

Monthly Assurance Meeting

Date: 26th July 2016
 Chair: John Campion
 Minutes: Ch. Insp Jane Robson
 Venue: PCC Conference Room – Hindlip @10.30

	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Capacity:</u>
Attendance:	John Campion (JC)	PCC
	Anthony Bangham (AB)	DCC
	Andy Champness (AC)	CEO
Apologies:	David Shaw	CC

1.	<p>OUTSTANDING MATTERS - actions arising from June’s meeting: Track My Crime (TMC):-</p> <p>An options paper is required for the July meeting to address how TMC can best be made available to victims of West Mercia, to include cost and timescales.</p> <p>Update: A report had previously circulated outlining the options available.</p> <p>Action arising</p> <p>AB to clarify the date Athena are committed to deliver within the Alliance and the date for any “track my crime” or alternative solution following discussion at Executive Board meeting this afternoon. Details to be provided by email by the 11th August 2016. (Discharged).</p> <p>Hate Crime Media Release:-</p> <p>It was agreed to issue a joint press statement following national coverage on the increase in hate crime following Brexit. (Discharged on day of meeting).</p> <p>Update: JC pointed out his disappointment at the disconnect between Chief Officers and Corporate Communications and the level of service provided and the quality of communication. AB stated he was aware and looking into how this could be improved. (Discharged)</p>	DCC
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2.	Operational and reputational opportunities and risks A brief update was provided on current issues.	
3.	Chief Officer meeting update / Executive Board N/A	
4.	HOLDING TO ACCOUNT	
4a	Performance against the Police and Crime Plan:-	
	<p>CYBER CRIME (item deferred from June meeting)</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>There is a Cyber Crime Strategy in place for the Alliance which is based on Local Authority areas. The work is being overseen by the ACC for Protective Services. AC pointed out that the previous PCC had not formally signed off the strategy for a number of reasons. JC shared this was an important area which would feature in his police and crime plan.</p> <p>Actions arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC/AB to determine way forward which is compatible with the LA structure in West Mercia. • AB to reassure JC regarding any framework for delivery at the next meeting (Sept). <p>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME</p> <p><i>There is an increase in TRC and violence against the person without injury appears to be a contributory factor to the uplift. Are there any specific issues behind this and what assurance can the Chief give around TRC?</i></p> <p>Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 1st 2015 'malicious communications' (categorised under Harassment) became an offence that required a crime to be raised. The total volume of harassment offences has increased significantly in West Mercia between 2015/16, rising by 159%. The volume of harassment offences that do not contain malicious communications has remained relatively stable which is mirrored in statistics for Warwickshire Police. • The volume of malicious communications in the first three months of 2015/16 was 145 per month. In the most recent period, March to May 2016, the average rose to 254. Malicious Communications fall under the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) as 'violence against the person without injury', therefore the significant rise in the offence of malicious communications appears to have contributed to the rise highlighted. • It is not possible to reliably attribute the rise in both violence against the person without injury, and total crime to this alone, it is a working hypothesis. The training, scrutiny and work being put into supporting officers to record crime according to HOCR by the Crime Registrar Team. 	AC/AB AB

will have led to an improved and more accurate recording of crimes than may not previously have been identified.

- This topic had already been scheduled to be raised at PMG and the April - June quarterly report (compilation date July 2016).

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual offences have continued to increase. There is a mixture of new and historic reporting, can the PCC be assured that the Force fully understands the drivers and has the resources in place to deal with it.

Findings:

- Reported rape offences have increased by 39% in West Mercia between 2014/15 and 2015/16 (40% in Warwickshire) with recent offences of 41% v 38% (2015/16 v 2014/15) and non recent offences 59% v 62% (2015/16 v 2014/15).
- This suggests that the current offences are having a slightly greater influence on the uplift volume compared to non recent offences, however not significant enough to indicate an increase in the current risk.
- Further analysis may be considered to explore the key themes in relation to the current offences i.e. is this as a result of more accurate recording on DASH risk assessments?, CSE? age range of the victim etc. Alternatively this may be monitored and revisited if this trend continues.
- Other sexual offences have increased by 45% in West Mercia between 2014/15 and 2015/16, a slightly larger variation with recent offences at 50% v 52% (2015/16 v 2014/15) – and non recent 50% v 48% (2015/16 v 2014/15).
- This suggests that increases are across both offence groupings and therefore no increase in current risk.

In summary:

- While there has been an increase in non recent rape / other sexual offences reported across the Alliance this is not the sole reason for the uplift in recording.
- When the Alliance is compared to MSG forces - current offences account for a larger proportion of total offences in MSG forces.
- A telephone survey has been introduced to work with victims of rape (who wish to engage) to explore their experience. The overarching aim is 'learning', both individual or organisational, capturing victims thoughts, views and suggestions to identify strengths and any potential gaps in service provision.

1st July 2016 HOOCR Recording of Rape Crime changes will remove any

	<p>ambiguity as to whether offenders are acting individually or as a group and may result in an increase in crimes reported.</p> <p>Actions arising:</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
	<p>POST BREXIT HATE CRIME</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>The force wide picture is being carefully monitored. A summary of the findings based upon a small survey sample providing anecdotal reports and a review of reported incidents in July 2016 concludes: the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post Brexit respondents from Polish, Lithuanian and Romanian communities state that they have experienced relatively frequent racial insults with references to `go home` which were previously tolerated but have now become acute and some report daily. Some schools also report rises in tensions. Safer schools PCSOs and youth engagement officers are working with education staff to address this. 2. Culturally there is a distrust of reporting such abuse to authorities predicated by experiences in home countries, for fear that nothing will be done or matters will be inflamed. This is unacceptable and will require focus with some collective action across the board. 3. An awareness raising message has been passed to all staff requiring that they escalate any observed or reported concerns via their SNT colleagues or supervisors. 4. SNT staff in particular has been required to focus on the locations and engagement strategy for people from these communities in each of their ward areas. They will focus on all outlets and potential events over the summer where we can further engage in these communities and utilise language specific safe reporting literature. A campaign of `We Don't Tolerate Hate` is being promoted amongst community centres and businesses. They will draw upon the Equality and Diversity expertise within Strategic Service Improvement in highlighting equality and diversity in any pre planned engagement opportunities. <p>SNT`s have been tasked to work on this as a priority and provide geographic inspectors with updates ensuring that the Equality and Diversity experts within SSI are appraised of any incidents/literature or events that may require immediate support.</p> <p>Telford command team will be discussing the outcome of this work at a meeting scheduled for 4th August 2016 in addition to the monthly hate crime reporting meetings between equality & diversity advisor and Chief Inspectors.</p> <p>All reports of hate crime continue to be scrutinised on a daily basis at morning</p>	

	<p>briefings and by the equality & diversity advisor.</p> <p>Actions arising: There were none.</p>	
	<p>POST NICE ACTIONS</p> <p>There is no intelligence suggesting a likely terrorist attack however as the events in Nice proved, terrorists may fall under the radar or be radicalised so quickly that an intelligence picture is not developed before an atrocity occurs.</p> <p>From a Special Branch (SB) perspective, following both the Orlando and Nice attacks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have provided updated National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) advice to significant partners regarding potential attack methodologies. • Counter Terrorism Security Advisors continue to offer security advice to key sites, including those sites where building is currently being progressed, in order to provide advice to mitigate such attacks. • SB continue to review all individuals who have been referred to Special Branch who may display behaviours suggesting they are vulnerable to violent extremist acts. These individuals can then be referred and subsequently managed, where necessary via the joint PREVENT safeguarding panels with local authorities and other statutory PREVENT partners. • SB are also continuing to progress contingency plans within SB in response to a no-notice CT incidents and appropriate measures for large public gatherings. <p>Actions arising: There were none.</p>	
4b	<p>DELIVERY OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>The Head of ICT attended the meeting and talked to the previously circulated PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>He updated the on the Workspace Modernisation programme and in particular the progress on areas of under spend/ over spend and delivery against planned timescales.</p> <p>JC was meeting the head of ICT next week and would raise anything further then.</p> <p>Actions arising: There were none.</p>	

4c	<p>HMIC INSPECTION PROGRAMME / MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT BOARD (SIB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What assurance can the CC give that young people are not kept in custody any longer than needed and not overnight?</i> • <i>What progress has been made in relation to the recommendations made in the IPCC report 'Police Use of Force'.</i> <p>Actions arising:</p> <p>This item was not covered due to time constraints and would be brought forward and discussed informally at next weeks PCC/CC discussion.</p>	
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Meeting format</p> <p>JC outlined his preferred format for this meeting which would be just the CEO/ Chief and himself with a note taker. In future no additional guests would be invited without his explicit approval.</p> <p>JC agreed to provide the Chief with 5 working days notice for the additional agenda items. There was no requirement for the Staff Office to share any documentation re these additional items with JC prior to the meeting however a copy would be helpful for AC and the minute taker.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the process to date had not been as streamlined as was desired.</p>	
6.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>30 August 2016 – CANCELLED</p> <p>27 September 2016</p>	