgeshire crime profile is changing; the majority of categories where year on year reductions or a lower rate of increase is observed are those in the 'Theft' or 'Damage' categories. Thus, increasing demand reflects the focus on vulnerable victims. The proportion of total victim based crime with a 'vulnerable' victim flagged was 23% in February, marginally higher than the year to date proportion (20%). These investigations attract a lower year to date outcome rate at 21.0% v 24.9% for all victims.

3.2 **Burglary Dwelling crime levels** are now in line with measures of success set in the Police and Crime Plan, although monthly crime levels were lower than the 36 month average. Achieving primary outcomes (detections) remains challenging, and the overall prosecution possible rate remained at a low of 3.8%. Forensic analysis is a key enabler

to achieving the strategic burglary measure, and the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire's Joint Protective Services (JPS) January 2015 report suggested that the Constabulary could pass more intelligence to the JPS Fingerprint Bureau concerning burglary dwelling offenders. Burglary victim satisfaction remains comparable to year end. Satisfaction with 'follow up' is statistically lower than year end, and a lack of improvement in this will result in a deterioration in the primary indicator at year end.

- 3.3 Levels of **Hate Crime** remain above those seen last year with the 12 month indicator significantly higher than the benchmark and at year end (496 v 341). Following a month on month fall February levels were comparable to the 12 and 36 month averages. **Outcome** performance has fallen; with the prosecution possible rate in the 12 months to February at the joint lowest seen in the last 13 months (31.3%). Analysis has been commissioned to test the hypothesis "is there an emergence of religious intolerance in Cambridgeshire" and is due for discussion at the Assistant Chief Constable's' (ACC's) Operational Performance Board in April.
- 3.4 **Domestic abuse** remains a challenging area of business, however, recent improvements in response times and prosecution possible outcome rates are acknowledged. Scrutiny of the work of the Domestic Abuse Improvement Group continues through the Strategic Performance Board, and activity is planned for the forthcoming Chief Constables' Management Seminars in order to start to improve on response times to domestic abuse incidents.
- 3.5 **Prosecution possible outcome rates** are failing to keep pace with the increases in recorded crime across all crime groups; with the 12 months to February 2015 recording the lowest prosecution possible outcome rate seen in the last 12 months, a marked downward trend has emerged. This is also apparent across those categories where some of the most vulnerable victims appear. This continues to be monitored through the Force Operational Performance Board.
- 3.6 **Investigative workload** remains high in comparison to the beginning of the reporting year; the same can be said of the length of investigations and the number of outstanding confirmed suspects. Achieving efficiencies in investigative throughput is proving challenging. Demand on resources is increasing with the identification of a greater number of vulnerable victims linked to crimes of increasing complexity. Whilst this is impacting on both Investigations and Territorial Policing Command resources, it is most apparent in the Public Protection Department. The ACC's Operational Performance Board has tasked analysis in order to better understand what activities are proving a barrier to investigative throughput.
- 3.7 In the 12 months to February, the **public's confidence in Cambridgeshire Police** remained statistically higher than at the year end (71.6% v 68.9%). This is the case in Fenland and Peterborough, with all other areas now comparable to year end.

4. Call Handling Performance

- 4.1 At their March meeting the Board approved an uplift in staffing within the Police Service Centre and investment in new technology within the Centre including Voice Recognition System - an upgrade to the current model, allowing calls to be routed directly to officers, reducing demand on 101 staff and Queuebuster a system that will give callers the option of a ring back whilst retaining their place in the queue. The

recruitment process has begun, and it is recognised due to the nature and complexity of the training required, the positive impacts may take a period of time to impact on the service delivery. The Board will be provided with an update on call handling performance at their June meeting.

5. HMIC Inspections Update

5.1 Identifying Vulnerability in Police Case Files

5.1.1 The Vulnerability in Case Files (VICF) inspection follows on from and builds on two previous HMIC reports: 'Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse', and 'Crime recording: a matter of fact', in which HMIC examined the accuracy of crime recording, in particular allegations of rape and other sexual offences, and considered the impact of police practice on vulnerable victims.

5.2 The Cambridgeshire VCIF inspection took place on 9th and 10th April 2015, and involved an assessment of a sample of ten prosecution case files identified by the Crown Prosecution Service.

5.3 The hot debrief following this inspection was generally positive, with a number of observations made by HMIC being considered by the Investigations Directorate, or already having been dealt with by way of remedial action.

5.4 A national thematic is due to be published in September 2015, with 43 force reports following this.

5.5 Stop Search

5.5.1 On 24th March 2015, HMIC published its report on Stop and Search Powers 2, "Are the police using them effectively and fairly?" The report concluded that, at a national level, progress on the HMIC recommendations made in 2013 were being progressed too slowly.

5.5.2 The report also considered two new areas that were not subject to the 2013 report: Road Traffic and Police Reform Act powers, and searches involving removal of more than outer coat, jacket or gloves. Recommendations were made in response to what HMIC found in these new areas.

