



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 20 January 2021

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – COMMUNITIES THEME – CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY WORK TO DELIVER ACTIONS

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the Communities pillar of the Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan) and performance update from Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”).

2. Recommendation

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

3. Background

3.1 The most recent Force Performance Meeting was held on 15th December 2020 and reviewed performance in the 12 months ending November 2020. This report reflects the updated provided to that meeting.

3.2 Alongside an overall review of performance, the report will also update on the operational priority in the new Corporate Plan which aligns to the Communities pillar of the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Acting Commissioner”) Police and Crime Plan. This is ‘Reduce Harm to Communities,’ with the focus on hate crime, knife crime and drugs offences.

4. Performance Headlines

- 4.1 Call volumes continued to fall month on month, with the number of 999 and 101 calls both below their respective averages for the time of year and at their lowest levels since the first full month of the first national lockdown. Webchat numbers, however, remained high rising month on month and maintaining the new higher levels seen since May.
- 4.2 Abandonment rates for secondary call handling (public and crime lines) remain high; these are calls to the 101 line which have already been answered and risk assessed, but which have then been re-routed internally based on the nature of the report. Analysis has been tasked through the Force Performance Board to inform our understanding of how many callers are diverted to other means of contact (for instance web chat or online reporting tools). It will also explore the impact of delays in answering calls on victim satisfaction.
- 4.3 Average daily incident volumes in November fell to their lowest level since March, with demand in the second lockdown repeating many of the trends seen in the first. This was driven by a reduction in the number of calls for service in Fenland, Peterborough and Cambridge City; the pattern of demand was more varied in other districts.
- 4.4 The median time to respond to immediate graded incidents was stable month on month at 18 minutes. The median time to respond to prompt grade incidents improved (3rd consecutive decrease) to 91 minutes, the lowest since June.
- 4.5 Levels of recorded crime have continued to trend downwards, with the number of crimes recorded in November 9.8% lower than the same month last year. As a result, the long term indicators in both North and South areas are now significantly lower than their respective benchmarks. While East Cambridgeshire has been an outlier in recent months, with 12.9% more crime recorded since the start of lockdown than was recorded in the equivalent period in 2019, November was the first time since June when crime levels in every district (including East Cambs) were lower than the same month last year.
- 4.6 The upward trend in the long term indicators for Domestic Abuse and Violence without Injury was halted last month; while the rate of growth had been slowing, it is unclear how much demand may have been suppressed during the second lockdown. The long term indicator for Stalking and Harassment offences, however, continued to trend upwards; with both Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire seeing record levels of demand last month (this is at least in part due to changes to Home Office Counting Rules that result in additional offences being recorded).
- 4.7 The improvements in the Investigation Management Unit (IMU) throughput noted in October were maintained through November with queue volumes kept at manageable levels and further improvements in the median time to allocation, down from 10 hours in October to 7 in November. This helps to improve the victim experience and maximise investigative opportunities.
- 4.8 The all crime prosecution possible outcome rate in November was 12%. This is a month on month improvement with the 12-month rate now at 13.1%. Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) accounted for 31.3% of all prosecution possible outcomes. The

outcome rate for charges has also increased year on year, but has remained stable over the last 6 months.

