



To: Business Co-ordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 25 March 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 performance, HMIC inspections, significant operations and recent good work.

2. Performance Update

2.1 The local confidence measure continues to show that confidence is falling. This deteriorating picture is the opposite of the findings of the national Crime Survey of England and Wales that shows communities within Cambridgeshire to have improved confidence levels. The different survey methodologies are likely to explain the differences between these results, with the local survey conducted over the telephone while the national surveys are conducted face to face. However, local results cause some concern. Analysis has identified that visibility and dealing with very specific local level problems are key to improving confidence rates.

2.2 The satisfaction results of victims of crime continue to rise, with 88.9% of victims surveyed in the 12 months to February satisfied with the service they received. Satisfaction levels for victims of burglary have improved to the highest level recorded (95.1% from a sample of 526 crimes).

2.3 In February, total recorded crime levels (including victim based crime) were higher than February 2013. Over the longer term, recorded crime levels continue to show a reduction against the baseline (-6.4%). Recent improvements in crime recording processes are likely to have had an impact on recorded crime levels. In some areas,

(for example Sex offences) there has been a much higher increase in reporting. This is in part due to increased awareness and confidence to report such offences in the light of recent media attention.

- 2.4 The increased level of dwelling burglary in the final part of 2013 has now reduced, with fewer offences recorded in February than the previous year (204 compared to 214).

3. HMIC Inspections

- 3.1 No HMIC reports have been published in the last month but it is anticipated that the Domestic Abuse inspection report will be published on Tuesday 25th March. In addition, it is expected that the Child Sexual Exploitation report will be finalised within the next month.

- 3.2 Planning has already commenced for the 'Valuing the Police 4' inspection, which is due on the 10th and 11th April. This is the annual round of national inspections that assess the police response to the spending review.

- 3.3 This year's inspection will consider our planning and preparations to ensure we remain efficient and effective through 2015/16 and beyond. It will include a focus on service delivery and an assessment of our management and approach to future risk.

4. Significant Operations

- 4.1 The constabulary is currently planning for Stage 3 of this year's Tour de France, which visits Cambridge on the 7th July. The race will take place on closed roads to ensure the safety of the participants. Local authorities have agreed with the race organisers that a series of road closures will be required from the morning of July 7th and are likely to remain in place for most of the day, while crowd and traffic management provisions are undertaken.

- 4.2 The English Defence League (EDL) has indicated an intention to hold a protest in Peterborough on Saturday 29th March. Planning is currently ongoing for this event to ensure that the Constabulary maintains public order and the impact on the local community is minimised.

- 4.3 Operation Erle is the joint ongoing investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) using resources from Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Social Services, Health and Education. The enquiry is focussed within the Peterborough area. Under the banner of this operation are a number of other CSE operations which all remain in progress

at this time. It is likely that one of these operations will go to trial towards the end of March, while others remain CPS decision.

- 4.4 Operation Endeavour is the continued investigation into human exploitation within Fenland. Further investigation is ongoing following the previous day of action and arrests made in October 2013.

5. Good Work

- 5.1 A Judge has praised officers for their work following the sentencing of a triple murderer to a whole life sentence. Mr Justice Spencer paid tribute to the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit and officers from West Mercia after telling Joanne Dennehy she would never be released from prison. He said: "I have been impressed by the investigation team and the evidence prepared for the trial. These were difficult matters to investigate."
- 5.2 Dennehy, was sentenced at the Old Bailey for the murders of three men, and the attempted murders of two others, in a two-week period at the end of March, last year. Her accomplice Gary Stretch was jailed for life, with a minimum of 19 years, while two other men, Leslie Layton and Robert Moore, were jailed for 14 and three years respectively for their roles.
- 5.3 Officers from the Roads Policing Unit have been praised by a Judge for their investigation which secured the conviction of a drink driver who killed a 19-year-old student. While over the legal drink-drive limit, Michael Crane drove at 70mph in a 30mph zone in a car he stole from his mother. He hit and killed Hye Jun Lee, in King's Hedges Road on May 3 last year. He was sentenced to 12 years.
- 5.4 Crane was sentenced to 10 years for causing death by dangerous driving with a further two years added as he was described as 'posing a serious risk of harm to the public.' He was also disqualified from driving for 12 years. Judge Jonathan Haworth said it was "one of the worst, if not the very worst case of this kind to appear before me."
- 5.5 A senior officer gave evidence on 25th February at Parliament to help inform the drafting of a slavery bill. Chief Inspector Mike Winters explained how the Force has tackled exploitation in Fenland to the joint (House of Lords and House of Commons) Committee on the draft Modern Day Slavery Bill. The committee is hearing oral evidence from people and organisations across the country with links to human exploitation.

- 5.6 Chief Inspector Winters said: “This recognises the significant work that has been done to tackle exploitation in Fenland and the substantial harm that it causes. It is a chance to shape the new legislation and national thinking around exploitation and is something that Cambridgeshire police can be proud to be part of.”
- 5.7 Operation Endeavour has seen Fenland officers working alongside the Gangmaster Licensing Agency (GLA), National Crime Agency, Fenland District Council and many others to target those exploiting migrant workers in the Wisbech area. Arrests were made as part of a day of action in October while two recruitment agencies were shut down and have had their licences revoked by the GLA. A number of people remain on police bail while others have been charged and are progressing through the courts.
- 5.8 Chief Insp Winters added: “Some members of the public link problems in the area to migrants and yet we can see that the root cause of these problems is the way in which migrants are exploited. It is the single biggest cause of anti-social behaviour, low level crime, street drinking, rough sleeping and sometimes far more serious things. Everyone in Wisbech is, therefore, adversely affected by this exploitation and that is why we are committed to dealing with it robustly.”
- 5.9 Cambridge city officers are currently appearing in a television documentary featured on Channel 5 which began on 11th February. The programme showed the proactive and positive policing initiatives taking place across the country and made the public aware of what they can do and what is happening nationwide to reduce crime. Each episode will feature the police in action and focus on crimes that affect people on a community level.
- 5.10 In the most recent episode, the film crew followed Sgt Paul Street and his team on Operation Bind at the end of January as they targeted serious acquisitive crime and local policing priorities. Detective Inspector Jamie Stenton said: “This is a great opportunity to showcase Cambridgeshire’s community policing and how we are proactive and responsive to community needs and concerns. During the operation we conducted 19 search warrants and made 30 arrests for a variety of offences.”

6. Recommendation

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