



Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 13 April 2021

## **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (the “Constabulary”) annual performance against the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Acting Commissioner’s”) Police and Crime Plan pillars.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The board are asked to note the contents of this report as the end of year review of performance.

### **3. Background**

3.1 This document sets out the progress of the Constabulary against the Corporate Plan 2020/21. In the main, this report is focused on the Operational Priorities of the plan, which align with the Police and Crime Plan pillars: Victims, Offenders and Communities.

3.2 The following table maps the Police and Crime Plan Pillars to the respective Constabulary Corporate Plan Operational Priorities; and subsequent areas for focus.

PCP Pillar	Victims	Offenders	Communities
Corporate Plan Priority	We will safeguard the vulnerable	We will combat acquisitive crime & We will improve public satisfaction	We will reduce harm to communities & We will tackle serious and organised crime
Focus for the Force	Domestic Abuse	Burglary	Youth gangs
	Child Sexual Abuse / Exploitation	Vehicle Crime	Knife crime
	Serious Sexual Offences		Hate crime
	Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking	Public confidence	Drugs
	Fraud	Call handling	
		Initial response	
	Communication with victims		

- 3.3 Performance here is reviewed by measuring direction of travel in the 12 months to March 2021, the 2020/21 financial year, compared to the 2019/20 financial year.
- 3.4 The financial year 2020/21 was unprecedented in recent times. National Lockdown restrictions to help combat the spread of Covid-19 had varied effects across policing in Cambridgeshire. In most cases this was a suppression of demand, while in others demand increased. Typically, with people leaving home far less frequently than normal, call demand, incident volume and recorded crime levels were all lower. Specifically, crimes that often rely on residents being absent, such as dwelling burglary, saw substantial reductions. However, with people more often at home with their immediate family, crimes that typically occur in that setting, such as Domestic Abuse, continued to increase. There is also a likelihood of hidden demand in some Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) areas, such as Child Sexual Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSA/CSE), with children having been out of school settings those methods of reporting have not been available to them. As children return to school it is likely the Constabulary will see demand increase as previously unreported offences from lockdown periods are reported. As a result of this uncertainty, there are hazards associated with making long-term planning decisions based on data from 2020/21.
- 3.5 An additional consequence of the national lockdown and its impact on demand is that it is hard to distinguish to what extent the Constabulary has driven improvements in performance; and to what extent improvements are a simple consequence of national

restrictions. Given that performance improvements in some key areas predates the pandemic, some level of assurance can be given.

3.6 While the policing response to the pandemic has brought challenges and risks, it has also brought opportunities for learning and transformation that the Constabulary has seized (for instance the implementation of Command Cells). Performance against the Operational Priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan 2020/21 has been good; with improvements noted across an almost full range of measures. The following report provides associated commentary against these measures.

3.7 Over the course of 2020/21, the Constabulary has invested in the development of local crime management practices. This includes the development of the Supervisors E-book and enhanced management information to support local supervisors. The result has been significant improvements in a range of investigation management measures, including compliance with Crime Allocation, Victim Care Contracts, Supervisory reviews and the management of suspects. Against the backdrop of a challenging operating environment due to the pandemic (including changes to working practices for example working from home arrangements) this is an important success.

**4. VICTIMS Pillar – We will Safeguard the Vulnerable**

<b>SAFEGUARDING THE VULNERABLE</b>	Rolling 12 months	Baseline	Perf v Benchmark
All Recorded Crime	59,883	67,882	Lower
<b>DOMESTIC ABUSE</b>			
Recorded Crime	12,196	10,660	Higher
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	11.5%	10.3%	Improved
<b>CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION</b>			
Recorded Crime (CSA)	843	778	Higher
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (CSA)	19.9%	11.6%	Improved
<b>SERIOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>			
Recorded Crime (All SSOs)	1,589	1,620	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (All SSOs)	8.4%	6.4%	Improved
Recorded Crime (Rape)	819	777	Higher
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (Rape)	7.0%	3.5%	Improved
<b>MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b>			
Recorded Crime	91	68	Higher
<b>ASSAULTS ON EMERGENCY WORKERS</b>			
Recorded Crime			
<b>FRAUD</b>			
Non Crime Investigations	715	962	-

4.1 The impact of the pandemic has had an impact on various aspects of policing since March. In some areas demand has been suppressed, whereas some areas have increased. This picture has changed, as the restrictions placed on the public have changed. It is clear that dealing with the changing demands on frontline officers has become more complex (not least as a result of changing interactions with the public,

and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) measures put in place to safeguard officers and the public).