5. Reduce Harm to Communities Operational Priority

REDUCE HARM TO COMMUNITIES	Current Month	Nov-19	Nov-18	Nov-17	Current v 1yr avg	Current v 3yr avg	Rolling 12 months	Baseline	Perf v Benchmark
HATE CRIME									
Recorded Crime	108	95	65	69	Comparable	Comparable	1,381	1,330	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	16.7%	22.1%	15.4%	31.9%	Improved	Deteriorated	16.7%	13.7%	Improved
Victim satisfaction (whole experience)	81.3%	62.5%	62.5%	75.0%	Comparable	Comparable	76.5%	81.6%	Comparable
KNIFE CRIME									
Recorded Crime (sharp instrument marker)	122	149	68	115	Comparable	Comparable	1,432	1,577	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (sharp instrument marker)	32.0%	28.2%	30.9%	27.0%	Improved	Deteriorated	25.2%	22.9%	Improved
Recorded Crime (Possession of Weapons)	50	63	47	35	Comparable	Comparable	625	670	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (Possession of Weapons)	60.0%	52.4%	48.9%	48.6%	Improved	Comparable	49.6%	40.9%	Improved
DRUGS OFFENCES									
Recorded Crime	197	133	127	125	Higher	Higher	2,086	1,649	Higher
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	64.5%	78.9%	60.6%	60.0%	Comparable	Deteriorated	61.6%	60.6%	Comparable

5.1 Hate Crime

- 5.1.1 The Home Office recently published data on hate crime in England & Wales over the 2019/20 financial year. While recorded hate crime has risen year on year since at least as early as 2012/13, the report points out that increases in recorded hate crime have been driven by better identification of hate crimes and improvements in crime recorded. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) (which surveys members of the public about their experiences of crime) is not affected by changes in crime recording and it shows the opposite – that hate crime is actually declining. This is largely due to public order hate crime offences, which often do not have a specific victim but are witnessed by the police or members of the public. So recorded crime, which includes all recorded public order hate crime, is rising, while the perception within the population is of a decrease as fewer people have been direct victims of hate crime offences.
- 5.1.2 Home Office data shows that nationally, 55% of hate crime victims were at least fairly satisfied with their experience of the police service (compared to 66% for all CSEW crime) over the 2019/20 financial year. Cambridgeshire’s rate is higher than this, as of the end of November the 12 month satisfaction rate is at 76.5% - over the equivalent 2019/20 year it had been 81.6% but has trended gradually downwards over subsequent months.
- 5.1.3 The Central Intelligence Bureau scan thousands of website entries as part of Op Mantus and while doing so they note, record and act upon indications of hate crimes. Other efforts are made on both Areas to increase reporting from communities that typically under-report hate crimes, such as sex-workers.
- 5.1.4 The 108 hate crimes recorded in November were higher than November figures from any of the last 3 years. However, the longer-term trend remains comparable to the benchmark position. An increase against the longer term indicator is noted in the South, where recorded crime is comparable in the North. Police proactivity in

identifying hate crime and efforts to reduce under-reporting are likely to have contributed to the observed increases in recorded hate crime.

- 5.1.5 While the long term prosecution possible outcome rate fell to 16.7% it remains above the benchmark. The discrete month rate for November was also 16.7%; a combination of 23.8% from North Area and 10.8% from South Area.
- 5.1.6 Improvements were seen in most measures of investigative efficiency in November. While the number of live hate crime investigations over a year in length increased to 11 (from 3 in October), the longest period of inactivity on any live hate crime investigation was 25 days. Victim Care Contract (VCC) compliance and rates of overdue supervisor reviews both improved month on month.
- 5.1.7 The Force Priority Hate Crime Performance Report of December 2020 updated on progress towards meeting the hate crime plan objectives. Positive developments updated on included:
- 5.1.8 All new recruits receive a half day hate crime input during their initial training. This is presented by the Action Against Hate (AAH) Coordinator. They are also provided with a package of resource documents – available online. Ongoing support is provided via updates on crimes as appropriate by the AAH Coordinator and the North and South hate crime review officers. Regular bulletins/updates and training is provided. The new National Centre for Applied Technologies (NCALT) package for all front-line officers, staff and those who supervise them has been completed by the majority of officers.
- 5.1.9 On Area, North has a Fenland Tension Monitoring Group attended by Inspector rank Officers, and in Peterborough the hate crime SPOC Inspector leads the district's hate crime meeting, while the hate crime champion maintains close liaison with the council's local cohesion managers. On South Area there are monthly Problem Solving Group meetings in the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) around the county and community tensions are considered in the CSP's Tasking & Coordination Groups.

