



Report to: Police Authority
Agenda item: 3
Date: 30 January 2014
Subject: Chief Constable's Report
Sponsor: Acting Chief Constable
For: Information

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 This report provides members with an update on activity by British Transport Police (BTP) to deliver the key objectives in the Strategic Plan since the last report to Police Authority on 12 December 2013.

2. POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE

2.1 As at 20 January 2014 BTP was achieving 6 of the 9 national and 28 of the 42 local targets in the 2013/14 Policing Plan. The following section provides an overview of performance against the national Policing Plan targets. A detailed report on all targets was tabled at Performance Review Committee (PRC) on 16 January and the PRC Chair will provide an update to members at the Police Authority meeting.

2.2 The 6 national Policing Plan targets being achieved are:

- The average clearance time for non-suspicious and unexplained fatalities is 74 minutes against a 90 minute target.
- Recorded notifiable offences are 7% less than the same period last year (37,772 offences in 2013/14 compared to 40,628 offences in 2012/13). This is against a 3% crime reduction target for 2013/14.
- The notifiable detection rate has increased by two percentage points from 31% last year to 33% year to date.
- 58% of the overall Force budget is being spent on frontline resources.
- 94% of employees on temporary duty restrictions (TDR) are returning to full time hours within four weeks of their return to work against a 90% target. Of the 187 TDR cases this year, twelve employees have remained on TDR for longer than four weeks. These cases are reviewed on a weekly basis, and include cases where the



employee has returned to work but is either working at home or traveling to the office outside of core hours to assist with mobility issues.

- The hours worked by Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Response Teams between 7pm and 3am have increased by 4% on last year (780,711 hours this year compared to 749,440 hours in 2012/13).

2.3 The 3 national Policing Plan targets that are currently not being achieved are:

- Reduce police related disruption minutes by 3% - this target is proving challenging, with 957,898 minutes (16,006 incidents) recorded by Network Rail, against 917,313 minutes (15,739 incidents) last year – a 4% increase. Performance has been adversely affected by the 1% of incidents that caused 40% of the lost minutes. These incidents are primarily fatalities and suicidal trespassers. A detailed report on the breakdown of lost minutes was provided to PRC on 16 January. Further detail on suicide prevention and disruption related activity being led by BTP is included at section 4.1 of this report.
- A detection rate of 57% is being achieved for notifiable public order offences, against a 59% target. The detection rate last year for public order offences was 56%.
- Overall sickness to be less than 7.3 days per employee for the full year – the current average is 5.51 days sickness per employee against a year to date target of 5.48 days. The average sickness level at the same period last year was 5.56 days.

3. FORCE RESTRUCTURE

3.1 All work streams associated with the Force restructure are progressing to plan.

3.2 Voluntary Selective Severance (VSS) scheme

Following BTPA approval 102 employees were informed their VSS application had been successful. Of these:

- 78 employees accepted VSS and settlement agreements for these individuals are being progressed.
- 22 employees decided to withdraw their VSS application as they had been offered redeployment into new posts.
- 2 cases remain outstanding and discussions are taking place between these individuals and the Force Restructure HR team.



3.3 Staff redeployment

In terms of staff redeployment

- 317 employees have been matched to new posts and will be redeployed.
- 33 vacancies resulting from the restructure are currently being recruited to with interviews taking place during January.
- 22 employees have been placed in the New Connections redeployment programme as their posts are now at risk of compulsory redundancy.
- Outplacement support workshops have been arranged in February for affected employees.

3.3 Divisions

- All Chief Inspectors and Inspectors postings are complete.
- The match and slot process has been completed and interviews for vacant posts are taking place in January.
- Training for new employees and existing employees who have transferred to new roles is planned.
- The Estates Plan for work across B Division has been signed off and the first moves commenced on 20 January with a rolling program of moves planned throughout January, February and March.

3.4 Chief Superintendents and Superintendents

The Acting Chief Constable is meeting all Chief Superintendents and Superintendents over the next two months to discuss their new roles, increased areas of responsibility and plans for the 2014/15 year.

