



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 24 March 2015

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

### 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the Business Coordination Board ("the Board"). The paper covers Cambridgeshire Constabulary's ("the Constabulary") recent performance, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspections, significant operations and effective and efficient policing.

### 2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

### 3. Performance Update (12 months data to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015)

3.1 Primary call handling in the context of 999 emergency calls and initial 101 responses and triage remains positive; the pressure point remains secondary call handling where new technology solutions are underway in order to improve caller experience. Incident levels in January fell for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive month, with a corresponding improvement in the time taken to respond. This is particularly the case for Domestic Incidents where challenges around response times had been felt in recent months.

3.2 At Force level victim based crime is 7.5% higher in the 12 months to January compared to the same period last year. Whilst the 12 month indicator remains significantly higher than the baseline, the monthly crime level in January was comparable to both the 12 and 36 month averages. All violence against the person offence levels remain statistically higher than the baseline, and whilst January saw a reduction in offences, levels remain higher than the 12 and 36 month averages. The

national picture to September 2014 (the latest data available) indicates the Cambridgeshire crime rate is lower than the national rate.

- 3.3 All sexual offences remain higher than the baseline, although monthly levels are now statistically comparable to the 12 month average. Cambridgeshire crime rates are comparable to the national; c 48% of offences in January were classed 'historic', an indication that the influence of Operation Yewtree continues, combined no doubt with the enhanced level of service victims receive through the prioritisation of 'vulnerable' victims. Although Robbery offence levels remain higher than the baseline, the level of offences in January was comparable to both the 12 and 36 month averages; indicating an element of stability is emerging with the Cambridgeshire crime rate lower than the national.
- 3.4 Levels of Burglary Dwelling have fallen in January, and were lower than the same period in the last two years. The 12 month indicator is now statistically comparable to baseline. Outcome rates remain statistically lower than the baseline. Whilst the absence of TIC's (offences taken into consideration) has some influence on this, achieving primary detections has proved challenging in January, this is particularly noticeable following the successful conclusion of a cross border investigation in December, which resulted in a higher than normal number of detections in the month. Victims of Burglary Dwelling record the highest satisfaction rate of all victims surveyed at 94.8%; which is comparable to the baseline.
- 3.5 The Crime Data Integrity team continues to drive up recording standards, with National Crime Recording Standard compliance rates improving to 94% (up from 71% at the HMIC inspection point in June 2014). This focus on recording has resulted in an increase in recorded crime; a welcomed outcome, acknowledged by the national lead for crime recording which provides reassurance.
- 3.6 As an indication of the Constabulary's commitment to protecting the vulnerable, the significantly higher levels of recorded hate crime are acknowledged; with 81.4% of victims satisfied with over all service delivery, comparable to baseline. Whilst increased reporting is potentially an indication of increased victim confidence and improved reporting and recording practices; the impact of external influences on reporting rates is unknown at this time.
- 3.7 Protecting the vulnerable remains at the heart of operational policing priorities; the impact of this on response and investigative resources is acknowledged. Increasing investigative and safeguarding workloads are being monitored through the operational priority review process. Outcome rates (all crime) are now statistically lower than at baseline. Domestic abuse outcome rates have stabilised in the recent month, although lower than last year for the 4th consecutive month; as a consequence, the 12 month indicator is statistically lower than at year end.
- 3.8 Victim Satisfaction with overall service delivery is now statistically lower than at year end, driven by victims of vehicle crime and violent crime. The influence of improved crime recording, increased officer workloads and a focus on vulnerability should not be over looked. Work is currently in hand to provide a better understanding of the underlying reasons.

3.9 Public confidence in the Constabulary is now statistically higher than at year end; driven by respondents in Fenland, Peterborough and South Cambridgeshire. Respondent feedback continues to identify visible policing as a key theme, a fundamental deliverable of Operation Metis.

#### **4. HMIC Inspections Update**

##### **4.1 So-called Honour Based Violence Inspection (HBV)**

4.1.1 An inspection of the police response to 'so called' honour-based violence (HBV) is one of two HMIC inspections planned that will inform the next annual all force Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) assessments (the other being 'Identifying Vulnerability in Police Prosecution Case Files' (VICF)). These inspections are a continuation of HMIC's work to examine and assess the effectiveness of the police response to protecting vulnerable people.

4.1.2 The first phase of the HBV inspection commenced on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015, and required the Constabulary to complete a self-assessment and provide a number of documents in support of the criteria being inspected, together with associated data. The necessary documentation and data has now been submitted to HMIC.

4.1.3 Phase Two of the inspection will take place later in the year and will involve more in-depth inspections of a number of forces, selection of which will be drawn from relevant data and information gathered during Phase One.

##### **4.2 PEEL Efficiency Inspection**

4.2.1 The data return required for the PEEL Efficiency Inspection has now been submitted to HMIC.

4.2.2 The HMIC inspection of the Constabulary's efficiency – as part of the PEEL programme – will be taking place on dates in the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

#### **5. Significant Operations**

##### **5.1 Operation Signal**

5.1.1 As part of Operation Signal the Strategic Alliance (the Constabulary, Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary) will be working with UK Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and the Department for Work and Pensions to crack down on criminals from across Europe and deny habitual criminals the right of re-entry to the UK to help protect our communities.

