



Cambridgeshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 11 August 2016

## **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN DEVELOPMENT: OFFENDERS**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board ("the Board") on the development of the offender section of the new Police and Crime Plan.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the update and consider key issues for inclusion in the Police and Crime Plan.

### **3. Background**

3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner is required to issue a Police and Crime Plan as soon as practicable after taking office - specifically before the end of the financial year which they are elected (March 31, 2017).

3.2 The plan being developed will focus on four strategic themes:

1. Victims
2. Offenders
3. Communities
4. Transformation

3.3 Each theme has its own aim and suggests a framework through a series of shared outcomes to enable all agencies with a part to play in community safety and criminal justice to strategically direct the future delivery of services through these common goals.

3.4 This paper focusses on the strategic theme of Offenders.

#### **4. Context**

- 4.1 Tackling criminality is clearly a core policing role, but one which needs to take place in partnership with a range of stakeholders. Key statutory duties of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) are to provide the local link between police and communities and to hold the police to account for performance. In doing so the Commissioner must respect the operational independence of policing. More broadly, the Commissioner must work with criminal justice bodies to ensure an efficient and effective system.
- 4.2 Nationally, crime has fallen rapidly over the last twenty years. As it has fallen, crime has changed. There have been reductions in traditional high volume crimes like burglary and vehicle crime. While previously ‘hidden’ crimes like child sexual abuse, rape and domestic violence have become more visible and there is growing evidence of the scale of online fraud and cyber crime.
- 4.3 Despite recent rises in levels of recorded crime, believed to be driven by improved recording practices, the overall crime rate for Cambridgeshire remains much lower than previously. Cambridgeshire remains one of the safest counties in the country. But we cannot be complacent.
- 4.4 Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (“HMIC”) 2015 Assessment found Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) to be “good” at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe, but It found it “requires improvement” in terms of investigating crime and managing offenders. An action plan is in place to respond to this. It is an imperative that the Commissioner and Chief Constable work together to ensure the Police and Crime Plan responds to the threats, risks and harms facing the people of Cambridgeshire.
- 4.5 Each month the Constabulary receives some 25,000 to 30,000 calls for service. In the year to end June 2016 there were 49,738 reports of crime, including 2,296 reports of dwelling burglary, 5,162 reports of domestic abuse and 1,096 reports of serious sexual offences. There were nearly 10,000 offenders identified in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in October 2012 to September 2013. The total extent of offending is difficult to gauge. Estimates of offending based on the national 2003 Crime and Justice Survey applied locally suggest more than 50,000 people living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough aged between 10 and 65 years could have committed some sort of offence in the last 12 months. Nationally, 84 per cent of what the police do is not crime related. This ‘other’ demand includes mental health, concern for welfare, missing people and non-injury road traffic collisions.
- 4.6 Police resources to tackle crime in Cambridgeshire are available at a national, regional and local level. The Strategic Policing Requirement describes the national responsibilities police forces have and the expectations on how Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners will meet these national needs. National resources include the National Crime Agency, Counter Terrorism resources, the National Police Air Service and Mutual Aid arrangements, as well as other agencies which support law enforcement such as the Gangmasters Authority. Many relevant Government strategies and legislation across a wide range of themes are also being considered in the writing of the plan.

4.7 At a regional level, the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit tackle organised crime. There is extensive collaboration between the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance in areas including roads policing, armed policing, major crime, custody and human resources. Local policing has also been maintained, with new technology being rolled out to increase visibility. Local officers are also supported by specialist central services such as crime investigation resources, covert and undercover operations, the Central Intelligence Bureau and the Public Protection Department, which works in partnership with other agencies to respond to issues such as domestic abuse or child protection issues.

4.8 The Constabulary's Strategic Assessment considers current and future demands on the Constabulary to inform prioritisation and resourcing decisions, using a risk-based approach. The 2016 Strategic Assessment identified the following strategic priorities:

Six High Priority Areas

- Emergency Response
- Dwelling Burglary
- Child Abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Domestic Abuse
- Serious Sexual Offences
- Counter Terrorism

Cross Cutting Themes

- Foreign National Offenders
- Cybercrime
- Organised Crime Groups
- Mental Health

Intelligence Requirement (emerging threats)

- Modern Slavery.

4.9 Many of these priorities relate to vulnerability and are shared with partners. There is a joined up approach to dealing with the most vulnerable through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. At the more local level, the Community Safety Partnerships based in each District and Peterborough Unitary Authority set priorities to work in partnership to tackle local crime issues. Many local agencies are involved in managing offenders.

## **5. Current work**

5.1 The new Chief Constable was appointed in September 2015. He has set out a clear mission for the Constabulary to prevent crime and attack criminality. A programme to improve crime investigation is underway. The Constabulary is also undertaking work to understand and manage the demands on policing. New strategies have been developed and implemented to respond to new threats such as cybercrime.

- 5.2 Partnership work and work funded through crime and disorder reduction grants is focused on the reduction of crime. Partnership strategic planning processes take place through the Criminal Justice Board Offender subgroup and the Cambridgeshire Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board. Work has also been taking place across the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire area to share best practice and emerging thinking on reducing offending.
- 5.3 Innovative approaches to offender management focused on reducing reoffending are being adopted through a police and partnership approach. The Constabulary is working with partners to use restorative justice to improve victim satisfaction and reduce reoffending and to tackle the underlying causes of criminality in lower level offending through more effective use of conditional cautions. The Constabulary has been selected by the Ministry of Justice to participate in a GPS tagging pilot across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been working with HMP Peterborough and the Community Rehabilitation Company to encourage employment of ex-offenders.
- 5.4 The Government has signalled its intention to consider a wider role for Commissioners over the Criminal Justice System.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1 In order to continue to tackle crime effectively in the context of reducing resources across the public sector it will be important to continue to ensure that:
- police resources are appropriately targeted and responsive to emerging threats
  - crime prevention work is effective in reducing crime
  - opportunities to work more effectively and efficiently through innovation, collaboration and integration are realised.
- 6.2 Profound changes have been implemented to services which deal with offenders and support victims. It is recognised we need to build on our troubled families approach to take a system leadership approach and create truly integrated pathways through the Criminal Justice System which maximise the impact of our resources on reducing reoffending and providing resolution for victims.
- 6.3 The Victims and Offender Needs Assessment identifies the multiple needs that need to be addressed to reduce offending behaviour:
- drug and alcohol misuse
  - health issues including long-standing illness, disability, anxiety, depression and mental ill-health
  - employment, training and education
  - homelessness and unstable accommodation.

It is recognised that if the needs of victims are to be met and reducing re-offending is to be successful partnership working will be key.

## **7. Recommendation**

7.1 The Board is recommended to note the update and consider key issues for inclusion in the Police and Crime Plan.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Cristina Strood, Head of Policy and Performance, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner