



Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 03 September 2020

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY COVID UPDATE**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the "Board") on Cambridgeshire Constabulary's (the "Constabulary") response to the Covid19 pandemic both as a stand-alone organisation and as active partner in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF). It is the fourth such paper, following the previous submission to the Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.
- 1.2 The paper provides the latest information concerning questions posed directly by the Board in relation to the pandemic:
  - The continuing Constabulary response to the demands placed by the Covid19 pandemic and planning for recovery
  - On-going Countywide partnership arrangements
  - Responding to changes in enforcement powers
  - Operational capability, service provision to the public
  - Strategic risks emerging and support required
- 1.3 In accordance with established civil contingency doctrine and the broad impact of the pandemic, the Constabulary's approach remains to sustain focus on "Response" and "Recovery" concurrently at this time. The Strategic Co-ordination Group continues to

monitor partnership arrangements to determine when a move fully to “Recovery” may be appropriate.

- 1.4 Superintendent Robin Sissons maintains the “Silver” Tactical lead for the “Response” phase; T/Superintendent Steve Kerridge for “Recovery”.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 This paper is submitted for the Board to note contents.

## **3. Key Updates**

### 3.1 Constabulary response to the demands placed on by the Covid-19 emergency:

3.1.1 General Demand – As anticipated demand for policing services has essentially reached pre-Covid levels now, with most metrics consistent with the same period in 2019. To date there is no evidence of *increased* demand of any note in any area of service that is believed to be as a direct result of the pandemic. After an initial spike in the use of on-line services for incident reporting in the early stages of lockdown, there has been a reduction; however online use is elevated beyond pre-Covid levels. Webchat usage in July 2020 is up 41% compared to the same period in 2019. This suggests increased confidence in this service option, which can be efficient for both service user and the Constabulary.

3.1.2 Domestic Abuse – Levels of domestic abuse remains higher than this time last year, which is akin to the national picture. Whilst the residential environments created as a by-product of necessary lockdown measures may in part have influenced domestic offences, the beginning of rise year *pre-dated* lockdown. This remains an important focal point for both the Constabulary and partnerships.

3.1.3 Protest and Public Health – A small number of protest events have continued, focused on both Black Lives Matter (BLM) and environmental themes. Organisers and participants continue to show awareness for health protection and there is evidence of face-coverings, social distancing and other measures. The Constabulary continues to use Protest Liaison Officers (PLOs) to good effect to engage and facilitate.

The Constabulary is current planning for a four-day national protest action by Extinction Rebellion (XR) between Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. It is anticipated there will be protest activity in Cambridge City on each day. A Public Order and Public Safety structure is set – up with Assistant Chief Constable Evans and Gold and T/Superintendent Kerridge as Silver. This is being planned on a multi-agency footing.

3.1.4 Community Impact – There are no notable community tensions relating to the pandemic or policing of it to report.

### 3.2 Countywide Partnership Arrangements:

3.2.1 CPLRF – The CPLRF continues to operate effectively. A Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) continues to oversee and direct the activity of both Response and Recovery Phases. As detailed above, as to when a move can take place fully to a Recover footing continues to be monitored.

3.2.2 Local Outbreak Management – The recent period has seen the growth to maturity of local outbreak management in Cambridgeshire. The Constabulary now participates in a daily Outbreak Management Team – led by Public Health and Local Authorities-

carefully monitoring and responding to test data and reporting. This governance process leads work to seek to reduce risks of infection and work to suppress elevated rates through localised Incident Management Teams (IMTs). The Constabulary have a limited role to play in routine IMTs, but are an active partner in more complex IMT; including one in Peterborough which successfully operated in recent weeks when the Unitary Authority area was in the top 10 local authorities by level of infection per 1000. A process of “who?” and “how?” is involved in IMTs has been set.