- 4.2 Total recorded crime over 2020/21 was 11.8% lower than the 2019/20 total. The biggest monthly decreases relative to 2019/20 were seen in April 20, January 21 and February 21, which each saw over 25% lower recorded crime than the same month a year earlier. These coincide with the periods of UK Covid-19 lockdown, with April being the first full month of the first lockdown period, and January and February falling within the third. A reduction was also seen during the second lockdown in November, though at 9.8% lower than November 2019 it was not as dramatic a difference as those seen in the first or third lockdowns. There was some variation at the Area level, but broadly the trends in overall crime demand were similar on North and South Area.

### 4.3 Domestic Abuse

- 4.3.1 Ahead of the pandemic, levels of Domestic Abuse (DA) were steadily increasing over the longer term. This increasing trend continued over the Covid-19 affected months of 2020. This increase is at least in part due to improvements in recording practices, and also an improvement in the willingness of victims to come forward. The first month to see over 1000 recorded DA offences was December 2019, which represents a doubling of volume over about 3 years, with months in 2016 having frequently seen below 500 offences. Recorded DA continued to increase through 2020 and into 2021, with 6 months in the 2020/21 financial year seeing more than 1000 offences. Over 2020/21, recorded Domestic Abuse crimes rose by 14.4% relative to the 2019/20 financial year. Every month in 2020/21 saw more (or the same, in November) recorded DA offences than the same month in 2019/20.
- 4.3.2 Despite increases in recording, the Constabulary has improved the 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate for Domestic Abuse. At the end of March 2021, the 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate stands at 11.5% and improvement of 1.2ppts compared to the baseline rate (10.3%).
- 4.3.3 A recent success for Domestic Abuse performance has been the result of sustained efforts to improve response times to prompt graded Domestic Incidents. The median response time to prompt graded Domestic Incidents had typically been 2-3 hours or more, but sustained improvements have been seen in the last months of 2020/21:

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019/20	261	311	249	285	241	174
2020/21	187	192	123	77	73	85

Table 1: Median Prompt Response Times to Domestic Incidents

- 4.3.4 This has been the result of a bespoke plan to improve this area of performance, which had two key strands. The first was engagement with staff via Vulnerability Focus Desks and new DA feedback and suggestions email box to understand officers' concerns, experiences and thoughts. The second was the Demand Hub Superintendent's focus on call allocation and prioritisation of DA calls.

- 4.3.5 The Constabulary's performance framework incorporates a qualitative element to allow scrutiny of the plans that underpin each priority area. The Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Performance paper of March 2021 updated on progress towards meeting the Domestic Abuse, serious sexual offences (SSO) and CSA/Child Exploitation plan objectives. From that, previous documents and detail from the Force lead, recent positive developments in relation to Domestic Abuse include:
- 4.3.6 'Ask for Ani' scheme now allows for DA reporting in pharmacies via that codeword to subtly alert staff that the person is asking for help.
- 4.3.7 Facebook surgeries, an interactive Q&A service regarding Domestic Abuse launched with a successful pilot and surgeries will continue monthly and will be supported by partner agencies.
- 4.3.8 A Facebook Q&A on Clare's Law on 25<sup>th</sup> September was promoted via traditional and social media and gained coverage in the Peterborough Telegraph, Ely Standard, Hunts Post and Peterborough Matters. Three social media posts reached 43,000 people and prompted 88 people to access the DA advice pages.
- 4.3.9 Recent examples of good work such as: the case of R v MCCULLOCH a Domestic Violence case in which the defendant pleaded guilty to rape at the first hearing due to the comprehensive case and overwhelming evidence, with the prosecutor flagging the Office in Case's (OIC's) excellent work on the case.

#### **4.4 Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

- 4.4.1 As with Domestic abuse, recorded Child Sexual Abuse had been increasing ahead of the pandemic. As with DA, increases are at least in part due to improvements in recording practices and a willingness of victims to come forward. Over 2021/20, recorded Child Sexual Abuse crimes remained relatively stable: 843 were recorded 2020/21, compared to 778 in 2019/20, representing an 8.4% increase.
- 4.4.2 Child Sexual Exploitation offences rose over 2020/21, an increase of 15.1% from 292 in 2019/20 to 336 in the 2020/21.
- 4.4.3 Alongside some increases in recording, the 12 month prosecution possible outcome rate for Child Sexual Abuse crimes improved over 2020/21. The rate for 2019/20 had been 11.6%, but this increased to 19.9% by the end of March 2021.
- 4.4.4 The Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Performance Paper of March 2021 updated on progress towards meeting the Domestic Abuse, SSO and CSA/Child Exploitation plan objectives. In relation to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, key successes include:
- 4.4.5 Proactive work to raise the profile of child abuse with partner agencies by working closely with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The teams also provide support to serious case reviews and share learning with relevant areas within force and the relevant partner agencies.
- 4.4.6 Various partnership forums are in operation, including: Encompass, Makesafe, MACE<sup>1</sup>, Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board, National Children's Safeguarding Reform Conference, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multi-Agency Public

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<sup>1</sup> MACE: Missing and Child Exploitation multiagency meetings to discuss cases of those at risk and devise plans to help and protect them.

Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Missing people governance board and sub groups. It will take time to evaluate qualitatively how these partnerships are performing and where improvement is needed but assessment to date is very positive.

- 4.4.7 There has been some evidence of the impact of national lockdown restrictions suppressing demand over 2020/21. As children's attendance at school returns increasingly towards normal levels, and opportunities for in-school reporting are increasingly made available again, it is anticipated that there will be increases in reporting in relation to offences over lockdown periods. Work is ongoing across the safeguarding partnership to support the most vulnerable families during periods of lockdown to maximise opportunities to identify signs of potential abuse and ensure children feel safe to disclose. Resilience planning around the anticipated demand increase has taken place with all partners.

#### **4.5 Serious Sexual Offences (SSO)**

- 4.5.1 The number of recorded SSO offences was stable over 2020/21, with 1589 offences compared to 1620 in 2019/20.
- 4.5.2 The overall stability masks variation across the Covid-19 months, with the months of UK lockdowns (particularly the first and third lockdowns) seeing substantially lower offence numbers than the equivalent month of 2019/20. The overall stability was caused by the summer months of 2020 seeing higher levels of SSO offences than the same months in 2019.
- 4.5.3 The SSO prosecution possible outcome rate improved from the baseline of 6.4% to 8.4% over the year. This is an important success and has been the result of sustained focus.
- 4.5.4 Within the SSO category, recorded rape offences increased by 5.4% in 2020/21 relative to 2019/20. As with overall SSO, offence numbers in 2020/21 declined (relative to 2019/20) over lockdown months but were higher from June to October.
- 4.5.5 The prosecution possible outcome rate for rape offences significantly improved compared to the baseline and rose steadily from November onwards. For the 12 months to March 2021 it stands at 7.0% compared to 3.5% for 2019/20.
- 4.5.6 The Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Performance paper of October 2020 updated on progress towards meeting the Domestic Abuse, SSO and CSA/Child Exploitation plan objectives. In relation to SSOs, key successes include:
- 4.5.7 The reintroduction of the STO (Specially Trained Officer) role has added significant value to the investigation process. STO's manage all victim contact within the RIT (Rape Investigation Team) leading to improved Victim Care Contract (VCC) compliance and fewer victims disengaging. The improvement in VCC compliance has been noted in performance reviews: in late 2019/early 2020 the rate of overdue VCC contacts on Rape investigations was typically around 30% but it has improved over 2020/21 to 4.7% by the end of March 2021.
- 4.5.8 Partnership work such as the Regional Strategic Police/Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Delivery Group which is chaired by the Head of PVP, identifies learning in cases which do not meet the charging threshold.

