

Police and Crime Panel update – April 2019

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Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Panel about the current work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Summary

Updates have been provided in relation to the following items:

- Operation Sceptre: National Knife Awareness Week, 11-17 March
- Safer Places launches new stalking service for victims of stalking in Hertfordshire
- Expansion of the PCC's fly-tipping fund
- Cyberbasics review launched
- HMICFRS publish 'Fraud: Time to Choose'
- Refresh of the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan
- PCC's Annual Report
- Change of date: Annual Problem Solving Conference
- Criminal Justice Innovation Fund to be relaunched for 2019/2020
- Local Partnership Reserve: funding to support crime and ASB reduction initiatives in 2019/20

Operation Sceptre: National Knife Awareness Week, 11-17 March

Hertfordshire Constabulary was recently involved in the national knife crime awareness week (Operation Sceptre) from 11-17 March. The event involved targeted search activity, test purchase operations, and a countywide knife amnesty, which resulted in 886 knives being surrendered, the largest haul to date of unwanted knives and other potential weapons across the county.

Activity	Quantity
Knives surrendered (Bins or personal)	886
Arrests	10
Stop and Search	31
Test Purchase Operations:	25
Pass	22
Fail	3
Weapon Sweeps	48
Engagement events – e.g. talks in schools, coffee shops etc...	36

Operation Sceptre is an integral part of the Hertfordshire Serious Violence Strategy and it is expected these weeks will continue to play a key role in the Constabulary's efforts to reduce the impact of knife crime across the county.

Safer Places Launches new stalking service for Victims of Stalking in Hertfordshire

Safer Places, a domestic abuse charity providing services in Essex and Hertfordshire is launching their new service for victims of stalking in Hertfordshire. To mark the launch, a conference will be held at Watersmeet in Rickmansworth on 15th April and attendees will have the opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, including Joanna Coleman, the national CPS lead for Stalking and Harassment and Dr Holly Taylor Dunn, who was commissioned to help write the HMIC report on stalking, entitled, 'Living in Fear'.

Safer Places is also in partnership with Hertfordshire University and will be launching accredited training for individuals working with victims of stalking, known as ISAC (Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker). There will be 6 ISACs countywide, and will provide support to victims of stalking in regards to the following; trauma and informed support, advice and advocacy, risk assessment and planning, court support, legal support and counselling.

For any questions regarding the ISAC service please contact: Gemma.Toynton@Saferplaces.co.uk or Jayne.Gentry@saferplaces.co.uk

Expansion of the PCC's Fly-Tipping Fund

Using £20,000 set aside from the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), the PCC has recently introduced a pilot scheme to support landowners who have been victims of fly-tipping on their private land. The pilot follows a simple process, in asking Local Authorities to expand their existing service to include fly-tipping on specific types of private land and to subsequently pass the cost of this clearance onto the PCC. This work is supported by Hertfordshire's Fly Tipping Group, and is in line with their work programme, helping to improve knowledge in relation to fly tipping on private land, including the number and types of incidents occurring and typical clear up costs.

The pilot, which was originally introduced in Broxbourne and Three Rivers, has now been expanded into Welwyn Hatfield and St. Albans. Three landowners have received funding to help them cover the cost of clearance and have also benefitted from crime prevention advice on how to improve security on their land. We would encourage all other districts and boroughs to be involved in the pilot so that we have a better understanding around the scale and nature of fly tipping on private land and are best able to support victims of fly tipping.

For further information contact Fiona Gaskell: fiona.gaskell@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Cyberbasics review launched

The Herts Cyber Basics Review (CBR), launched on 1st April, is part of the PCC's plan to protect the county's 60,000 small and medium sized enterprises by giving advice about cybercrime.

Hertfordshire is one of the most targeted counties in the UK by cyber criminals with over £3 million stolen in 2017.

Participants receive a voucher that enables them to have a free consultation with a Hertfordshire-based IT company, who will carry out a basic review of their cyber security and advise them of the steps they need to take to make themselves cyber-secure.