5.1.2 Officers will pass to Border Force, details of EU or European Economic Area (EEA) nationals who come into custody and who meet the threshold of criminality considered proportionate to impose this sanction.

5.1.3 Given the sanction of denying an individual subsequent entry to the UK is a significant denial of the right to freedom of movement, the Home Office has set a suggested threshold before prisoner's details are passed on, of:

- Three custodial sentences
- Six non-custodial sentences

- a combination of the two over the previous four years; or
- convictions for serious offences, such as murder, grievous bodily harm or serious sexual assaults

## 5.2 **Operation Hyphen**

5.2.1 Rest days have been cancelled on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and a leave ban is now in place to ensure the force has sufficient resources to police a planned national animal rights protest in Cambridge City Centre. The protest is in objection to a proposed new laboratory site at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

## 6. **Significant Cases**

6.1 A Police Community Support Officer has been given a suspended prison sentence after pleading guilty to misusing police systems. The PCSO, based at a police station in South Cambridgeshire, was arrested in November 2014, and later charged under Section One of the Computer Misuse Act, for using police systems to search an address on behalf of a friend. He pleaded guilty at Stevenage Magistrates' Court on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015, and was sentenced to six weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months. He also received a £165 fine.

## 7. **Effective and Efficient Policing**

### 7.1 **Operation Pheasant**

7.1.1 Operation Pheasant won the title of 'Partnership of the Year' in this year's Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards ceremony in London on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

7.1.2 Operation Pheasant was launched in early 2013 to tackle the complex issues of migrant exploitation, illegal gangmasters and poor conditions in private rented housing in Fenland, particularly in Wisbech.

7.1.3 It also resulted in the launch of Operation Endeavour, the police and Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA)-led inquiry that resulted in two Latvian men being convicted of acting as unlicensed gangmasters in December.

7.1.4 The LGC award recognises partnerships that have undertaken innovative and sustainable work to successfully address local challenges.

### 7.2 **Operation Erle**

7.2.1 Operation Erle was highly commended after being shortlisted in the 'Team of the Year' category at this year's Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards ceremony in London on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

7.2.2 Operation Erle, a proactive investigation, was launched in January 2013 after it was suspected young girls were being sexually exploited in Peterborough. Since then, nine men and boys have been jailed for a total of 101 years and nine months.

7.2.3 The Constabulary was highly commended at the awards for its proactive work with Peterborough City Council to tackle the issue of child sexual exploitation in Peterborough.

### **7.3 Case File Improvements**

- 7.3.1 Latest statistics from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have shown that a drive to improve case file completion – in place since 2012 - has produced significant results for the Constabulary.
- 7.3.2 For the Third Quarter of 2014-15 the CPS decided to charge or caution 78.4% of suspects in the County compared to the national average of 68.7%. The decision to take no further action was 8.6% compared to the national figure of 15%.
- 7.3.3 Conviction rates in Cambridgeshire are also above the national average. In the financial year to date the figure in the County is 84.5% for Magistrates' Court and 87.8% in the Crown Court. This compares to national averages of 78.4% and 81.9% respectively.

### **7.4 Police Support Volunteers**

- 7.4.1 Police Support Volunteers (PSV) in Peterborough have been providing invaluable help in assisting crime prevention and detection in the county, through the use of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and CCTV van to assist police operations. There are currently three volunteers, with another four due to commence training in the coming weeks.
- 7.4.2 On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 an ANPR operation will be taking place across four sites in Peterborough, conducted with the help of the PSVs, Special Constables and officers from Sector Neighbourhood Teams. There are plans for the PSVs to be involved in similar days of action at least once a month.

### **7.5 Information Technology**

- 7.5.1 The Constabulary has received praise from the Coroner's Office after a successful pilot using an electronic Wizard to produce reports on sudden deaths attended. With the rollout of mobile devices almost complete, officers are now able to use this Wizard instead of the old paper forms.
- 7.5.2 The Wizard has been trialled successfully throughout the Constabulary over the past year, in consultation with the Coroner's Offices in both Huntingdon and Peterborough. It was designed to replace the old paper forms, saving officer time, and providing an easier, more professional format for recording information on behalf of the coroner, and to facilitate the delivery of the report to the coroner in a more timely fashion.

## **8. Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Police Association Annual General Meeting**

- 8.1 The Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Police Association (chaired by a Cambridgeshire PCSO) held its Annual General Meeting at Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters on 18th March 2015.
- 8.2 The Association seeks to improve the working environment for all staff from a Gypsy Roma or Traveller (GRT) background in forces throughout the UK. Establishing good working relations between the police and the GRT community, nationally, with a view to enhancing the quality of service to the public and to GRT communities specifically.

## 9. Recommendation

9.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document</b>	
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Chief Inspector Paul Ormerod, Corporate Development Department, Cambridgeshire Constabulary