- 4.5.9 Scrutiny Panels between RIT, Child Abuse Investigation & Safeguarding Unit (CAISU) and relevant partners, including the ISVA<sup>2</sup> service and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). They seek to establish reasons for disengagement or case discontinuance and identify learning for the future.
- 4.5.10 Completion of visit quotas of RSOs (Registered Sex Offenders) remains high, particularly for the highest risk category suspects: visit completion has been over 100% for very high risk offenders for every month of the last 12 with the exception of August (when it was 89%). Maintaining these proportions of completed visits presents a demand challenge as while monthly numbers of RSO's have fluctuated, the overall trend in recent years has been for gradual increase in their numbers. In March 2020 there were 904 RSO's, by March 2021 the figure was 924.

**4.6 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

- 4.6.1 Recorded modern slavery offences remain relatively low, but have risen by 33.8% over 2020/21 compared to the 2019/20 financial year. The 12 months to March 2021 saw 91 recorded offences, from 68 in the previous 12.

**4.7 Fraud**

- 4.7.1 Fraud referral numbers fell over the most recent year: 658 fraud referrals were received by the Constabulary in the 12 months to March 2021, a 31.6% reduction from the 2019/20 volume (962).

**5. OFFENDERS Pillar – We will Combat Acquisitive Crime**

COMBATING ACQUISITIVE CRIME	Rolling 12 months	Baseline	Perf v Benchmark
All Crime Outcome Rate	13.0%	10.8%	Improved
<b>BURGLARY DWELLING</b>			
Recorded Crime	1,242	2,058	Lower
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	14.3%	11.3%	Improved
Victim satisfaction (whole experience)	90.4%	86.0%	Improved
<b>THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE</b>			
Recorded Crime	893	1,145	Lower
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	6.7%	7.2%	Comparable

- 5.1 The Constabulary improved the all crime prosecution possible outcome rate by 2.2ppts compared to the 2019/20 baseline. This is similar to increases seen nationally. The rate for the 43 Forces over 2019/20 had been 12.3%, but this increased over 2020/21: for the 12 months to January 2021 it had risen 1.9ppt to 14.2%.

**5.2 Burglary Dwelling**

- 5.2.1 Ahead of the pandemic, levels of dwelling burglary had been falling as a result of sustained focus. This reduction has continued throughout the Covid-19 period as householders have typically been resident in their homes. While the impact of the pandemic is clear, so too is the impact of the dedicated acquisitive crime teams.

<sup>2</sup> Independent Sexual Violence Advisor

Recorded dwelling burglary offences fell by 39.7% in 2020/21 relative to 2019/20. Every month in 2020/21 saw fewer dwelling burglary offences than the same month in 2019/20. The biggest reductions were seen in April 2020 (-58%), January (-65.8%) and February 2021 (-66.2%), the months of the first and third Covid-19 lockdowns. Dwelling burglary has been particularly impacted by Covid-19 lockdown and other restrictions that tend to keep people at home more consistently than pre-Covid.

- 5.2.2 The 12-month positive outcome rate for Dwelling Burglary rose over 2020/21 particularly from December onwards and finished the financial year at 14.3%, 3ppt higher than the 2019/20 year-end level (11.3%).
- 5.2.3 Overall victim satisfaction rates have improved from 86.0% (at least fairly satisfied, n=544) for 2019/20 to 90.4% (n=509) for 2020/21. Satisfaction with ease of contact also improved, from 93.7% (n=397) to 97.9% (n=374). Satisfaction with police actions also increased, from 87.8% (n=543) to 91.9% (n=509) as did follow-up satisfaction, from 79.3% (n=541) to 82.1% (n=509). Satisfaction with treatment was the only aspect of satisfaction that did not improve for dwelling burglary victims over 2020/21, having declined over the year from 96.9% (n=543) to 94.7% (n=509).

