



Cambridgeshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 04 June 2015

## **CRIME DATA INTEGRITY – UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) progress against their Crime Data Action Plan for crime data integrity.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

### **3. Background**

3.1 In June 2014, as part of a national programme, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) undertook their Crime Data Integrity inspection of the Constabulary. HMIC’s report ‘Crime Data Integrity – Inspection of Cambridgeshire Constabulary’ was published on the 18th November 2014. The report included specific recommendations on how the Constabulary could improve the accuracy of, and therefore public confidence in, the way the police records crime.

3.2 HMIC found that Chief Officers in the Constabulary promote compliance with Home Office Counting Rules (HOCRs), encouraging a victim-centred approach. HMIC Inspectors also reported that they found frontline staff, including call-takers, understand the importance of meeting the needs of the victim when considering crime recording and investigation, and they are polite, professional and helpful.

3.3 HMIC made nine recommendations following the inspection that the Constabulary should, from the date of the report being published.

3.4 A paper was submitted to the Board in December 2014 which provided the outcome of the HMIC inspection and the Constabulary’s response to this. Subsequent updates have been provided on the Constabulary’s work to drive up recording standards.

- 3.5 The existing action plan developed from the hot debrief was revised following the full HMIC report to ensure that the nine recommendations were accurately reflected.
- 3.6 In January 2015 a National Crime Data Integrity Action Plan was circulated to all police forces from the National Policing Lead for Crime Statistics as required by recommendation 13 of the HMIC National Thematic report. The actions identified from this as being owned by individual forces have subsequently been included within the Constabulary's Action Plan to ensure that all risk areas identified both locally and nationally would be considered fully by the Constabulary.
- 3.7 This report provides further detail on the Constabulary's progress against the Action Plan, which is under the direct leadership Chief Constable. Progress against the Action Plan is tracked on a monthly basis through the scrutiny of the Assistant Chief Constable's Force Operational Performance Board.

#### **4. Progress against Action Plan**

- 4.1 The Action Plan has 38 actions of which 29 (76%) are complete and nine are in progress. The actions are divided into five key themes and updated progress on each theme and a brief overview of action already taken is detailed below: -

##### **4.2 Leadership and Governance**

- 4.2.1 There are 13 actions within this theme of which 12 (92%) are complete and one (8%) is in progress and expected to be complete by July 2015.
- 4.2.2 Clear and consistent messaging has been provided by senior officers to all staff around the importance of accurate and ethical crime recording. There is no pressure from senior officers within the force to meet crime reduction targets by not recording or delaying recording. Although this messaging was recognised within the Cambridgeshire's HMIC report this has continued and will continue to be reinforced.
- 4.2.3 The Constabulary's Force Crime Registrar (FCR) is allowed with independence and authority to maintain high standards of adherence to the HOCR and the National Crime Recording Standards. The FCR is fully supported and has regular contact with senior officers which enables reporting of crime recording issues as they arise.
- 4.2.4 The FCR is now the chair of the Crime Data Integrity Working Group (CDIWG) which enables the group to have a fully independent view of crime recording and the authority to progress any changes required to ensure high standards are achieved and maintained.
- 4.2.5 The oversight of the CDIWG by both the Operational Review Board and the Force Operational Performance Board chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable enables a sound reporting structure.

##### **4.3 Victim Focus**

- 4.3.1 There are 10 actions within this theme of which six (60%) are complete and four (40%) are in progress and three are expected to be complete by August 2015. One is under review as it involves the introduction of new systems.
- 4.3.2 As above, strong leadership messages have been provided to reinforce the importance of a victim focus in crime recording and outcomes.
- 4.3.3 The Victims' Code e-learning package has been made available to all staff.

#### 4.4 Processes and Systems

- 4.4.1 There are nine actions within this theme of which six (67%) are complete and three (33%) are in progress and expected to be complete by September 2015.
- 4.4.2 The process for crime recording is under review following the HOCR changes introduced in April 2015 whereby the requirement is for crimes to be recorded as soon as possible after the person receiving the report is satisfied that a crime has been committed. The revised process is due to be implemented in June 2015 with clear and detailed briefings and guidance for all staff.
- 4.4.3 The Audit Plan has been reviewed for 2015-16 to ensure it is fit for purpose. All avenues of reporting to the Constabulary have been identified and are now subject to scrutiny as part of the revised Audit Plan. Violent and sexual crime were identified as high risk areas by the National HMIC report and therefore have an increased level of scrutiny as part of the plan.
- 4.4.4 Feedback from audits is regularly provided into the relevant groups (e.g. CDIWG, Force Performance Board, Information Management Strategy Group) to ensure progress is monitored and any issues are identified and responded to quickly.

#### 4.5 Training

- 4.5.1 There are two training related actions of which one (50%) is complete and one (50%) is in progress and scheduled to be complete by August 2015.
- 4.5.2 An extensive training programme is being provided which includes front-line officers, call-taking staff and staff in specialist units. This training highlights the importance of crime-recording and provides guidance around the Home Office requirements of whether and when to record a crime.

#### 4.6 Out-of-court disposals

- 4.6.1 All three actions within this theme are complete.
- 4.6.2 This includes retaining records where appropriate, checking offenders' previous history to ensure they outcome is appropriate and taking victims wishes into account.

### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Documents</b>	HMIC Report ' <i>Cambridgeshire Crime Data Integrity</i> ', HMIC November 2014 <a href="http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-data-integrity-cambridgeshire-2014.pdf">http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-data-integrity-cambridgeshire-2014.pdf</a>  HMIC National Thematic Report ' <i>Crime Data Integrity</i> ', HMIC November 2014 <a href="http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf">http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf</a>
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