



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 27 August 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

3.1 The recent Office of National Statistics data release identified that the level of offences where a knife or sharp instrument was present has increased in Cambridgeshire; with the rate of increase in Cambridgeshire higher than both the regional and national. This data relates to a very small number of serious offences; thus the National Crime Recording Standard recording influence can be discounted. The issue is being raised at the Constabulary's August Force Performance Board in order that the organisation can check its understanding of the issue, commission any work to fill any knowledge gaps if necessary, and propose any action in response to the issue where deemed appropriate.

3.2 Performance issues are now monitored quarterly through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance Working Group. Performance updates within the Operational Update paper to the Board will therefore now be by exception only. A

quarterly performance update paper will still be produced for the Board, along with the minutes of the Performance Working Group.

4. HMIC Inspections Update

4.1 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Vulnerability Inspection

4.1.1 HMIC's Vulnerability Inspection took place during the week commencing 27th July 2015, following on from the inspection of case files which took place in July 2015.

4.1.2 The inspection covered the broad range of vulnerability, but specifically focussed on three areas this year:

- **Missing and absent children:** This aspect of the inspection will also provide the evidence base for a thematic report, which is due for publication in the autumn.
- **Domestic abuse:** HMIC will follow up on their domestic abuse inspection from March 2014 and assess progress made since then.
- **Child sexual exploitation:** HMIC will undertake an initial assessment of the Constabulary's readiness to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation.

4.1.3 The hot debrief of the inspection took place on 31st July 2015, and a number of issues arising from the debrief have been identified for immediate action, to be progressed by the Constabulary's Head of the Public Protection Department.

4.1.4 The next major HMIC inspection of the Constabulary will be during the week commencing 26th October 2015 (when the Effectiveness and Legitimacy elements of the PEEL inspection will be taking place).

4.1.5 All forces will receive final grades for effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy in February 2016.

5. Significant Operations

5.1 Human Trafficking Campaign

5.1.1 A human trafficking campaign was launched by the Constabulary on 1st July 2015. A key part of the month-long campaign was to educate the public about the signs of human trafficking, what constitutes a trafficking offence, but most importantly of all, to really know what was going on in their neighbourhoods.

5.2 Athena Training

5.2.1 Over 8,000 police officers, PCSOs, Special Constables and staff will be trained this autumn on the new integrated operational policing system, Athena, which is due to launch across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire in January 2016.

5.2.2 This significant training requirement is being planned and managed through a Gold group chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable, to minimise any impact on operational policing during this period.

4.3. Significant Cases

4.3.1 Two Cambridgeshire police officers, based at Thorpe Wood Police Station were found guilty of common assault on 7th July 2015, following a trial at Luton Magistrates' Court. The officers were found to have used excessive force when engaging with a 58-year-old man in Peterborough on 18th August 2014. The officers were sentenced on 28th July 2015 to three months in prison, suspended for two years, and to complete community service and pay compensation.

6. Effective and Efficient Policing

6.1 Removal of Absent Category for Missing Persons

6.1.1 The Constabulary has made a significant change to the way investigations concerning missing people are carried out, deciding that the criteria of 'absent' will no longer be used and all will be classed as 'missing' instead. This means a proportionate investigation will be carried out for all missing people, rather than some only being recorded, and follows a full review into the use of the 'absent' category and the potential to miss risk and vulnerability.

6.1.2 From 6th July 2015 – the following definitions will apply:

- **Missing Person:** "Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another."
- **High risk:** The risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing the subject is in danger through their own vulnerability, may have been the victim of a serious crime or the risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the public is in danger.
- **Medium risk:** The risk posed is likely to place the subject in danger or they are a threat to themselves or others. This category requires an active and measured response by police and other agencies in order to trace the missing person and support the individual reporting.
- **Low risk:** There is no apparent threat of danger to either the subject or the public. Children and young people under 18 years of age should not be included in this classification.

6.2 Police Misconduct Hearings in Public

6.2.1 Following the introduction of the Police (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 in May 2015 and other than in very exceptional circumstances, police misconduct hearings are now required to be heard in whole, or at least in part, in public. This applies to cases where an officer is given formal notice, on or after the 1st May 2015, of a requirement to attend a hearing in respect of allegations of gross misconduct.

6.2.2 Panels will continue to be chaired by a Senior Officer from either Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary or Hertfordshire Constabulary until 1st January 2016, when independent, legally qualified chairs will be a requirement.

6.3 Stop Search Community Scrutiny

6.3.1 The first Stop Search Community Scrutiny Group meeting took place at Headquarters on 14th July 2015. The meeting was attended by a number of independent community volunteers from across Cambridgeshire.

6.3.2 The main purpose of the Group is to scrutinise how and when stop search is implemented across the county and any complaints arising from its use. During the first meeting members were given a greater understanding around stop search legislation, training of officers and practical application. The Group then examined a random selection of completed stop search forms, providing documented feedback and also inspected anonymised complaints which have directly arisen from the use of the power over the past six months.

7. Recommendation

7.1 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