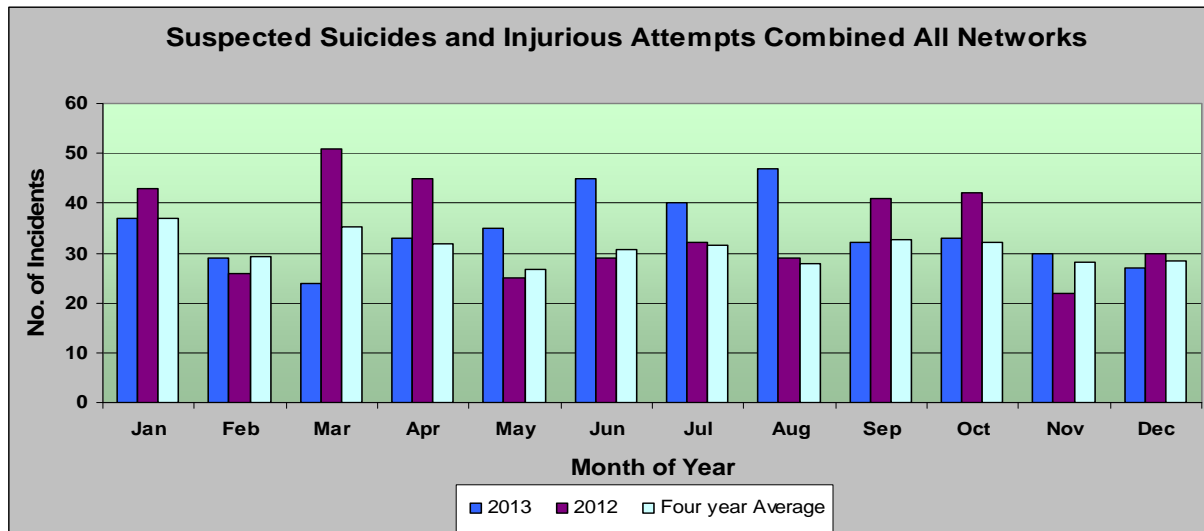
4. **REDUCING DISRUPTION**

4.1 Suicide prevention

- 4.1.1 From January to December 2013 there were 412 suspected suicides and injurious incidents on the rail network. This compares to 415 in 2012 (a decrease of 1%). Of the 412 incidents, 327 were fatal (a 6% increase on fatalities in 2012). This position has improved significantly from the 34% increase in suicides reported at August 2013 and can be attributable to the suicide prevention work being undertaken by the BTP and partners including Network Rail, Department of Health, National Health Service, the



Samaritans and the joint intervention teams in London. The chart below shows the number of suspected suicides and injurious attempts that occurred each month during 2012 and 2013.



4.1.2 The joint intervention teams in London reviewed cases and initiated action for 986 people in 2013. This included GP referrals, liaison with mental health teams, and development of suicide prevention (PIER) plans. Of the 986 people subject to a review, 3 went on to take their own life, 512 were detained under the Mental Health Act, 86 attended hospital voluntarily and 69 persons were arrested. A joint intervention team, providing a similar service as the London team, will be established in Birmingham as part of the Force restructure.

4.1.3 Further examples of the innovative and partnership activity BTP is leading on in suicide prevention include:

4.1.4 New Suicide Prevention Hotline

BTP has introduced a new emergency only Suicide Prevention Hotline 0300 123 9101. This number will be given to rail staff and mental health and social care institutions to alert BTP to emergency situations where it is believed someone is about to attempt to take their own life on the railway. BTP's Control Rooms answering this line will be aware of the necessary action that needs to be adopted in order to minimise the risk to life.

4.1.5 Identification of Priority Locations

Following the identification of 27 initial national priority locations, the same exercise has been conducted at a Network Rail route level to provide a wider geographical spread of priority locations and to ensure that each Network Rail route (and BTP Sub Division) has a number of priority locations to focus their suicide prevention work on.

4.1.6 Operation Avert 2

A second stage of Operation Avert, which launched on 13 January and will run until 31 March, will build on the tactics used during September and October 2013. As members will recall from the update to December's Police Authority, Operation Avert were largely attributable to the reduction in the increase in suicides from over 30% in August to less than 10% in November. The identification of the new route level locations mentioned above has formed the basis for the tactical briefing to Divisions.

4.1.7 Data and Analysis

Network Rail and RSSB have agreed to the definitions document prepared by BTP which will result in the three agencies recording suicides and attempts in the same way. Whilst this will not change the overall changes in trend, it will ensure the data matches across all three agencies.

4.1.8 London Strategic Clinical Networks

Mark Smith, BTP's Head of Suicide Prevention, has been invited to become a member of the leadership group which supports the above. This is a statutory body and has a key role in shaping health policy for London. Mark is currently providing input to the London Health and Crime Plan which seeks to better integrate health and policing issues. This strategy will be owned by the Mayor of London.

