



To: Business Co-ordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 22 January 2014

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the OPCC. This will cover; recent HMIC inspections, call handling performance, domestic homicide review, Operation Weston court case and examples of good work.

2. HMIC Inspection Update

2.1 Following the Home Secretary commissioning HMIC to conduct a thematic review of the police response to domestic violence and abuse in September 2013, the constabulary underwent its inspection into Domestic Abuse between the 16th -19th December.

2.2 The inspection focussed upon :

- the effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse, including the outcomes for victims;
- whether risks to victims of domestic violence and abuse are adequately managed
- identifying lessons learnt from how the police approach domestic violence and abuse; and
- making any necessary recommendations in relation to these findings when considered alongside current practice.

2.3 On the final day, the inspectors provided a debrief to senior managers summarising the results found.

2.4 While the inspection team identified some strengths including a committed and dedicated workforce in place, a number of areas of risk were highlighted to the constabulary.

- 2.5 As a result, an action plan has been developed which incorporates the recommendations from both this inspection and an earlier peer review undertaken by the College of Policing.
- 2.6 HMIC are revisiting the constabulary to assess progress against the action plan on 13th and 14th February.
- 2.7 The national thematic and individual force reports will be published by HMIC in April.
- 2.8 On 6th January a further HMIC inspection was undertaken into undercover policing. The debrief indicated that the constabulary has effective systems and processes in place and no significant areas for concern were identified.
- 2.9 Due to the nature of this element of policing, there will be no detailed reports published.
- 2.10 A further HMIC inspection is due to be undertaken from 20th-23rd January, into 'Making Best Use of Police Time. This covers three areas; police attendance, preventative policing and freeing up police time.

3. Call Handling

- 3.1 The action plan to improve 101 call handling continues to be implemented with a month on month reduction in the number abandoned calls from August to Nov 13.
- 3.2 A process change involving the transfer of a limited number of specific call types direct to the Force Control Room appears to be working well, freeing capacity within the Police Service Centre to improve call handling.
- 3.3 All comments or complaints involving excessive call waiting times are investigated with callers contacted and feedback provided on the investigation.
- 3.4 Secondary call transfer data is not currently available due to a service upgrade.

4. Domestic Homicide Review Update

- 4.1 A multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review has been conducted in relation to the case of Vitalija Baliataviciene, who on 12th August 2011 failed to return home from work. A missing from home enquiry commenced, subsequently changing its status to a murder enquiry when the full extent of the information became clear.
- 4.2 The subject's ex-husband was located in Lithuania, extradited and charged with her kidnapping and murder, initially without the body having been found. Rimantas Venclovas was subsequently convicted of kidnap and murder in November 2012. An appeal has since been dismissed.

4.3 The constabulary are one of six agencies contributing to the statutory requirement to undertake a homicide review, based on the circumstances of the case. The report will be published by the Safer Peterborough Partnership, with a decision on the publication date due to be taken at the end of January 2014.

4.4 The report is expected to make a number of recommendations for the respective agencies to consider in ensuring that professional practice continues to safeguard victims or potential victims of domestic violence. Cambridgeshire Constabulary will action any recommendations made accordingly in line with continued professional development and any organisational learning that may be identified.

5. Operation Weston

5.1 Operation Weston is an investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) that has been ongoing in Peterborough.

5.2 Following the investigation, a total of eight suspects were charged with a number of offences relating to sexual assaults.

5.3 On 15th January 2014, verdicts were delivered by the jury who had heard the case. Five guilty verdicts were announced, with Hassan ABDULLA, Zdeno MIRGA and 2 teenagers guilty of all charges and one teenager guilty of one charge and acquitted on another. Three other defendants, Dusan Mirga, David Ziga, and another teenager were acquitted.

5.4 A number of investigations continue in relation to child sexual exploitation.

6. Good Work

6.1 The constabulary recognised the good work undertaken at a Detective Chief Superintendents' Commendation Ceremony, where 19 commendations were given.

6.2 These included; two officers for their work in relation to an abduction of a four-year-old boy by his mother and partner, an officer who secured a successful historical rape conviction, two officers for their work in securing the conviction of a man for large number of sexual offences, resulting in a 19 year jail sentence and two officers for their prompt actions, professionalism and dedication to duty in relation to an incident in which a man was disarmed of what was believed to be a firearm.

6.3 The work of the Chief Constable was recognised in the New Years honours list, with Mr Parr receiving the Queens Policing Medal (QPM) in recognition of his distinguished Police Service.

6.4 Judge Gareth Hawkesworth commended an officer for his work investigating a hit and run incident in Wisbech in which the offender deliberately drove into the victim causing them to spend 6 days in hospital. He then attempted to disguise the vehicle and evade capture.

After denying the offence he was found guilty and convicted of GBH, dangerous driving and perverting the course of justice, receiving a 12 year jail sentence.

6.5 Officers responded to reports of suspicious activity at an address in St Neots and conducting a raid on New Years Eve, found cocaine with a value of £4000 and cannabis valued at £1500. The owner of the premises was jailed for a total of four years.

6.6 Two new off-road motorbikes have proved their worth after being instrumental in the arrest of a group of people suspected of hare coursing. After reports were received of a number of people acting suspiciously, two traffic officers on the bikes responded to the incident as the suspects kept making off from officers as the area was inaccessible to vehicles. With the assistance of the air support unit, six suspects located by the officers using the bikes and were reported for summons for hare coursing/poaching offences under Section 30 of the Game Act. Cash and two vehicles were also seized.

7. Recommendation

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