



To: Business Co-ordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 22 October 2013

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the OPCC. This will cover: operational performance, workforce information and recent successes.

2. Operational Performance

2.1 The total crime rate in Cambridgeshire remains comparable to peers. While recent monthly data had identified an increasing month on month trend, the scale was small and in each month, fewer crimes were recorded than the same period in previous years. As in 2012, monthly recorded crime fell in September (compared to August).

2.2 The total detection rate remains below the baseline at 29.9% (compared to 30.6%). The monthly rate (inc RJ) has improved for the second successive month, however remains below the same period last year in 2 of the last 3 months. A plan drawn up to improve detection rates (and focussing on Burglary Dwelling) is likely to lead to further improvements.

2.3 Staff and officer sickness levels continue to fall.

3. Recent Successes

3.1 The constabulary continues to deliver against both local priorities and on the objectives within the police and crime plan on a daily basis. The following summary is provided as an indication of some of the work that is regularly undertaken and the successes that have been achieved.

- 3.2 Significant progress has been made in tackling burglary within Peterborough so far this year with 111 less offences, equating to a reduction of 33%. This must be considered in context of last year's figures which were, at the time, the lowest on record. A detection rate of 35% for the year to date has been achieved together with a victim satisfaction level of 96.3%. Over 120 years of prison sentences have been handed out to burglars in Peterborough so far this year.
- 3.3 140 offences have been detected from one prolific burglar alone and stolen property including gold jewellery has been recovered and returned to owners.
- 3.4 Two officers, one a Special Constable, saved the life of a man who had collapsed in Cambridge. The officers immediately performed CPR on the man who did not have a pulse. Officers maintained the CPR until a defibrillator arrived and was used. This revived the male and paramedics who arrived on scene advised that the officers had saved the man's life.
- 3.5 A man who managed the largest cannabis factory ever discovered in Cambridgeshire, and at the time one of the largest and most professional set ups found in England and Wales, has been jailed and ordered to pay back more than £1 million in criminal gains. Officers discovered cannabis production on an industrial scale, with 7655 plants in various stages of growth in a large barn. The estimated street value of the recovered plants was £1.75 million with a yearly yield of approximately £8 million.
- 3.6 Eight organised crime group members were charged with conspiracy to Produce & Supply cannabis and sentenced to a total of 36 years imprisonment following the most recent trial at Cambridge Crown Court this month. The constabulary undertook a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) investigation against all those involved and on July 12, a £1 million confiscation order was made - the largest for a case in Cambridgeshire. The total criminal benefit conceded by all involved in the operation was more than £10.2 million and further POCA investigations remain on going.
- 3.7 Two of Cambridgeshire's most prolific and violent offenders were jailed for a total of nine years following a conviction for robbery where they violently attacked a victim using a hammer, causing serious injuries. The convictions were secured following a comprehensive investigation using both CCTV and forensic evidence.
- 3.8 Officers conducting a routine traffic check in Cambridge searched a vehicle, locating drugs and a substantial amount of cash. The offender admitted being a drugs courier and debt collector and was jailed for 18 months with a confiscation order for £16,000.
- 3.9 A fraud investigation in Cambridge whereby the offender obtained a £78,000 Aston Martin identified attempts to obtain over £1.37 million of other prestige vehicles throughout the UK. The offender is currently awaiting sentencing.

- 3.10 Operation Huntsman is an on going Cambridge city based initiative which has seen increased patrol activity conducted in hotspot areas by officers on cycles. It is based against acquisitive crime patterns and has been focusing on reducing cycle theft over the traditional high crime period from Aug to Oct. Over Aug to Sept 2012 there were 464 cycles stolen and over the same period this year there 98 less offences with 366 cycles stolen. The operation has achieved a 21% reduction over this period.
- 3.11 Officers have been commended after a gang who plotted and carried out a ram raid on a bank were jailed for a total of 20 years. The suspects had hatched a scheme to steal high powered vehicles, disguise them with faked number plates, then carry out a smash and grab operation using a stolen JCB at a bank last year. £34,190 had been taken from the ATM, while repairs to the building and replacing the ATM cost a further £34,000.
- 3.12 This meticulous and complex investigation into an organised crime group followed a number of ATM raid raids which had been suffered across the county and the actions of the officers on the night, the investigating team and analysts after the initial arrest all contributed toward the successful prosecutions and bringing the offenders to justice.
- 3.13 An investigation into an organised crime group conspiracy followed a burglary at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge where 18 Chinese artefacts were stolen valued at between 5 -15 million pounds. To date four persons have been convicted of this offence and sentenced to a total of 18 years imprisonment. This was one of six crimes which took place over a four month period last year at museums and auction houses across the country. Following an ACPO led National Conspiracy investigation twenty five persons have recently been arrested and a number of search warrants executed across the UK including Cambridgeshire, Sussex, London, Essex, West Midlands and Northern Ireland. The investigation remains on-going.
- 3.14 Patrol officers attended reports of a disturbance following a party. The offending male smashed a window to gain entry to a property and armed himself with a meat cleaver before returning to the party. Upon arrival of police, he attempted to escape and when challenged, refused to drop the knife. Whilst trying to disarm the offender, a police officer was injured before the male was restrained following the use of incapacitant spray and taser being drawn on the male in order to gain compliance. As a result of the officers' actions, an armed offender was brought to justice. This meant that members of the community were not exposed to his violent actions where they could have been seriously injured. The officers placed themselves in a dangerous position in order to ensure the safety of the public.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Board is invited to note the content of the report.