

Police and Crime Panel

26th October 2017

Quarter 1 2017/18 Performance Report

Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner



Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Panel on the quarter one performance report for 2017/18. A presentation will be provided in the meeting. The Q1 report is available online on the PCVC's website.

Background

2. The report contains recorded crime statistics along with a range of additional information relating to crime and victim issues for 12 months to the end of June 2017.

Current Position

3. Provisional data identifies 41 of the 43 Forces in England and Wales reporting an increase in recorded crime. The overall recorded crime rate in Durham and Darlington is showing an increase of 44% compared with the same period during 2016 and this is higher per rate of population than the national average. However, having looked at what may be causing this increase, it has been concluded that it is largely a result of:
 - a. the Force ensuring compliance with changes in national crime recording standards;
 - b. increased reporting;
 - c. actual crime increases in a number of categories such as theft.
4. Below is a summary of the key headlines for performance in quarter one:

Anti-Social Behaviour

5. Although some specific areas of anti-social behaviour have increased e.g. environmental, overall there has been a significant reduction across all geographical areas. Some of this reduction will be because of changes to crime recording rules.

Victim-based Crime

6. The number of victim based crimes continues to increase and this is likely to be largely as a result of changes to recording practices. Subsequently, violent offences and harassment will continue to adversely influence levels until the end of this year when a new, higher baseline for recording crime is established which will take into account better compliance with recording guidelines. The negative impact of the changes have been seen nationally as well as locally. On a positive note, the increase reflects the constabulary's compliance with the new procedures. However we will continue to monitor the data and respond appropriately.
7. Vehicle crime, criminal damage and arson continue to increase across the force area. The Constabulary continues to work to understand the nature and scale of the issues and respond appropriately.

8. Despite a relatively large increase in the number of burglaries several months ago, targeted work by the Constabulary, including changes to the investigative process, is resulting in decreasing levels and we will continue to monitor this carefully.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

9. The number of crimes recorded with a domestic abuse qualifier has again increased with repeat victimisation still a matter of concern. A significant amount of work is being done with partners to better understand patterns and trends and agree an effective response.
10. Similarly, there has been a rise in the number of rape and sexual offences. However, encouraging victims to come forward and increasing confidence in the police and criminal justice system is vital and is likely to be reflected in an increase in numbers.

Cybercrime

11. This is a relatively new but rapidly growing threat as technology develops. However, there continues to be a lack of understanding and public awareness. This means offences are under-reported or often are not recorded as having the 'cyber qualifier' when a crime is recorded. The Constabulary has been active since the establishment of a new 'Digital Investigation and Intelligence Unit' to raise awareness, offer advice and support to those who are particularly vulnerable to fraud and cybercrime, reduce repeat victimisation, prevent fraud and cybercrime happening and prosecuting those who commit the offence.

Safeguard Vulnerable People

12. There has been a significant reduction in the number of suicides during 2016/17 although mental health related incidents have increased dramatically.
13. Sexual offences with a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) qualifier is still a relatively new indicator in the performance report for the new Police, Crime and Victims' Plan. Subsequently, there is not currently enough data to draw comparisons over time. Notwithstanding this, any increase noted in future reporting periods could be deemed positive as it might suggest increased awareness and reporting. This is an area that will be monitored closely over the next few months.

Hate Crime

14. The highest numbers of reported hate crime, as expected, are in relation to the characteristics of race and religion. The second highest is sexual orientation. Just over 80% of the reported incidents were recorded as a crime, however this is lower for religion and gender reassignment.

Road Safety

15. The main causes associated with fatal and/or serious road traffic accidents remain driver, rider or pedestrian error. The Cleveland and Durham Special Operations Unit regularly reviews reduction strategies, and works in partnership to develop intelligence led plans to ensure there is maximum impact on further reducing road casualties within the limited resources available.

Support for Victims

16. The latest performance figures from the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) continue to show a relatively stable level of demand. However, there was a slight increase during the first quarter as a result of responding to referrals relating to the terrorist attack at the Ariane Grande concert in Manchester.

Victim Satisfaction

17. The latest figures from the Crime Survey of England and Wales are as follows:

12-mths to Mar-17	Ease of Contact	Actions Taken	Follow Up	Treatment	Whole Experience
Durham Constabulary	97%	85%	78%	95%	87%
League Table Position	5	6	8	8	6

12-mths to Dec-16	Ease of Contact	Actions Taken	Follow Up	Treatment	Whole Experience
Durham Constabulary	98%	87%	81%	95%	88%
League Table Position	3	3	4	5	4

Public confidence

18. The latest figures are as follows:

1. Local concerns: how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“The Police are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this area”

Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	National Comparison
61.6%	65.7%	66.8%	5

2. Confidence: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Overall, I have confidence in the police in this area”

Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	National Comparison
81.7%	83.0%	83.3%	6

3. Good-Excellent: How good a job do you think the police are doing in this area”

Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	National Comparison
64.7%	66.4%	68.7%	8

Recommendation

19. The Police and Crime Panel is invited to consider and comment on the attached performance report.

Ron Hogg
Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

None

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Children's Act 2004

None

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

To be made available to members of the public as part of the engagement strategy

Environment

None

Collaboration and Partnerships

None

Value for Money and Productivity

None

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Provides an update on performance in relation to each area of focus in the Plan.

Commissioning

None

Other risks

None

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