

Minutes

Policing Plan working group

Tuesday 21 February 2012, 10.00am
at The Forum, 74-80 Camden Street

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Present:

Mr Michael Holden (Chair)
Mr Lew Adams
Ms Liz France

Apologies:

Mr David Franks

In attendance:

Mr Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable BTP
Mr Paul Brogden, Chief Superintendent BTP
Mr Mike Furness, Head of Strategic Development BTP
Mr Alan Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable Territorial Policing
BTP
Mr Jai Chainani, Force Statistician BTP
Mr Andrew Figgures, Chief Executive BTPA
Mrs Sam Elvy, Research and Policy Manager BTPA
Mr Jon Newton, Performance Analyst BTPA (Minutes)

01/2012 Welcome and apologies

Non Agenda

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the third and final working group meeting for the 2012-13 Policing Plan targets. Apologies were received for David Franks. Liz France was present via tele-conference for the first half of the meeting.

02/2012 Minutes of meeting 14 December 2012

Agenda Item 1

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

03/2012 Summary of consultation responses

Agenda Item 2

Mrs Elvy provided an overview of the consultation summary report. Thirty one BTP stakeholders were consulted, including the BTP Federation.

Members of the BTP National Independent Advisory Group (NIAG) were, for the first time, also consulted.

Consultation feedback indicated that stakeholders, at the time of their feedback, were generally satisfied with all of the proposed targets. The main issue seemed to be around target 1 (reduce minutes lost at 36 high impact locations). The feedback, for this target, indicated that stakeholders were not as aware of the locations as would be hoped. The locations have since been shared with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), which has not provided any additional feedback.

Stakeholders noted the good progress with regard to target 5 (reduce notifiable crime) but suggested including a specific reduction target. A reduction target was also suggested for target 6 (maintain the detection rate for serious violent, sexual and robbery offences and staff assaults).

There were comments about including context for targets 8 (increase value for money by removing at least £500k from BTP's Force Headquarters functions) and 9 (reduce bureaucracy by decreasing the volume of manually produced performance reports by at least 20%) so it could be seen whether these targets will be achievable but stretching.

The only additional target that stakeholders suggested should be included was for football policing. This, however, appears to have been included within some local policing plan targets.

There was discussion about the feedback received from ATOC. DCC Crowther stated that, as a result of combined feedback being received from a single source, it was more difficult to gauge the level of feedback, compared to it being received from individual train operating companies (TOCs), in addition to ATOC's own comments. Mrs Elvy and Mr Holden stated that this approach had not specifically been encouraged and that this was the first time this had occurred.

Action: Subsequent to the Policing Plan being approved by the Police Authority in March 2012, BTPA will provide feedback to all consultation respondents regarding their consultation comments.

Action: Mrs Elvy to discuss with ATOC, prior to next year's Policing Plan consultation, how to best coordinate consultation feedback

Mr Adams queried why target 1 (reduce minutes lost at 36 high impact locations) was different for London Underground. DCC Crowther explained that the area is very closely engaged with industry and that they are more interested in the level of response provided by the emergency response unit. Also, due to the contained geography of the London Underground network, they didn't have so much emphasis on

certain pinch points, and as such preferred to have a target that was tailored for their situation.

Mr Holden enquired about the possibility of target 6 (maintain the detection rate for serious violent, sexual and robbery offences and staff assaults) being to reduce offences, rather than being a detection rate target as proposed. ACC Pacey explained that there have been year-on-year reductions in the number of offences, and that there is very little the force could do to further reduce the number. He explained that the best thing the force can do now is to give the best level of service they can to victims, and that means focussing on detection rates. Mr Holden and Ms France agreed with this view; they stated that the reasoning behind this target should be communicated to stakeholders.

There was discussion about including explanatory information in an annex to the Policing Plan targets. This would explain to the authority and other stakeholders the reasoning behind each of the targets. Mr Adams suggested keeping the information similar to that contained in last year's National Policing Plan leaflet, but updating it to show continued improvement.