### **5.3 Theft of Motor Vehicle**

- 5.3.1 Recorded theft of motor vehicle offences decreased over 2020/21 by 22.0% relative to 2019/20, with a total of 893 offences compared to 1145. Over the period, the 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate for theft of motor vehicle fell marginally to 6.7% (compared to 7.2% baseline).
- 5.3.2 The Force Performance Board – Combating Acquisitive Crime performance paper of February 2021 updated on progress towards meeting the objectives for this priority. Key successes include:
  - 5.3.3 Following the successful bid for funding, work on Safer Streets is being progressed with some good work completed already, despite the challenges of Covid-19. Information Standards Department (ISD) are in discussion with religious establishments, community groups and food banks to have stocks of the crime prevention packs passed to them to help distribute. At the time of writing 300 of the 900 bronze packs had been provided with ISD confident that distributing the remainder is achievable before the end of lockdown. Gold work products (doors and windows) are on order and refurbishment of an old shed block has now been costed – consultation with around 350 members of the community is leading to improved communication and new Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) schemes and resident involvement. To date 74 Gold properties have been identified. Engagement with partner agencies and local councillors remains positive.
  - 5.3.4 Operation CAMACHO was set up to tackle all keyless vehicle thefts across Cambridgeshire. This has largely been resourced by Northern officers as they have two dedicated vehicle crime officers that work within the Acquisitive Crime Team (ACT). This has been a positive step and has seen a number of positive results including Operation BETHESDA – is a keyless vehicle theft conspiracy investigation that spans across 10 counties where vehicles were being brought to a ‘chop shop’ in Peterborough. In January two suspects were sentenced for conspiracy to steal 26 motor vehicles across the UK to the value of over £1 million. South Area has recently



followed the North Area approach and dedicated two Officers to replicate the North Area approach.

- 5.3.5 In regards to pursuing prolific offenders engaged in acquisitive crime, there have been numerous custodial sentences issued for acquisitive crime offenders in 2020/21 following prosecutions typically by the Area Acquisitive Crime Teams. Some of the most significant sentences included: 8+ years for an offender in relation to aggravated burglary, false imprisonment and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH); 5+ years for a distraction burglary offender and two suspects each sentenced to more than 4 years for conspiracy to steal motor vehicles.

## 6. Offenders Pillar – We will Increase Public Satisfaction

Current month tested at 95% confidence level			
<b>INCREASE PUBLIC SATISFACTION</b>	Rolling 12 months	Baseline	Perf v Benchmark
999 calls answered within 10 seconds	94.5%	92.6%	Comparable
Non-emergency calls answered within 30 seconds	87.1%	83.3%	Comparable
Public Confidence (dealing with local concerns)	64.7%	56.4%	Improved
Victim satisfaction (whole experience)	81.7%	77.2%	Improved

- 6.1 The impact of Covid-19 has been felt in many areas of policing in Cambridgeshire. Emergency 999 call volumes have been suppressed by the first UK Covid-19 lockdown, and to date have not returned to pre-Covid levels. Average daily call volumes did peak in August/September 2020 to almost the same level as seen in the same months of 2020 previous August, but for the rest of 2020/21, average daily 999 volumes were substantially for below those of the previous year. Reductions in 101 non-emergency calls were also seen, with 2020/21 seeing 18.6% fewer 101 calls than the 2019/20 financial year.
- 6.2 By the end of 2020/21 there were signs that Average call volumes, 101 and 999, had both begun to return towards more typical levels – though they still remained below those of the same month in 2019/20 or 2018/19. With lower call volumes to manage, grade of service scores for 999 and 101 calls improved over 2020/21 compared to 2019/20.
- 6.3 Analysis tasked through the Force Performance Board has helped inform our understanding of how many callers are diverted to other means of contact (for instance web chat or online reporting tools). It showed some evidence of callers abandoning secondary calls and potentially not contacting the Constabulary again, though all would have been triaged and risk assessed at their first point of contact. There was also evidence that some demand is diverted to online reporting tools and Web Chat, typically at the start of a caller’s journey. This is an area of ongoing work.
- 6.4 A survey for Demand Hub Contact Centre staff is being piloted on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April, with a trial running in the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April. It will help gather data from Contact Centre staff on their interaction with each caller to help better understand the profile of our callers and the nature of their journey through the contact handling process: i.e.

the purpose of their call, if the call was their first or a repeated attempt to report their matter and the outcome of each call.

