



**TO:** Business Co-ordination Board

**FROM:** Chief Constable

**DATE:** 04 September 2013

## **OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

### **1. Purpose of Paper**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the OPCC. This will cover: PCSO Review, Analysis of Stop Search data and Crime Recording.

### **2. PCSO Review**

2.1 Members of the public are being given the chance to help shape a review into how PCSOs are used in Cambridgeshire following the launch of an online survey on the force's external website. As well as the website the survey has been promoted through eCops and the force's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

2.2 The findings will help shape the review's final report, which will outline a number of options on the purpose and future role of PCSOs. This report will be presented to senior management in the autumn.

2.3 Inspector James Sutherland, who is managing the project, indicated that the project would be looking to answer questions such as: what was the purpose of PCSOs, where and when should they be deployed and how could success be measured.

2.4 Work is on-going to engage and consult with PCSOs themselves and partner agencies. A series of workshops have already been held to provide PCSOs with the opportunity to directly influence how the role can best serve the needs of the public and the organisation in the future. A project microsite has also been developed to help engage with PCSOs and keep them informed throughout the review.

### **3. Stop Search Proportionality**

- 3.1 During 2012, a piece of analysis was undertaken by Cambridge University Institute of Criminology of data held by the constabulary relating to Stop and Search activity
- 3.2 The research was undertaken by Dr Barak Ariel using data supplied by the constabulary – with a presentation of findings delivered to the force on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Following his presentation, Dr Ariel compiled a comprehensive report of his findings. The report was presented to the then Police Authority in September 2012.
- 3.3 The report provided a rich commentary on stop and search for the Constabulary. It was published by the Police Authority following their September 2012 meeting for the information of members and the public recognising the importance of transparency in what has been seen by some as a contentious police tactic and is attached to this report. Indeed the report contained valuable information on the complexities of the merits of stop and search and the difficulties in determining potential disproportionality from the data.
- 3.4 The executive summary of 15 paragraphs introduces the potential issue around disproportionality in stop and search and paragraph three poses the question as to how prevalent disproportionality may be in Cambridgeshire. Paragraphs four and five discuss the methodological challenges and paragraphs six and seven describe the full data set made available to Dr Ariel – nearly 54,000 records, and his treatment of that data.
- 3.5 Paragraph eight sets out the noteworthy findings from the research. It is a concise summary of a considerable analysis. Of particular note at 8.3 is a conclusion about the data stating: “...it is important to emphasise that the differences do not reach even moderate levels and based on the methodological approach taken herein, they do not suggest signs of an institutional bias.”
- 3.6 Paragraphs nine to 15 offer a further discussion about how tactics could be reviewed to, in effect, give further confidence to minority communities about the use of stop and search. The full report follows the executive summary and is a further 29 pages.
- 3.7 The All Stops Steering and Scrutiny Group (ASSG) was formed in late 2009 in order to provide strategic guidance and direction in the way Stop and Search activity is undertaken.

- 3.8 The ASSG is chaired by the force lead (Supt. Ixer) and focuses on the following themes, aligned to the 'Next Steps' principles:
- Ensure accurate data is used to provide meaningful statistics and scrutinise disproportionality
  - Ensure that National Intelligence Model is applied in respect of Stop and Search Powers
  - Ensure good quality stops / encounters through training to improve officers' understanding, and through intrusive supervision
  - Ensure two-way communication with local communities in relation to the force's use of stop and search
- 3.9 Representation on the group is broad – covering Learning and Development, Operational Champions, Performance Dept and the Cambridgeshire Independent Advisory Network (CIAN). The report and its suggestions have been used by the ASSG to continue to scrutinise and refine the approach of the Constabulary to stop and search to ensure proportionality.

#### **4. Crime Recording**

- 4.1 Following the monthly crime audit and the submission of crime recording information to the HMIC as part of the inspection process, it was noted that there was need to improve the quality of crime recording in some areas. A rigorous supervisory process, run through the Force Control Room (FCR), started on August 1 to make sure that officers were recording crime appropriately and providing the suitable rationale when a crime was not recorded.
- 4.2 Officers who decide not to raise a crime for any incident they attend can expect to be challenged more vigorously by FCR staff when calling in to give a 'write-off'. FCR staff will not challenge the officer's decision not to raise a crime, provided they are able to give a complete and detailed justification as to why a crime is not being raised. Anyone who consistently fails to do so could face disciplinary action or be required to answer to the Professional Standard Department.
- 4.3 A working group has also been formed to deal directly with the problem and to improve the quality of crime recording. This area is also monitored through the Strategic Performance Board and it was agreed that the situation would be improved before the HMIC inspection takes place.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is invited to note the operational update.