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**Report to:** Police Authority

**Agenda item:** 9

**Date:** 12th June 2012

**Subject:** Performance Review Group Q4 update

**Sponsor:** Chair, Performance Review Group

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**For:** Information

## 1. Purpose of paper

1.1 To provide an overview of the main business done at, and the actions arising from, the quarter 4 meeting of the Authority's Performance Review Group (PRG).

## 2. Background

2.1 The Authority's new business cycle was launched in April 2010 and a Performance Review Group established to carry out detailed performance oversight activities in support of the work of the full Authority. This report summarises the key issues emerging from the quarter 4 meeting of the Group.

## 3. Standing items

3.1 **Performance dashboard:**

The Group received the Q4 performance dashboard and supporting commentary (attached to this report at Appendices A to D) and discussions were focused on the following headline issues;

- All national targets were met and the vast majority of local targets were met with no concerns, by the force, apart from a few isolated issues.
- The 8% reduction in the number of notifiable crimes, in 2011/12, which was the 8th consecutive annual crime reduction.

- The 9% reduction in the number of disruption related offences in 2011/12, which the force was congratulated on.
- The continued focus on tackling metal theft; and the challenge for the forthcoming year in translating the reduction in offences to a reduction in lost minutes.
- The success of Project Spiderweb in reducing theft of passenger property, but cycle crime being a continued problem in London.
- Ongoing focus on PCSO sickness.
- Progress with projects.

3.2 **Operational Performance**

The Group noted the excellent work by the force in 2011/12, achieving an 8th consecutive reduction in notifiable offences and a reduction in disruption related offences. The Group also noted the good work in relation to national and local policing plan targets. All national targets were achieved at the end of 2011/12 and most force areas performed well, albeit with few isolated issues, with four areas achieving all local targets.

3.3 The force noted that the challenge for the forthcoming year will be to translate the reduction in disruption related offences to a reduction in lost minutes. This will represent a change of focus and there was a slight concern about the force not being in complete control, having to be partly reliant on industry to play its part.

3.4 Notifiable crime fell for the eighth consecutive year but cycle crime remained a persistent problem, particularly in the London South and London North areas. Offence levels now seem to have reached a plateau, but tackling this issue requires close work with industry. The force has conducted a detailed analysis of these offences and local plans have been developed for the year ahead. The Group recognised the likely impact that the increased use of cycles has had on these crime levels. Members also noted the continued reduction in the number of assaults across the country compared to the growing number of passengers.

3.5 Members noted the excellent work, which has continued across London, for Project Spiderweb. Thefts of passenger property

have reduced and the detection rate for these offences has increased. The project is working well and it will continue throughout the Olympic period.

3.6 Members continued to focus on sickness management, especially with regard to PCSOs. Members noted that PCSO sickness was not as high as it appeared, but that the figures were being distorted due to the lower number of PCSOs and a small but signification proportion being on long term sickness. Members suggested this be kept under review in 2012/13.

3.7 Members also explored sickness performance and agreed an action for the force to present long term sickness data to the next meeting to show the improvement that has occurred over the last five years.

3.8 **Cable Theft Update**

The Group was informed that, with the exception of London Underground area, there had been a significant reduction in the number of cable thefts. The North Eastern area had experienced large reductions, of up to fifty per cent in some areas, which was an excellent achievement given the previous challenges. The threat from organised criminals becoming more involved in this was explored.

3.9 The Group noted the range of the force's efforts to tackle metal theft. The Operation Tornado pilot had been a particular success, with the force working productively with scrap metal dealers to tighten their record keeping. This has had an impact on crime levels for BTP and other forces. The Fusion Intelligence Unit is now in place and includes analysts from a number of partner organisations; it is hoped that this unit will become a centre of excellence in the fight against metal theft nationally.

3.10 The funding for the National Metal Theft Task Force is overseen by a group chaired by ACC Pacey. The force is currently drafting a report to show what has been achieved so far with the £5 million funding provided by the Department for Transport. The force is also working with magistrates to encourage increased sentencing and with Government to continue to promote the case for new legislation.

3.11 **Update on HMIC Inspections**

The Group noted that there had been a further HMIC inspection in the period since the last meeting, regarding crime and incident data. There was a recurring theme regarding the identification of anti-social behaviour and repeat victimisation. HMIC, however, acknowledged that this issue was very different for BTP than for other forces; for example ASB reported to BTP is usually from staff on railway barriers being abused.

3.12 The 'hot debrief' following the most recent inspection showed that the force's data sharing procedures were well advanced and highlighted problem solving plans as an area of good work but commented on the identification of repeat victims.

3.13 **Stop and Search Six Monthly Update**

The Group noted that the number of stop and searches, by BTP, had reduced. This has been due to the loss of the Section 44 power, the force being stricter with regard to its use of Section 60 stop and searches, and a general force-wide strategy to become more focused on better targeted high quality stops and searches, rather than volume.

3.14 The Group was informed that the recording of stop and account had been restarted in London, to bring the force in line with the approach taken by the Metropolitan Police Service and the City of London Police. This approach for the rest of BTP was being kept under review.

3.15 A relatively high proportion of stop and accounts, and Section 60 stop and searches had been carried out on black people. This was due to the majority of these stops taking place in London and the demographic differences in London, and a relatively high proportion of Section 60 stop and searches having been carried out at specific events, such as the Notting Hill Carnival and Luton Carnival, where the force had received specific intelligence regarding gang crime.

3.16 The Group explored the accuracy of stop and search, and stop and account data within BTP. Questions were raised about errors in the data for the number of under-ten year olds stopped, and the auditing of data. The force agreed to do some further investigation into the data and come back to a future Performance Review Group meeting with a fuller update.

3.17 **BTP EDHR Update on Operational Delivery**

The Group was informed about the work by the force to tackle disability-related harassment, following national research by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The Group noted that the findings most relevant to BTP mostly recommended good practice around leadership and data management. The Group also noted that there were some broader issues which are relevant to the rail industry, with regard to improving access to the rail network.

## 4. Thematic reports received

4.1 **Protective Services Theme: Developing a Firearms Capability**

ACC Thomas provided a comprehensive presentation on the need for, and development of, a firearms capability for BTP. This included recruitment, training and Resourcing matters. It also considered officer support arrangements in the event that firearms were discharged.

4.2 The Group noted that the Authority has oversight with regard to the deployment of tasers and explored whether there should also be a high level six monthly overview of firearms issues, such as review training. BTPA is considering how to regularly audit the force on compliance with its firearms policies as part of its work plan for 2012/13.

4.3 The risks of any financial claims against the force or authority were explored. Insurers took the view that there were already a lot of activities undertaken by the force that could lead to serious consequences and that the additional risk would be low. The extra insurance cost would be £40k.

4.4 **Thematic: Performance Portal**

The force presented its new Performance Portal to the Group. This enables the force to look at, and map, crimes and incidents from a national level down to individual routes, stations or specific locations for customisable time periods. A second piece of work on the portal will enable the production of a balanced scorecard to show variance from the expected level of performance for different categories. The system will provide

detailed information but will also be able to provide a high level overview of organisational health.

The Group is exploring how it can routinely use this information in its meetings in 2012/13.

4.5 **Thematic: Fatality Review Project**

The Group was given a brief presentation on the aims and objectives of the fatality review project prior to the more detailed version being presented to the full Authority meeting.

## 5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to note progress made and issues noted by the Group at its quarter 4 meeting.

5.2 Members are invited to ask any supplementary questions arising from the issues reported in this paper and/or its supporting documentation.