3.2.3 Recovery Co-ordination Group – The Chair of the CPLRF Recovery Co-ordination Group continues to review the structure and operation of the group to ensure fitness for purpose. The Assistant Chief Constable and Covid19 Head of Recovery and Learning are active in this process.

3.3 Responding to Changes in Enforcement Powers:

3.3.1 Use of Public Spaces, Transport, Retail and Hospitality – Compliance with the use of face-coverings has generally been very good, with limited incidents reported requiring any Police intervention.

The opening of shops, licensed premises and restaurants has not caused any particular demand for the Constabulary. Acquisitive crimes – notably those associated with retail – remain suppressed, with the design and protocols required within shops creating a by-product of reducing opportunity to offend. The use of public transport similarly has not seen any issues of note around compliance with health protection requirements.

3.3.2 “The Four Es” – The position of maintaining the four “Es” approach of progressive and measured steps before enforcement – as detailed in previous papers – continues in Cambridgeshire.

3.3.3 Quarantine on Return from Overseas Travel – There has been no notable matters in Cambridgeshire as yet regarding the newly-introduced quarantine restrictions on those returning from certain countries where infection rates have exceeded a set threshold. In the last few days this list has also had France added to it.

3.4 Operational Capability and Capacity:

3.4.1 Resource Levels – The Constabulary remains in a position where staffing levels are good and operational capacity and capability remains strong, albeit experiencing the peak annual leave period currently that occurs each year.

3.4.2 Officer and Staff Self-Isolation – There is currently no notable impact from officers or staff being identified from outbreak management and testing processes requiring them to isolate away from the workplace.

3.4.3 Officer and Staff Quarantine – A small number of staff have been affected by quarantine upon return from travel (as per 3.3.3), but these cases – requiring a period of remaining in home addresses – have not affected Constabulary resourcing to any notable degree.

3.5 Strategic Risks:

3.5.1 At this time there are no strategic risks requiring the immediate support of the Board.

- 3.6 Recovery and Organisational Learning:
- 3.6.1 Risks and Issues – The Constabulary’s Recovery and Learning work continues apace. A recent report to the Risk Review Board identified that issues and risks have been successfully managed from 42 and 82 respectively at commencement of the work to 13 and 35.
- 3.6.2 Opportunities – As per previous papers, the Constabulary is working on four significant change processes through the Change Board, amidst 61 total opportunities for development.
- 3.6.3 Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Constabularies & Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Recovery Engagement – On 29<sup>th</sup> July the Constabulary was the first Force to hold a Recovery and Learning event with HMICFRS, the College of Policing and others. This event was successful and drew acclaim from those participating. The key themes presented and discussed were: Safeguarding the Vulnerable through and beyond Covid19, Officer and Staff Health and Wellbeing during and beyond Covid19 and the future of Agile Working in Cambridgeshire.
- 3.6.4 Agile Working 2.0 – Following the completion of the first phase of a Covid19-led project to assess the costs and benefits of increased agile working, the Constabulary is moving to a second phase of further determining impact and considering a future Target Operating Model (TOM) including increased working away from Constabulary estate. This will be sequenced with the Constabulary’s planning cycle and offers opportunities to influence both financial and estate planning.
- 3.6.5 CPLRF Recovery – The Constabulary retains membership of the CPLRF Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG) and has active members of each of the RCG’s thematic sub-groups.

**4. Next Steps/Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Constabulary will continue to manage “Response” and “Recovery” phases to address the pandemic, with a view to passage more into the latter over time. This echoes the wider CPLRF approach.
- 4.2 This paper is submitted for the Board to note contents

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	<a href="https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2020/05/20-05-26-BCB-Agenda-Item-6.0-Covid-19-Response-Constabulary-Update.pdf">https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2020/05/20-05-26-BCB-Agenda-Item-6.0-Covid-19-Response-Constabulary-Update.pdf</a>
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Further information can be provided on the Constabulary’s behalf by: T/Supt Steve Kerridge – Op Covid19 – Head of Recovery and Learning