5.5.3 Contrary to indications at the time of the inspection, the Constabulary has now been advised that a Cambridgeshire force report will be produced around Stop and Search. This will be sent to the Constabulary for checking for factual accuracy in due course.

6. Significant Operations

6.1 Operation Hyphen

6.1.1 Rest days have been cancelled on 25th April 2015 and a leave ban is now in place to ensure the force has sufficient resources to police a planned national animal rights protest in Cambridge City Centre. The protest is in objection to a proposed new laboratory site at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

6.2 Operation Makesafe

- 6.2.1 As part of a national programme to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) the Constabulary launched an operation to target offenders and prevent CSE in March 2015.
- 6.2.2 Operation Makesafe is a proactive approach to tackling CSE through identifying potential offenders and stopping them before they commit a crime, as well as identifying likely victims to safeguard them before they are sexually exploited. Working with partner agencies, Police work to prevent, educate and enforce; with aspects of the operation similar to the way that the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme is run.

6.3 Motorbike Safety Campaign

- 6.3.1 On 1st April 2015 the Tri Force Roads Policing Unit commenced a THINK! Motorcycle campaign to promote motorcycle safety and tackle poor riding and driving throughout the month.
- 6.3.2 Motorcyclists account for around 1.7 per cent of road users but are one of the most vulnerable. Five motorcyclists were killed and 84 seriously injured in Cambridgeshire last year (2014).
- 6.3.3 Throughout April officers will be highlighting the importance of motorcycle safety and targeting those riders and drivers whose poor driving puts them and others at risk. Bikers are being encouraged to make the most out of further training and assessments available to assist them in their defensive riding skills and to help improve their performance.

6.4 Operation Ongar

- 6.4.1 The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit commenced searches on ground near Ramsey on 13th April 2015, as part of the investigation into the murder of Andrew Bedford in 1990.

7. Significant Cases

- 7.1 A Peterborough man was found guilty of trafficking young girls for sex in Peterborough, and convicted of a total of 11 charges (10 counts of trafficking for sexual exploitation and one charge of rape) at The Old Bailey on 13th April 2015. The investigation was part of Operation Erle, a joint proactive investigation between the force, Peterborough City Council's children's services and the NSPCC which started in January 2013.

8. Effective and Efficient Policing

- 8.1 Inspector Steve Kerridge received an award at the National Management and Leadership Awards on 26th March 2015. The annual Chartered Management Institute (CMI) event celebrates excellence within organisations across the private and public sectors.
- 8.2 Inspector Kerridge was nominated by a team at the Said Business School, Oxford for founding and leading the Force Mentoring Scheme (FMS), who called it "a flagship for the Force's strategic focus on its people." He received his award from CMI Chief

Executive Anne Francke, in recognition of genuine impact on professional development, promoting leadership at all levels and innovative cross-sector working with academic partners.

- 8.3 The FMS is in its second full year, with the recent spring 2015 cohort taking the scheme beyond the milestone of 100 active mentoring partnerships.

9. Appointment of New Chief Officers within Joint Protective Services

- 9.1 Former Chief Superintendent Mike Colbourne from Bedfordshire Police and Mark Collins from the Metropolitan Police have been promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief Constable within Joint Protective Services across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.
- 9.2 ACC Mike Colbourne will take up his new post as Joint Protective Services Chief on April 20th 2015. He will have strategic command responsibilities across the three forces for uniformed Joint Protective Services, which includes Major Crime, Armed Policing, Specialist Scientific Services, Civil Contingencies, Cameras Tickets and Collisions and Dogs Unit.
- 9.3 ACC Mark Collins will take up his new post on 1st June 2015 and will have strategic command responsibilities for Local Policing across Bedfordshire.

10. Changes to the Mental Health Act Codes of Practice

- 10.1 Changes to the Mental Health Act Code of Practice came into force on 1st April 2015, affecting some police powers under the Mental Health Act 1983. The main changes are:

- A change to the definition of 'a place to which the public have access', which does not include private premises such as person's own place of residence or private homes belonging to others.
- Sections 135 or 136 should be used in preference to 'Breach of Peace' where a person appears to be suffering from a mental disorder which makes it necessary to take them to a place of safety.
- Where a police station is used as a place of safety for someone detained under s136, detention must not exceed a maximum period of 24 hours. The maximum period for detention elsewhere under s136 remains 72 hours.
- Transport to a place of safety for someone detained under s136 should be by ambulance or other health transport arranged by police who should escort them to facilitate a hand-over.
- People under 18 years old should not be taken to a police station as a place of safety unless, having regard to the best interests of the child or young person, there is no suitable alternative. In these circumstances consideration should be given to using somewhere other than custody.
- A person detained under s136 may be searched by a constable to ascertain whether they have anything on them which could be used to harm themselves or others, to damage property or to assist them to escape – it is strongly

recommended that all those detained under s136 are searched prior to police leaving a health-based place of safety.

11. Recommendation

11.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	
Contact Officer	Chief Inspector Paul Ormerod, Corporate Development Department, Cambridgeshire Constabulary