- 6.5 Public Confidence scores improved over 2020.21, 64.7% (n = 3,791) of people surveyed in the 12 months ending March 2021 agreed that the Constabulary was dealing with the things that matter to people in their local community. This is significantly higher than the year end benchmark (the 2019/20 figure; 56.5%, n=1557), with all six districts recording a year on year improvement, albeit to varying degrees. There was also a year on year improvement in the proportion of respondents satisfied with policing activity in their local area. Confidence measures are likely to be an important part of the forthcoming national performance framework; and remain both a useful indicator of legitimacy, and a tactical tool for local teams.
- 6.6 Victim satisfaction has also improved over the last 12 months, with overall victim satisfaction rates for their whole experience<sup>3</sup> improving from 77.2% (n=1257) for 2019/20 to 81.7% (n=1320) for the 12 months to March 2021. Improvements were seen in whole experience satisfaction for Burglary victims (from 86% to 90.4%, n=509) and Violence victims (68.8% to 77.2%, n=613). Whole experience satisfaction rates for hate crime victims declined over 2020/21, from 81.6% (n=98) at March 2020 to 73.2% (n=198) by March 2021.

## 7. COMMUNITIES Pillar – Reduce Harm to Communities

<b>REDUCE HARM TO COMMUNITIES</b>	Rolling 12 months	Baseline	Perf v Benchmark
<b>HATE CRIME</b>			
Recorded Crime	1,368	1,330	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	15.9%	13.7%	Improved
Victim satisfaction (whole experience)	73.2%	81.6%	Deteriorated
<b>KNIFE CRIME</b>			
Recorded Crime (sharp instrument marker)	1,372	1,577	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (sharp instrument marker)	24.4%	22.9%	Comparable
Recorded Crime (Possession of Weapons)	563	670	Comparable
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate (Possession of Weapons)	47.8%	40.9%	Improved
<b>DRUGS OFFENCES</b>			
Recorded Crime	2,160	1,649	Higher
Prosecution Possible Outcome Rate	66.3%	60.6%	Comparable
<b>YOUTH GANGS</b>			
tba			

<sup>3</sup> those victims of crime who report being at least fairly satisfied with their experience of Cambridgeshire Constabulary

## **7.1 Hate Crime**

- 7.1.1 Recorded hate crime offences increased by 38 offences over 2020/21 (n=1368) compared to 2019/20 (n=1330), but remain comparable to 2019/20 levels. The 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate for hate crime improved over 2020, finishing 2020/21 at 15.9%; 2.2ppt higher than the 13.7% baseline.
- 7.1.2 Lower numbers of survey respondents makes the interpretation of Hate crime victim satisfaction levels difficult. Satisfaction levels for hate crime victims fell over 2020/21 from 81.6% (n=98) to 73.2% (n=198).
- 7.1.3 The Action Against Hate (AAH) Coordinator role has been pivotal to improvements made in our response to Hate Crime. They review all hate crimes and check Victims Code Compliance and that relevant referrals have been made. They work with others in the community to deliver projects to understand and tackle hate crimes and work with organisations that help improve reporting from various communities. The AAH Coordinator and Champions also work to develop additional reporting mechanisms to ensure that all individuals are able to safely report hate crimes – particularly disabled, sex workers; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) individuals and others from under-reporting groups. They also worked in partnership with the Out of Court Disposal Team to develop a programme of suitable out of court options for hate crime suspects; particularly suitable for hate crimes with victims not willing or able to attend court.