Mr Figgures questioned whether long distance operators, which cross different force areas, are able to get their issues addressed across all the force areas they operated in. There is a risk that different local targets in different force areas may result in a mixed impression being given to these operators. DCC Crowther stated that providing the operators with a linear experience as well as a force geographic one was something to take into account with regard to the McNulty work, which is looking at future policing models for the force. It was stated, however, that there will still be geographic force boundaries. Mr Holden stated that the force was reasonably consistent with the TOCs, who are used to dealing with different organisations which have different boundaries. Mr Figgures stated that it was a case of simply being aware of these boundaries.

04/2012 National and local targets for review and recommendation

Agenda Item 3

DCC Crowther provided an overview of each of the national policing plan targets. He explained that additional reductions and the increased focus on disruption mean that this will be a challenging policing plan for the force.

DCC Crowther explained that the force had initially consulted with Network Rail and ATOC for target 1 (reduce minutes lost at 36 locations through joint problem solving plans agreed with Network Rail and Train Operators), and that there had been local engagement with the TOCs and with Network Rail in agreeing the final locations. The force areas have

focussed on areas of reasonable size and have signed up with their local partners, so that they will work together. The London Underground force area will have a slightly different target.

The baseline for the number of lost minutes, to reduce, will be the current year (2011-12). BTP has, however, also taken into account trends over the previous three years in order to decide the 36 locations. The force is in contact with Network Rail to receive data on a more regular basis and will hopefully be receiving it on a weekly basis from the new financial year.

Mr Holden stated that it could potentially only take a single incident to exceed the disruption reduction target in one of the chosen areas which had had a low number of lost minutes in the past year. He stated, however, that is a new target and that the Authority and the force should see how the year progresses and review the targets. The DCC explained that the management of performance for the target is collective one and looks at the lost minutes in total.

DCC Crowther informed the Group that there are a number of different zones that could be considered for target 2 (reduce disruption by responding to at least 95% of immediate incidents within 10 minutes for the five LOCOG London 2012 Games Zones for the Olympic Games), depending upon the parties consulted. The force decided to go with the local zones, with the focus being on specific stations in high impact locations. There was a discussion about the rationale for the inclusion of South Wimbledon station and London Bridge station.

Target 3 (reduce live cable offences) remains a big issue for the rail industry. The force has made some significant progress regarding cable offences and is benefiting from the national work that is ongoing, including the National Taskforce. These offences are being driven by the cost of copper but there are many other factors that also have an influence. Other police forces currently have a focus on metal theft, however, this will change when the number of offences start to reduce, which is starting to happen. BTP will need to continue to focus on this challenging issue.

Target 4 (non-suspicious fatalities to be cleared within an average of 90 minutes) aims to strike a balance between allowing sufficient time to investigate each incident responsibly while working quickly. There is however a need to explain the emphasis on unexplained incidents, which are focused on at force management team (FMT) meetings. Mr Holden stated that there was also a need to communicate the work going on in London North regarding partial line reopening.

The possibility of a sub-target, to include the partial reopening of railway lines where possible, was discussed. ACC Pacey informed the Group that,

in addition to the focus at FMTs, there is a good deal of work already underway with regard to the management of fatalities, including the review of existing policies and processes. The force has also increased good practice knowledge through its work, which is ongoing with Virgin West Coast.

Mr Adams and Ms France agreed with the BTP view point that this increased pressure should not be placed on front line staff, who have a difficult job to do. They stated that they would prefer not to have a sub-target or a reduced time target. The force, at the Police Authority meeting on 26th January, agreed that it would report back on the outcomes of the fatality management work and any changes made.

DCC Crowther confirmed that target 8 (increase value for money by removing at least £500k from BTP's FHQ functions to reduce back office costs) is focused on those functions which are traditionally recognised as back-office functions. It excludes the operational activities based at FHQ and will not take into account funding that is set aside for contracts, etc. Therefore the £500k reduction is out of a budget of £25million.

It was stated that this was a continued reduction, as part of the Futures programme. Mr Holden stated that it would be useful to state this in the national policing plan targets in order to provide context. DCC Crowther agreed to include this information.

Action: DCC Crowther to include the overall budget that the £500k is being taken from within the commentary for the national policing plan targets.

There was a discussion about whether the force had sufficient officers, with regard to target 10 (at least maintain the proportion of resources devoted to neighbourhood policing teams and response policing between 8pm and 1am). DCC Crowther informed the Group that there would be some redeployment of officers during this period to maximise the use of available officers.

