



**To:** Business Co-ordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 25 November 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, Operation Pheasant and Endeavour, the recent HMIC Strategic Policing Inspection and examples of good work.

### **2. Operational Performance**

2.1 Recorded victim based crime has continued to fall and crime levels remain comparable to peers. Total recorded crime and Victim based crime fell by 10.8% and 9.4% respectively compared to October last year. Fewer crimes have been recorded compared to the same period last year for 22 consecutive months.

2.2 Recorded dwelling burglary rose compared to last year for the first month since January and local area commands have identified this as a tactical priority where necessary. Increases have been identified compared to the same period last year in Cambridge City and Peterborough.

2.3 While the detection rate remains below the baseline, the total detection rate achieved in October improved to 31.0%. The monthly detection rate is above the same period last year for the second successive month. The rolling 12 month detection rate for dwelling burglary has improved from 16.0% to 18.8% to the end of October.

2.4 Call handling performance in the FCR has seen an improvement, with 96.6% of emergency calls answered within 10 seconds during October. This was a 2% improvement on the same month last year, having handled more than 400 additional calls.

### 3. Operation Pheasant/Endeavour

3.1 Operation Pheasant is the multi-agency intelligence gathering initiative involving multi occupancy houses and the potential risks of exploitation. This is a joint partnership operation co-ordinated by the police through a monthly Task Force meeting. While not all agencies are engaged in the visits, they are all represented at the monthly meeting.

3.2 Operation Endeavour resulted from the huge volume of intelligence created from Operation Pheasant. Police and partnership resources were assigned to the operation, including five detectives and one Gang masters Licensing Authority investigator, who crucially, was based in Wisbech alongside the police team. HMRC attended meetings but did not assign a full time officer.

3.3 After a three month evidence gathering exercise, a day of action was executed. This was one of the biggest Human Exploitation Operations ever launched in the UK. The operation was led by police and the Gang masters Licensing Authority (GLA) and also involved the National Crime Agency (NCA), Fenland District Council, the Home Office and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). In total about 300 police and partner agency officers and staff were involved. The operation received extensive coverage on Latvian TV which covers the UK Latvian population and is transmitted to Latvia.

3.4 The operation involved 3 simultaneous strands:

- The arrest of those involved in the practice of fraud and human exploitation both in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, with ten people taken into custody.
- Houses throughout Fenland that were controlled by some of the above (which by default contained victims / workers) were attended by police officers, GLA staff and interpreters. Reassurance messages were given to them and they were asked to attend a reception centre. This centre (set up by Fenland District Council and supported by the British Red Cross and The Salvation Army) ensured that they received medical care, housing and employment advice. A total of 80 people were received at the centre, more than any previous national operation.
- Police officers and GLA staff also attended the business address of two labour providers with GLA paperwork served in order to stop them operating. Vosa also

attended a transport depot belonging to one provider and suspended nine of their 16 vehicles from operation as they were not road worthy.

- 3.5 The day of action is not the end of police and partnership activity and work remains on going. Whilst 80 migrants were rescued, estimates suggest up to 6,000 are living in overcrowded housing in and around Wisbech and it is unclear what proportion of these may be at risk of abuse and exploitation.
- 3.6 With existing staff now committed for a number of months on prosecuting those arrested, additional police and partnership resources will be required to undertake further investigative work in order to continue to develop further intelligence.
- 3.7 Following the operation it was clear that this was an excellent example of partnership working, with all agencies engaged to varying degrees. As with any major operation, there are always opportunities to reflect and learn and a debrief has highlighted the following points for future consideration:
- A dedicated HMRC officer assigned to the team would have proved beneficial
  - Funds to facilitate North Cambridgeshire hospital to act as an on-going reception centre enabling future police enquiries would be of assistance
  - The development of a regional tasking group involving all agencies would be beneficial in ensuring a co-ordinated approach
  - An effective partnership communication/engagement strategy should be developed to inform new communities of the possible exploitation tactics in order to reduce their vulnerability.

#### **4. Strategic Policing Inspection**

4.1 The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the Government's position on the national threats that the police must address and the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats.

4.2 The current Strategic Policing Requirement identifies five threats:

- Public Order
- Civil Emergencies
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Terrorism
- Cyber

- 4.3 To ensure that police forces are delivering against the SPR, HMIC undertake a series of national inspections and are visiting all forces as part of a two year rolling inspection programme. Cambridgeshire was one of the forces to be inspected within the first stage of these inspections, together with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
- 4.4 HMIC undertook a joint inspection across the three forces from 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October. The inspection consisted of interviews with ACPO leads, Strategic Leads and Operational Leads for the respective areas covering the five threats, together with two focus groups. As we have now collaborated in a number of areas covering the SPR threats, some interviews were with managers from Joint Protective Services, on behalf of all three forces.
- 4.5 HMIC provided a short debrief to senior officers on the last day of the inspection. This is a quick summary of the key points identified from the inspection. While this remains subject to further work and evidential testing by HMIC, it provides an immediate indication of the areas likely to be included within the final report. This is anticipated to be circulated in February 2014.
- 4.6 The feedback received was positive in the main, with HMIC having confidence that Cambridgeshire has the capability and capacity to deal with the defined strategic threats. Of the few areas highlighted as potentially requiring development, most relate to processes in place within the collaborated units.

**5. Operation Erle**

- 5.1 Operational Erle is a current investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation. A number of defendants are now on trial for various offences. There will be no further update until the conclusion of the court cases.

**6. Good Work**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 A robbery offender was sentenced to six years at Cambridge Crown Court on 7th October. Whilst on bail for the robbery, the offender committed an assault on his partner, took a car from a vulnerable adult in Norfolk and crashed it on the A11 in Suffolk. The actions of police in arresting the male and securing his subsequent remand and conviction, in the words of the Judge “removed a dangerous and out of control offender from the streets.”

- 6.3 A victim of anti-social behaviour contacted the force to thank their local PCSO and neighbourhood team who had provided support and help to her and other residents following complaints of noise and drug abuse. A positive response and the execution of two warrants resolved the issues causing the victim to comment that “you have made our block a safer and nicer place to live”.
- 6.4 Two PCSOs saved the life of a man who was found unresponsive and not breathing, in the toilets on Midsummer Common. They immediately commenced first aid, clearing his airway and placing him in the recovery position which restarted his breathing. Paramedics attended and administered medication to counter the effects of a drug overdose. Without the actions of the officers, the male would have died.
- 6.5 The actions taken by two Special Constables who were suspicious of a driver’s behaviour and actions following the stopping of his car, resulted in the identification of cocaine to the value of £10k. The driver was subsequently convicted of possession with intent to supply.
- 6.6 Two PCSOs were recognised by the National Police Bravery Awards after they helped restrain a woman wielding an axe at Wisbech District Hospital. The offender had assaulted a doctor and then returned to the premises with the axe where she made further threats to kill him. She was challenged, disarmed and restrained by officers and thanks to their actions the doctor, hospital staff and other members of the public were all kept safe from harm.
- 6.7 The constabulary was named the winner of Brand Republic’s Future 5 “data and planning” award in October. The awards recognise innovation in marketing and public relations, and the constabulary’s ‘Get Closer’ campaign was shortlisted from 1400 entries and beat off competition from national campaigns for Southern Comfort and Channel 4, who were also shortlisted in the category.
- 6.8 The constabulary’s developing use of social media has resulted in the identification of two males that police wanted to speak to regarding a potential theft of jewellery. The males were identified from a CCTV image and within 24 hours had handed themselves into police following the release of their images on social media.

## **7. Recommendation**

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