The consultation is based on a template set of questions developed by the Police's Eastern Region Special Operations Unit and is based on the Government's own more in-depth 'Cyber Essentials' programme. Businesses will be provided with an action plan they can follow and progress on to Cyber Essentials.

HMICFRS publish 'Fraud: Time to Choose'

The PCC has welcomed an HMICFRS report calling for better support for victims of fraud across the country. After inspecting 11 constabularies across the country, not including Hertfordshire, they concluded that most victims of fraud are not receiving the level of service they deserve.

The report emphasises the importance of strategic leadership, partnership working and specialist victim support, areas which are already progressed in Hertfordshire with the Commissioner funding specialist provision within Beacon victim services and close working between the police, Trading Standards and Citizens Advice.

The report is available at <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/fraud-time-to-choose-an-inspection-of-the-police-response-to-fraud.pdf>.

Refresh of the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan

The PCC is currently in the process of refreshing the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Plan. The refresh will look to ensure that the Plan continues to reflect the ever changing landscape of Community Safety and remain up to date with emerging crime types such as serious violence, cybercrime and modern slavery.

In January, the PCC finalised the initial public consultation, through which residents were asked to submit their views on what they would like to be included. These responses have been collated and are being used to inform the writing of the first draft.

It was originally projected that the updated plan would be published in June, however this has now been pushed back until the autumn, with a request to the Police and Crime Panel to hold an additional September meeting to consider the Plan.

PCC's Annual Report

The process has now begun for the writing of the PCC's Annual Report. The report will cover the period April 2018 – March 2019 and highlights the significant progress and key achievements made over the last year against the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan: Everybody's Business (2017-2022). The Annual will be made public and circulated to partners following its presentation to the Police and Crime Panel on the 13th June 2019.

During this meeting, Panel members will also be presented with the reports for the PCC's volunteering roles, including the Independent Custody Visitors, the Dog Welfare Scheme and the Countywide Community Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel.

Change of date: Annual Problem Solving Conference

The annual Problem Solving Conference which was originally scheduled for Friday 23rd May 2019 has now been postponed until September due to the potential of EU withdrawal on this date.

Inspector Lara Richards is scoping for potential dates in September and will be in contact in due course with a new date for the conference.

Criminal Justice Innovation Fund to be relaunched for 2019/2020

The PCC will set aside another £150k for 2019/2020 for the continuation of the Criminal Justice Innovation Fund. The fund, which has already supported a number of important criminal justice projects, including, the creation of a rent deposit scheme for ex-offenders and a pilot service to tackle problem gambling, will roll into 2019/2020 with the addition of a further £150k. Public and private organisations, criminal justice and community safety partners are all encouraged to submit bids, which aim to improve the end to end system for victims of crime and find ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local criminal justice system.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and the deadline for the next round of submissions is the 10th April 2019. Funding will only be provided to organisations proposing initiatives in the county of Hertfordshire and show sustainability beyond the life of the funding. All applications will be assessed using criteria by the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board and its subgroups.

Local Partnership Reserve: Funding to Support Crime and ASB Reduction Initiatives 2019/20

In October 2016 £400K was made available by the PCC to tackle public nuisance caused by ASB, fly-tipping and fly-grazing. Funding is spread over four years; £100K is available each year until year end 2020/21.

Community Safety Partnerships are eligible to apply for funding.

Applications must:

- 1) Demonstrate a problem solving approach using O'SARA and with due consideration to the victim, location and offender
- 2) Relate to a current Community Safety Priority
- 3) Clearly show how the community is involved in identifying what is happening, why it is happening and in determining the response(s) to which the application relates
- 4) Support a response to tackle nuisance or anti-social behaviour and associated crime (and includes fly-tipping, fly-grazing and other environmental issues)
- 5) Provide 'matched' (or contribution) funding to ensure that there is joint ownership of the issues the funding is seeking to tackle