4.1.9 National Suicide Working Group

The first meeting of the National Suicide Working Group took place on 21 January at BTP HQ. This group is chaired by Paul Crowther who has taken on the role of national police lead for suicide prevention. Partners at the meeting included the police service,



NHS, coroners, public health, universities, support organisations and the Office for National Statistics.

4.1.10 Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat

A multi agency agreement for organisations (including the Home Office, Department of Health and College of Policing) has been reached which encourages agencies to work together to improve the system of care and support so that people in mental health crisis receive the support they need.

5. **REDUCING CRIME**

5.1 Recorded crime in most notifiable crime groups has continued to fall in 2013/14, with reductions in theft of passenger property, metal theft, serious line of route offences, criminal damage and serious fraud. The crime groups showing increases are sexual offences and cycle crime.

5.2 Theft of passenger property (TPP)

Operation Magnum, which launched nationally in July 2013, has resulted in a 19% reduction in TPP offences across the rail and underground network. As well as continuing with the original strands of Operation Magnum, developments over the last two months include:

- Each Sub Division has appointed a single point of contact at Detective Inspector rank.
- Targeting an organised crime group identified responsible for stealing from passengers who fall asleep during their journey.
- Partnership work with the MPS to develop a Code of Practice for second hand mobile phone retailers, initially in London with a view to roll out nationally if successful.
- Learning & Development are building TPP reduction into training modules.

5.3 Metal theft

Offences of metal theft continue to fall. There were 242 live cable thefts between April to December 2013, compared to 420 against the same period in 2012/13 and 976 offences

in 2011/12. Over the same period non live cable offences fell from 1,147 offences in 2011/12, to 573 offences in 2012/13 and 400 offences in 2013/14.

5.4 Sexual offences

5.4.1 Project Guardian was a multi agency initiative between BTP, TfL, MPS and City of London Police to tackle sexual assault and unwanted sexual behaviour on London's public transport system. The aims of the project was to:

- increase victims confidence in reporting sexual offences
- reduce the risk of becoming a victim
- challenge inappropriate sexual behaviour
- target offenders.

5.4.2 Since the launch of the project in July 2013 the number of recorded sexual offences increased from an average of 80 per month to 115 offences in July. This number has started to steadily decrease month by month to pre Project Guardian levels. BTP's detection rate for sexual offences is currently 35%.

5.4.3 Members will have seen reference to a number of rape allegations in the weekly incident overview. Between April to December 2013 BTP recorded 10 offences of rape. During January 2014 BTP has to date recorded 5 offences of rape. The police service nationally has seen a 24% increase in recorded rape offences.

5.5 Cycle crime

Cycle crime has increased by 2% (4,921 offences compared to 4,831 in 2012/13). In response to this Operation Wiggins, a national drive to reduce cycle crime and deter/detect offenders has been launched. The aim of Operation Wiggins is to:

- encourage cycle owners to mark their cycles using security kits, and register them on the cycle database
- encourage owners of expensive bicycles to protect them with appropriate cycle locks
- encourage cycle retailers to provide point of sale security advice



- encourage Network Rail and TOCs to provide sufficient secure cycle storage areas at stations;
- identify and arrest cycle crime offenders.

The success of Operation Wiggins on reducing cycle crime will be monitored at the monthly Service Excellence Board.

6. INCREASING CONFIDENCE

6.1 Christmas period and New Year's Eve

- 6.1.1 As members will have read in the weekly incident overview, the run up to Christmas was an extremely busy period. Officers dealt with a wide array of offences ranging from drunk and disorderly, public disorder, anti social behaviour, GBH, staff assault, rape and fatalities. A number of officers were also assaulted carrying out their duties, thankfully no serious injuries were incurred.
- 6.1.2 On New Year's Eve there were over 700 BTP officers on duty in London for the Mayor of London's New Year Eve Celebrations. Officers maintained a high profile presence at key stations as well as undertaking travelling serials on board trains to reduce crime, manage high volume of crowds and provide reassurance to staff and the public.
- 6.1.3 The event footprint was divided into viewing areas, each with a set capacity. The crowd was counted in at specific access points around the viewing areas. Once full the crowds were directed to other sites to avoid overcrowding. This included two large screens in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square.
- 6.1.4 The 'event' area for the rail industry was considerably larger than that of the event due to the location of key transport hubs. All night services ran on London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and selected National Rail services in the Greater London area.
- 6.1.5 ACC Alan Pacey was Gold Commander for BTP's policing operation which ran in three phases. The first phase covered the period when people made their way to the viewing areas to watch the firework display. The second phase, which focused on the half hour period of the firework celebrations, provided officers time to implement crowd management plans at key stations and provide reassurance to rail and underground staff



at these locations. The third phase, which ran from 0001 to 0700 hours, covered crowd dispersal from the viewing areas and the public travelling away from Central London. The key locations for crowd dispersal included Charing Cross, Embankment, Waterloo, London Bridge, Victoria and Leicester Square.