Questions highlighted in the stakeholder consultation for target 11 (promote confidence and visibility by increasing the total hours worked by Special Constables by 10%) were raised. Mr Adams asked if there was a payment to Special Constables. DCC Crowther explained that expenses were paid and that there were overhead costs, such as for training and equipment. DCC Crowther and ACC Pacey reassured the Group that there would be no reduction in officers in order to deliver this target.

DCC Crowther provided an overview of each of the local policing plan targets for the force areas. He gave assurance that the local targets had been developed in consultation with all the local stakeholders, and that they had been reviewed at force level to ensure that they were stretching

and challenging, but achievable, and to ensure that there were no inconsistencies. He informed the Group that the areas had done very well in creating the proposed targets. These supported the national targets and demonstrated a creative approach to a number of challenges.

ACC Pacey explained that there is a high level of industry support in London North, which is not currently matched in other force areas. The proposed targets for London North would not be possible without this level of commitment from partners. Mr Figgures stated that there was a potential message that could be communicated, regarding the level of support received. This would highlight the potential capability of other force areas if they were to receive the same level of industry support.

The London South area has a metal theft target because this has been an increasing problem for the area. The cycle crime target also aims to address a specific problem, which has been increasing in the area.

The London Underground area has produced a creative set of targets. Some measure per million passenger journeys due to the very high number of passengers using the underground network. This year, the Area Commander has been leading on Project Spiderweb to tackle theft, which contributes to a significant proportion of the area's offences. Staff assaults will be measured per 10 million passenger journeys because of the low number of offences.

There was discussion about the target to have emergency response vehicles for the London Underground. It was explained that vehicles will be driven by a police officer and crewed by a member of staff from London Underground Limited (LUL). The force will have three vehicles that will respond to critical incidents, defined by strict criteria. The aim is to be able to transport a member of LUL staff to the scene of an incident as soon as possible, with the police officer able to then manage the circumstances as a result of the incident, for example crowd management.

The North Eastern Area was given an additional local target to increase anti social behaviour detections; this was included following as a result of a local challenge panel, which identified the issue as being of concern for all industry partners.

The North Western target NW1 to maintain or improve the detection rate for football related offences was discussed. DCC Crowther informed the Group that this would be a very challenging target due to the current detection rate being 88%.

Wales and Western has, over the last few years, focussed on detections relating to aggression towards staff; the area will, in 2012-13 look at tactics to reduce the problem. The target WW4 (staff assaults - welsh

sector only) has been included as a result of consultation with Arriva Trains. DCC Crowther highlighted some concerns about target WW5 (disruption - delayed trains), but stated that the area had already agreed this target with the TOC. The area will, as a result of this target, need to positively influence delayed trains so that they arrive within the PPM measure. DCC Crowther stated that wording of the target would be amended to reflect that this is a Welsh sector target.

Action: DCC Crowther to amend target WW5 to reflect that this is a Welsh Sector target.

The Scotland target SC1 (ASB) has been developed in response to analysis carried out into incident occurrence times and passenger security concerns. The Target SC3 (sectarian-related offences) has continued from last year's policing plan targets; it was explained that this area has since grown in interest. The Group were informed that Scotland will be receiving a level crossing enforcement van from Network Rail, which will aid in the achievement of target SC4 (level crossing related offences).

DCC Crowther informed the Group that BTP's local targets will be difficult to deliver. Mr Holden stated that the local targets highlighted the level of engagement that was going on and the high level of good work in the force areas.

05/2012 Any other business

Agenda Item 4

Mrs Elvy enquired as to whether the London South will have 4 or 6 disruption reduction locations. DCC Crowther stated that there would be 6.

There was discussion about how the Policing Plan targets will be presented to the full Police Authority meeting in March. DCC Crowther informed the Group that the force was intending to put together an expanded agenda item paper, as the final outturn figures would not be available to prior to the Authority meeting. The Group agreed that a draft version of the text for this booklet could be produced, which would be discussed at the Police Authority meeting and which would then have the final figures inserted once available.

Action: DCC Crowther to draft the Chief Constable's text for the Policing Plan.

Action: Mrs Elvy to draft Mrs Banerjee's text for the Policing Plan.

Mr Holden thanked the Members of the Group for their efforts and collaboration in drafting the forthcoming Policing Plan and brought the Group to a close for the current year.