



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 22 June 2017

OFFENDER HUB UPDATE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on the Home Office Innovation Funding to tackle reoffending through the use of Deferred Prosecutions and effective support interventions.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board are asked to note the progress made of this project

3. Background

3.1 Cambridgeshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire Constabulary was awarded £500,000 from the Home Office Police Innovation Fund in 2016-17/2017-18. The bid proposal was to tackle the root causes of early offending behaviour through ‘Conditional deferred prosecution’. This will provide a foundation for multi-agency pathways to reduce demand on policing and other services.

3.2 We must continue to do more to manage demand on policing and other services, and improve the impact of attending court. Where low level crime takes place, there is an opportunity to respond in a way which ensures that offenders do not reoffend, while also reducing costs. This is a crucial strategy to break the cycle of the ‘revolving door’ of offending

4. Current Position

- 4.1 Police identify suitable individuals for conditional caution and 'hold over' their prosecution, pending compliance with conditions that have been identified as a cause of their offending behaviour. This option is now available across the county and is supported by an initial assessment by Liaison and Diversion services (LADS).
- 4.2 Bespoke options for support include debt management, housing provision and availability, anger management, drugs or alcohol misuse, mental health or other health needs, employment, education and training. Appropriate interventions will be provided by partner organisations who are well linked in to the OOCR referral mechanism. This includes a strong partnership with 'Outside Links' - a community based support service for those released from prison and the wider community. This service is delivered in partnership with Sodexo and is now available in Peterborough, Huntingdon, Fenland and Cambridge.
- 4.3 Compliance is monitored and if conditions are not met, the previously deferred prosecution will continue.
- 4.4 The project will focus on two key outcomes:
 - Reducing reoffending.
 - Reducing demand and costs associated with reoffending.
- 4.5 Current performance, based on 165 cases to date, show a 85% compliance rate, against the conditions set and a 10% re-offending rate for those issued with a Conditional caution. Whilst these performance indicators are good, there is scope to increase compliance further, through the streamlining and setting of realistic conditions.
- 4.6 This work is linked in with the Ministry of Justice and the general direction of travel of the NPCC.

5. Anticipated Benefits

- Savings from court processes and related police time and longer term savings through reduced demand across agencies.
- The root causes of an individual's offending behaviour will be addressed early before they escalate and requiring more costly interventions, while holding over the prospect of prosecution, to ensure compliance.
- Ensuring the delivery of the most appropriate interventions by fewer agencies where previously many organisations may have acted independently, often duplicating services and giving conflicting advice and assistance.
- Increased victim satisfaction.
- Ensuring that the issues causing offending behaviour are tackled by the most appropriate agency.
- The deferred element of prosecution should increase the motivation of the offender to get underlying issues dealt with.

- 5.1 Every offender receiving a Conditional Caution during the pilot phase in Peterborough, has at least one identified underlying issue which has influenced their criminal behaviour.
- 5.2 It is reasonable to assume therefore that the vast majority of those considered eligible for a Simple Caution, are also subject to a number of underlying causes for their criminal behaviour and as such, an opportunity exists to tackle this even more effectively, reduce the 'revolving door effect' and provide effective 'interventions' opposed to just 'outcome' opportunities.
- 5.3 Moving Conditional Cautions to the Constabulary's primary caution method has provided even greater opportunity to tackle the root causes of the crime, leading to greater engagement and in turn, reduce re-offending and demand on our service. Creating therefore a cost effective CJ option.
- 5.4 The Police and Crime Plan 2017-2020 is a key driver of reduced offending and reducing demand on service provision. To implement the proposal that the use of Conditional Caution in the vast majority of cases (where once simple cautions were issued) has demonstrated a real commitment to this strategy.
- 5.5 Full evaluation of the project will occur following the appointment of Cordis Bright to conduct periodic and final evaluation during the remainder of the project, currently scheduled to end in March 2018.
- 5.6 The funding has also supported the development of wider pathways through the Offending Prevention and Management needs assessment.

6. Practical considerations

- 6.1 Every agency involved in the support elements of this work are confident they have sufficient existing resources to cope with the expected uplift in demand.
- 6.2 Business support functions are streamlined through the use of ECINS for tasking to relevant agency and subsequent notification of compliance or breach. Moving beyond the lifecycle of the project, the administration will be undertaken by the collaborated CJU.
- 6.3 The Conditional caution requirements on officers have been streamlined and unnecessary upfront bureaucracy, has been identified and eliminated.
- 6.4 Internal communications have commenced, starting with a series of face-to-face briefings and moving on to both internal and external communication, in partnership with the OPCC.
- 6.5 Risks are currently captured on the ISD risk register, which feeds in to the wider Investigations SMT risk register. Clearly a failure to embed the increased use of Conditional Cautions, will impact on the effectiveness of both the project and anticipated demand reduction. To mitigate this risk, external evaluation has been agreed and Cordis Bright have commenced work to evaluate the project across its life cycle and report any perverse outcomes or areas to improve upon on a monthly basis.

6.6 Conditional Cautions compliance will be a significant factor for the success of the project as well as minimising the impact on the front line resources. Current compliance levels are @85% and therefore, even with the anticipated increase in cases, requirements to complete a file will be @15 per month. There is a process in place to support officers, through the tracking of compliance and obtaining any required breach statement, from the relevant agency, through the Offender hub.

7. Recommendation

7.1 The Board is recommended to note the progress of the project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	
Contact Officer	Detective Chief Inspector Dominic Human, Cambridgeshire Constabulary