



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 09 November 2017

The Constabulary's Response to Harassment and Stalking

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Business Coordination Board ("the Board") on the Constabulary's response to harassment and stalking, following a national joint thematic inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPIS). The paper aims to provide reassurance on the force approach to stalking and harassment, and the governance arrangements in place.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report.

3. Background

3.1 The thematic inspection "Living in fear - the police and CPS response to harassment and stalking" was published on 5 July 2017. This inspection was nationally focused, and looked at key themes including understanding and recognising stalking, crime recording, context and escalation, risk assessment, risk management, Police Information Notices, Stalking Protection Orders, victim care, investigations and prosecutions, and guidance requirements.

3.2 The report made recommendations to the Home Office, chief constables, CPS area leads, the College of Policing, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Police Chiefs' Council.

3.3 Due to a delay in the publication of the College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice, forces have instead been required to put interim measures in place that comply with the HMIC recommendations for chief constables.

4. Harassment and stalking in Cambridgeshire

- 4.1 There were 2,342 stalking and harassment offences recorded in Cambridgeshire in the 12 months ending September 2017.
- 4.2 The most recent ONS publication included stalking and harassment offences for the first time, as a category within Violence against the Person. In these national figures (12 months to end of June 2017), the force saw a 73.2% increase in stalking and harassment (1,190 offences in the 12 months to June 2016 vs. 2,061 in the 12 months to June 2017). This is a rate of 9.6 crimes per 1,000 population, which is above the national, regional and MSG average, and the 8th highest rate nationally (behind West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Kent, Hampshire, Humberside, Northants and Cleveland).
- 4.3 Cambridgeshire has seen a substantial improvement in crime recording over the last 12 months, and has had a particular focus on ensuring that harassment is properly recorded. This is likely to have affected the national rate in Cambridgeshire compared to other forces with lower crime recording standards.

5. HMIC recommendations

- 5.1 HMIC made the following recommendations for chief constables:

Chief constables should stop the use of Police Information Notices and their equivalents immediately, to ensure that all victims of harassment and stalking are protected and crimes are investigated properly.

Chief constables should make sure stalking investigations are improved by ensuring that:

- Officers are aware of the powers of entry and search for stalking, and use them appropriately; and
- Adequate records of these searches are compiled for audit and compliance purposes.

Chief constables should work with criminal justice partners to identify what programmes are available to manage offenders convicted of harassment and stalking offences in their respective force areas. In the absence of such programmes, they should review whether interventions could and should be established.

Chief constables and CPS area leads should monitor and ensure compliance with the national stalking protocol.

6. Constabulary response

- 6.1 The force response to harassment and stalking is included in the force manual of standards for domestic abuse.
- 6.2 There is a specific section in domestic abuse risk assessment forms (DASH forms) on stalking. If the risk assessment was medium or high, a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referral would be made, resulting in safeguarding activity by police and partners.

- 6.3 The force does not routinely use Police Information Notices (and has not done so since September 2016). Should this be deemed appropriate, authority from a superintendent would be required.
- 6.4 The force strategic lead for harassment and stalking is D/Supt Martin Brunning. The force tactical lead is DI Iain Moor.
- 6.5 Following the publication of the HMIC report, a gap analysis has been commissioned, which will include the production of a problem profile on harassment and stalking.
- 6.6 An action plan will be prepared with clear links to the national vulnerability action plan. This will include:
 - a) Crime recording and investigation journey
 - b) Victim engagement and support
 - c) Perpetrator management
 - d) External partnerships
 - e) Education/training
 - f) Finance.
- 6.7 The action plan will be monitored through the Public Protection Performance meeting in force, and by the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Delivery Group.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/living-in-fear-the-police-and-cps-response-to-harassment-and-stalking.pdf
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