## **7.2 Knife Crime**

- 7.2.1 2020/21 saw a 13% reduction in recorded crimes with the sharp instrument marker relative to 2019/20. The 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate for crimes with the sharp instrument marker improved to 24.4% from the baseline of 22.9%.
- 7.2.2 Over the same period, recorded possession of weapons offences also decreased by 16%, though the total remains statistically comparable. The 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate improved to 47.8% compared to the baseline (40.9%).
- 7.2.3 The Force Priority Knife Crime Performance Report of March 2021, updated on progress towards meeting the knife crime plan objectives. Together with comments direct from the Strategic Lead, positive developments towards meeting Knife Crime objectives include:
- 7.2.4 Training packages to help officers recognise and support potential victims have been designed and implemented. Also training presentations for teachers have been rolled out to schools; these encourage reporting issues to trusted adults and online.
- 7.2.5 There are local and Force level monitoring mechanisms in place to discuss Organised Crime Group (OCG) tensions and knife crime related violence on a weekly/monthly basis. This is supported by analytical work where required. These meetings include the weekly force Community Impact Assessment (CIA) and the Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (TTCG) meets are a monitoring mechanism to early-identify and deal positively with any signs of emerging knife crime activity. Analytical scoping to identify repeat problem locations has been commissioned, to support the work of the Partnership and Op Support anti-social behaviour (ASB)/Problem Solving tactical advisors and the application of Objective, Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment (OSARA) problem solving models.

### **7.3 Drugs Offences**

- 7.3.1 Recorded drugs offences for 2020/21 were 31.0% higher than the total for the 2019/20 financial year. Both trafficking and simple possession offences saw similarly substantial increases between the same periods, trafficking up by 29.1% and simple possession by 31.1%. Recorded numbers of drugs offences are influenced by policing activity more than most other offence types and with reduced demand in many of the Covid-19 months there may have been more availability for operations and other policing activity targeting drugs possession/supply. May 2020 saw the highest number of possession offences (156) since December 2014 and March 2020 saw the highest number of trafficking offences (79) since June 2011. Nationally<sup>4</sup>, increases in drugs offences were also seen over 2020/21, with the 12 months to Jan 21 seeing an 11.1% increase on the 2019/20 total. Most Forces recorded increases in drugs offences between the two periods and while Cambridgeshire's was not the highest, it was higher than most.
- 7.3.2 The rolling 12-month prosecution possible outcome rate for all drugs offences has increased over 2020/21. From 60.6% at the end of March 2020 it rose to 66.3% by the end of March 2021. The rate for simple possession offences also increased over 2020/21, from a starting point of 70.3% at March 2020 it rose to 75.0% by March 2021. The 12-month rate for trafficking offences was stable throughout most of 2021, but rose above the baseline in early 2021, to finish the financial year at 50.7% (having started 2020/21 at 43.1%). National data shows a similar rise was seen in outcomes for drugs offences nationally, from 75.4% for the 2019/20 financial year, up to 81.0% for the 12 months to January 2021.
- 7.3.3 A number of harm reduction strategies are pursued by Cambridgeshire Police with partner agencies, as detailed within the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Board Action Plan. An ongoing example of this partnership harm-reduction approach is the Naloxone project. This seeks to train front line officers and issue them with the medicine Nyxoid (active ingredient Naloxone) for administration to persons suspected of suffering an opiate overdose. The project is developing training packages for frontline Officers.
- 7.3.4 Following the implementation of the Out of Court Disposal (OCD) team in December 2019, officers are now far more likely to seek to use OCD for simple possession. This will see a referral to a drugs agency to provide education as to the potential negative consequences (primarily health) of drug misuse.

### **7.4 Youth Gangs**

- 7.4.1 While headline outcome measures of performance aren't identified, a number of management information indicators are monitored. Over 2020/21 there have been increases in the use of two of these powers, while two others (particularly injunctions) saw reductions:

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<sup>4</sup> iQuanta data

	2019/20	2020/21	% Change
Inspector Dispersal Authorities	12	24	100.0%
Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)	20	16	-20.0%
Community Protection Warning/Notices (CPW/N)	47	90	91.5%
Injunctions	8	3	-62.5%

Table 2: Youth Gang KPI

7.4.2 A number of initiatives have contributed to operational activity in this Area. These include: refresher training to Neighbourhood officers around the ASB legislation available (including Gang injunctions), partnership engagement including joint Problem-Solving Groups and a range of initiatives to ensure that safeguarding opportunities are taken.

## 8. Recommendation

8.1 The board are asked to note the contents of this report as the end of year review of performance.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	<b>Police and Crime Plan</b> <a href="https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/">https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/</a>
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Neil Stacey, Strategic Analysis Manager, Organisational Improvement Centre, Cambridgeshire Constabulary