



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 12 October 2021

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY PERFORMANCE REPORT – CORPORATE PLAN

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (the “Constabulary”) performance over the last 12 months.

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 21st September 2021 and reviewed performance in the 12 months ending August 2021. This report reflects the updates provided to that meeting. Alongside an overall view of performance, it includes an additional focus on the Corporate Plan priority of Reducing Harm to Communities.

4. Performance Headlines

4.1 Average daily call volumes for both 999 and 101 calls fell month on month, following the pre-pandemic seasonal pattern. However, there was increased use of web chat and online reporting tools for the third consecutive month, with work underway to

further enhance self-serve opportunities and publicise online contact options more widely. Various other workstreams aimed at providing an improved and effective service at the first point of contact, reducing the number of repeat calls and addressing the causes of failure demand are also being progressed.

- 4.2 National data indicates a normalisation of 999 call demand compared to 2019 trends, and a long-term shift away from 101. There is evidence of this in Cambridgeshire, with the long-term indicator for emergency calls now trending upwards again, and the rolling 12-month indicator for non-emergency calls stable. 20
- 4.3 Average daily incident volumes in August fell to a 7-month low, and Concern for Welfare incidents remained the highest contributor to overall demand, accounting for 15.8% of all incidents raised last month. These incidents are more likely to require a whole system approach to deal with the cause rather than a policing outcome to deal with the symptoms; highlighting the importance of engaging with partners to manage this demand. Work to progress this will incorporate work already ongoing in the Demand Hub; with terms of reference around how the success of wider partnership and prevention work can be measured also being drawn up.
- 4.4 Headline response performance remained stable for both immediate and priority grade incidents, but with some notable variation by district and incident type. Performance continues to be closely monitored in order to better understand the impact of the new priority grade. Early indications are that the change needs longer to embed, particularly given the last two months have also been peak annual leave periods
- 4.5 The recent upward trend in the long-term indicator for all recorded crime was halted last month; with the number of crimes recorded in August lower than the previous month's high and comparable to the same month in each of the last three years. However, differences in the underlying crime profile at district level, coupled with varying rates of recovery for each crime type (especially theft offences) continue to impact on the scale and rate of change.
- 4.6 The upward trend in the long-term indicators for Violence with and without Injury were both halted last month, with the long-term indicator for Stalking and Harassment offences stable. In contrast, the number of recorded Serious Sexual Offences continued to trend upwards, with more offences recorded in the latest 12-month period than in the equivalent periods in 2019 and 2020. Analysis is currently underway to determine the extent to which Domestic Abuse and the night time economy have been influential in the rise in sexual assaults in North area.
- 4.7 The long-term indicator for non-victim-based crime also continues to trend upwards at this time, driven by increases in Possession of Weapon and Public Order offences; however, the rate of growth has slowed.
- 4.8 Live investigative workload continued to increase, with a peak period of annual leave likely to have been influential on fluctuating rates of Victim Care Contract (VCC) compliance and supervisory oversight. The clear steer from Crime Standards Delivery Group continues to be for early contact with the victim to explain next steps and discuss next contact (thereby managing victim expectations); and for supervisor

reviews to be carried out every 28 days. Both are standing agenda items at local performance meetings where they receive additional scrutiny.

- 4.9 The rolling 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate held stable month on month at 11.0%; with a higher number of charges and out of court disposals in August leading to an improvement in the discrete month rate compared to more recent months. However, throughput slowed last month. While it is unclear how much of this is linked to August being a peak annual leave period, more robust and intrusive supervisory oversight remains key to identifying and resolving investigative blockages.
- 4.10 While recent strategic and tactical analysis has highlighted opportunities for improvements in outcome performance, the goal is always to ensure the best possible outcome for the victim by exploring all available options and addressing offender behaviour; the latter will both safeguard the victim and help prevent repeat offending.

5. Reduce Harm to Communities

REDUCE HARM TO COMMUNITIES	Current Month	Aug-20	Aug-19	Aug-18	Current v 1yr avg	Current v 3yr avg	Rolling 12 months	Baseline	Perf v Benchmark
KNIFE CRIME									
Recorded Crime (sharp instrument marker)	161	115	133	55	Higher	Higher	1,463	1,372	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (sharp instrument marker)	23.6%	20.0%	24.8%	29.1%	Comparable	Deteriorated	21.3%	24.4%	Deteriorated
Recorded Crime (Possession of Weapons)	58	45	41	51	Higher	Comparable	627	563	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (Possession of Weapons)	51.7%	28.9%	48.8%	45.1%	Comparable	Improved	42.3%	47.8%	Deteriorated
DRUGS OFFENCES									
Recorded Crime	125	134	136	129	Lower	Comparable	2,031	2,160	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	68.8%	58.2%	61.0%	54.3%	Comparable	Improved	67.5%	66.3%	Comparable

5.1 Knife Crime

- 5.1.1 The number of Possession of Weapons offences continues to trend upwards, with the number recorded in each of the last 5 months higher than the same month in the previous two years. Peterborough is driving the increase in the North with 28 offences recorded last month; Huntingdonshire is driving the increase in the South with higher numbers of offences in each of the last three months.
- 5.1.2 The long-term prosecution possible outcome rate for possession of weapons offences remains significantly lower than the year-end benchmark, but it is now trending upwards at both Constabulary and Area level.
- 5.1.3 161 crimes had a sharp instrument keyword in August; the highest discrete month figure since the change in methodology at the beginning of the current financial year, with the recent trend upwards. However, there was a decrease in the number of non-possession offences with either a victim or an offender under the age of 18; albeit smaller numbers will always be prone to greater fluctuation.

5.2 Drugs Offences

- 5.2.1 125 drugs offences were recorded in August; the lowest number recorded in a single month since February 2020, with the number of simple possession offences stable month on month, but a notable decrease in the number of trafficking offences. While the long-term indicator in North area continues to trend downwards, it is stable in South. It is acknowledged that drugs offences are influenced by changes in police

activity, and are indicative only rather than an accurate reflection of the totality of offending

- 5.2.2 The long-term prosecution possible outcome rate has been slowly trending upwards in recent months, rising to 67.5% in the latest 12-month period; 6.8ppt higher than in the 12 months ending August 2020, albeit with district variation
- 5.2.3 Drugs related searches (n = 146) accounted for 71.2% of all stop searches last month. 62 resulted in an item being found; with 50 of those drug-related. Drug-related intelligence also continues to account for a significant proportion of all intelligence submissions; albeit the percentage contribution has fallen in recent months

6. Recommendation

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Corporate Plan Corporate Plan 2021-2022 (cambs.police.uk)
Contact Officer	Neil Stacey, Strategic Analysis Manager, Organisational Improvement Centre, Cambridgeshire Constabulary