6.1.6 As expected the evening was extremely busy with over 60 arrests, primarily for drunk and disorderly, public disorder and violence against the person, made by BTP officers. All cells in BTP's custody suites were full. However, overall there was a 24% reduction in offences compared to the previous year (260 offences in 2013 compared with 240 in 2012) and the evening was primarily good natured.

6.1.7 During the course of the evening BTP also responded to two reports of kidnap and one report of rape. One of the kidnapping offences required fast time investigation to locate the potentially vulnerable person quickly which resulted in the person being found safe and well.

6.2 Mark Duggan Inquest

On 8 January Mark Duggan Inquest announced a verdict of lawful killing. After the verdict was announced there was significant media coverage. Despite the scenes outside the court, there was no specific intelligence of planned disorder as a result of the verdict. An emphasis for the police was to maintain high levels of community engagement during this period. BTP officers provided high visibility patrols at mainline stations with particular focus within the Haringey borough, providing reassurance to rail staff and passengers. A conference call was held with TOCs on 9 January to brief stakeholders on the policing operation for the days after the verdict was announced.

6.3 Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games takes place between 23 July and 3 August 2014 with over 4,500 athletes competing in 17 sports at 15 venues across Scotland. Chief Superintendent Bird will perform the role of Bronze Transport, supporting Police Scotland's Silver Commander. The deployment plan, stakeholder engagement, and policing operation are all in advanced stages. Chief Superintendent Bird will be released



as Divisional Commander from February to focus solely on the preparations for the Games. John McBride, currently D Division's Superintendent, will cover as Acting Divisional Commander for Scotland during this period.

6.4 Stakeholder engagement

6.4.1 On 14 January the Acting Chief Constable met with Stephen Hammond, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Mr Hammond on the work of BTP. Items discussed included crime levels, BTP's work to reduce disruption on the rail network, stakeholder engagement and partnership working, Scottish Government's business case supporting BTP's integration into Police Scotland, and work with the Home Office to resolve outstanding legislative and jurisdictional anomalies between BTP and Home Office police forces. Baroness Kramer, Minister of State for Transport, is due to visit BTP on 6 February.

6.4.2 Also on 14 January the Acting Chief Constable met Phil Whittingham, Lead Executive of Virgin Trains. Mr Whittingham was appointed to this role in November 2013, having previously been Finance Director for Virgin. The meeting was extremely positive and topics discussed included crime levels on the Virgin route, additional officers being posted to stations along the Virgin route as a result of the Force restructure, partnership working and joint initiatives.

6.4.3 A new monthly TOC data report is currently being developed which provides clear data on crime levels, crime locations, crime groups etc. A copy of the report, which is still in construction, was shared with Virgin Trains in advance of the meeting who provided constructive feedback on the report content and its value to the industry. Once finalised the report will be sent on a monthly basis to each TOC.

6.4.4 Meetings between the Acting Chief Constable and rail industry owning groups are being scheduled over the next two months. The Acting Chief Constable will also write to all

TOC Managing Directors over the next two months providing them with an update on matters relating to each specific TOC.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 BTP's Strategic Command Team

7.1.1 As members will be aware, Andrew Trotter is out of Force until the end of March undertaking the role of Deputy Director of the 2014 Strategic Command Course. This course is run by the College of Policing at Bramshill and has a worldwide reputation as the premier police leadership programme. During this period the BTPA has appointed Paul Crowther as Acting Chief Constable and David McCall as Acting Deputy Chief Constable

7.1.2 ACC Alan Pacey has decided to retire from BTP at the end of June. Alan has provided outstanding and distinguished service over the length of his career. His passion and commitment towards policing and keeping the railways safe and free from crime has been exceptional, as has his tenacity and inspirational leadership. Alan will continue his focus on successfully delivering the new structure for BTP in the months between now and when he retires.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That members note the update provided in this report.