



To: Business Co-ordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 25 March 2014

Crime Recording

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Board regarding Crime Recording Integrity by the Constabulary and steps taken to improve overall compliance with the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS.)

2. Background

- 2.1 In June 2013, as a result of issues with regard to the accuracy of crime recording in another Force area, Cambridgeshire Constabulary began a process of internal auditing to check for NCRS compliance.
- 2.2 Audits conducted revealed that the accuracy of the Constabulary's crime recording could be enhanced and that a programme was required to seek improvement.
- 2.3 The Force is adamant that in order to maintain the confidence of the public it must ensure that crime recording is accurate and therefore provides a true picture of offending within the County.
- 2.4 Following the internal audit The Force set up a Crime Data Integrity Working Group. (CDIWG) This group consisting of key individuals from within the Force has been tasked to improve NCRS compliance through an on-going action plan
- 2.5 The Force employs a Crime Registrar whose role includes ensuring that the Constabulary is compliant with NCRS.
- 2.6 The Force will be subject to a HMIC Crime Data Integrity Inspection between 27th May and 6th June 2014.

3. Crime Data Integrity Working Group

- 3.1 The CDIWG meets monthly and its members are made up of representatives from Local Policing, the Force Control Room, the Police Service Centre, the Incident Management Unit, Crime Managers, Corporate Performance, Public Protection Department and the Information Standards Department
- 3.2 The CDIWG has published an action plan which drives delivery. The action plan is split into four key sections.
- Leadership and governance
 - Systems and processes
 - People and skills
 - Communication
- 3.3 Audits have identified that officers are generally making good crime recording decisions; however, some recurring errors are being made. These include:
- Lack of understanding around the complex NCRS
 - Slippage in the requirement to raise a crime within 72 hours of report.
- 3.4 In the year to September 2013 Cambridgeshire Constabulary recorded a reduction in crime of 11.2% mirroring the British Crime Survey whose results showed a 10% national decrease in crime based on the same period.

4. Actions

- 4.1 In order to improve compliance the group has been responsible for a number of remedies. These include:
- Supporting direct crime inputting of crime reports by officers via their electronic devices.
 - Tightening up the finalisation of incidents procedures to ensure that the incident is linked to a valid crime report before closure.
 - Training and briefing to officers and managers through numerous forums.
 - Identifying locals SPOCS in teams and districts, making them responsible for communicating key messages.
 - Monitoring progress through specific audits carried out by the Information Standards Team and the Incident Management Unit.

4.2 From 1st April 2014 the Force will be adopting the new Home Office changes to the crime detection framework. Historically Forces simply report crime outcomes as either detected or undetected. The new procedure requires the police to break results down further into 18 sub categories thus providing far more detail around how a crime was detected or why it wasn't.

4.3 The new categories include:

- Charged/Summoned
- Caution – youths
- Caution – adults
- Taken into consideration
- The Offender has died (all offences)
- Penalty Notices for Disorder
- Cannabis Warning
- Community Resolution
- Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)
- Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.
- Investigation Complete: No suspect identified.
- Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police.)
- Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
- Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute.
- Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence
- Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.
- Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.
- Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.

4.4 The Force is currently ensuring that its IT systems are adequately updated to cater for the new procedure.

4.5 Cambridgeshire Constabulary understands that for various reasons many people do not choose to contact the Police when they are in fact the victim of a crime. From December 2013 the Force has adopted the revised "victim's code" and as such the Police will endeavour to offer support to victims, especially those who are subjected to serious crime, are persistently targeted victims or are vulnerable and intimidated.

4.6 Those victims who are in one of the priority categories will be offered an enhanced service such as “special measures” for giving evidence and providing Victim Personal Statements.

5. Recommendation

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