5.2 Knife Crime

- 5.2.1 The number of crimes recorded with the sharp instrument keyword in November was stable month on month but lower than November 2019. The number of possession of weapons offences recorded in November was also stable month on month and lower than November 2019. The 12-month total fell month on month and is comparable to its position a year ago.
- 5.2.2 The discrete month outcome rate for crimes with the sharp instrument marker was 32% in November, higher than the 1-year average but lower than the 3-year. The monthly rate for possession of weapons was also higher than the 1-year average, at 60% for November. The 12-month rate for possession of weapons offences increased for the third consecutive month, to 49.6%, remaining higher than the year end benchmark for the 6th month.
- 5.2.3 A request has been made through Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (TTCG) for analysis to understand the drivers for Knife crime in North due to its prevalence among young people and the proportion of intelligence mentioning a knife/bladed instrument which also references drugs, gangs or county lines. This has now been allocated to an analyst.

- 5.2.4 The Constabulary's Priority Knife Crime Performance Report of December 2020 updated on progress towards meeting the knife crime plan objectives. Positive developments updated on included:
- 5.2.5 The Children and Young Person Team (CYP) have prepared a selection of teacher presentation packs on this issue that can be delivered to students as part of the curriculum or when a theme or issue occurs. Within these presentations are encouragements to report both to trusted adults and online. CYP are keen to work with schools to identify internal anonymous reporting mechanisms to encourage students to report what they hear without fear of reprisal. This is to be completed when officers are able to attend schools after the Covid-19 pandemic subsides. Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Inspectors are working with Pupil Referral Units to build up relationships and increase the flow of information and intelligence. Work is also on-going to create a police led 'youth gangs and weapons' problem-solving group/multi agency work with Safer Communities to educate, protect and divert young people.

5.3 Drugs Offences

- 5.3.1 Early in the first UK lockdown drugs offences and related activity levels such as stop and search were one of the few areas that went against the trends of reduction seen in most offence types. This was likely because drugs offences are influenced by changes in police activity more than most other offence types. Similar increases have been seen over the second lockdown – with live drugs investigations rising by 31 month on month to 782, the highest it has been in at least a year.
- 5.3.2 As seen during the first national lockdown, recorded drugs offences increased in November, with a total higher than any November from the last 3 years. Higher levels of both simple possession and trafficking offences were recorded month on month or compared to November 2019. The long-term indicator continues to rise overall and on each Area for total drug offences, trafficking and simple possession offences – with the exception of North Area possession offences which remains high but did not rise.
- 5.3.3 The 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate fell 0.8ppt to 61.6% month on month but remains comparable to the year-end baseline. There remains little difference between the long-term Area rates. The number of charge/summons outcomes for drugs offences was, at 56 in November, the highest in the last 12 months, with the number of Out of Court Disposal (OOC) outcomes (71) typical of recent months.
- 5.3.4 The Constabulary drugs lead provided a quarterly update to Force Performance Board (FPB) in December. It notes that the partnership drugs and alcohol working plan is currently under review. This review may be paused pending the release of the second part of Dame Carol Black's national review and recommendations, so as to ensure that the partnerships work aligns with Dame Black's recommendations when they are known (expected in February 2021).
- 5.3.5 The Counting Every Adult (CEA) – scheme funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, is creating a new working group to review pathways into services these include Drugs and Alcohol and Mental Health. The new working group will be professionals from organisations. The difference is these professionals will also have life experience, so when they are reviewing pathways they have first-hand experience.

The aim and objective of the new working group is to report findings and improvements/gaps via the Counting Every Adult platform to inform countywide strategy & commissioning.

6. Recommendation

6.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/
Contact Officer(s)	Neil Stacey, Strategic Analysis Manager, Organisational Improvement Centre, Cambridgeshire Constabulary