

## Minutes

### Performance Review Committee

Thursday 15 May 2014

at The Forum, 74-80 Camden Street

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#### Present:

Ms Liz France (Chair)  
Mr Andrew Pollins  
Mr Bill Matthews  
Mr Mark Phillips

#### Apologies:

Ms Catherine Crawford

#### In attendance:

Mr Mark Newton, Assistant Chief Constable B Division and  
Crime BTP  
Mr John Conaghan, Superintendent BTP (present for Agenda  
item 7)  
Mr David Roney, Superintendent BTP (present for Agenda item  
5)  
Ms Vanita Patel, Performance & Analysis Manager BTP (present  
for Agenda item 3)  
Mr Brian Philpott, Deputy Chairman BTPA  
Mrs Samantha Elvy, Research & Policy Manager BTPA  
Ms Orla Sedze, Communications Manager BTPA  
Mr Jon Newton, Performance Analyst BTPA (minutes)

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### 09/2014 Welcome and apologies

Non-Agenda

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the Performance Review Committee (PRC) meeting. Apologies were received from Ms Crawford.

### 10/2014 Minutes of meeting 15.01.2014

Agenda Item 1

One amendment was required, to reflect that Mr Pollins attended the quarter 3 Performance Review Committee meeting. The minutes were otherwise approved as an accurate record of discussions.

**Action: Update quarter 3 Performance Review Committee meeting minutes to reflect that Mr Pollins was in attendance.**

## **11/2014 Matters arising**

### Agenda Item 2

There were no further updates for actions 13/10, 13/12 and 14/01 which relate to organising PRC Member visits to BTP. All other actions were discharged.

## **12/2014 Q4 Performance Report (including BTP Dashboard) and analysis**

### Agenda Item 3

The Committee was informed, that following a 26% reduction in 2012-13, there was a 6% increase in police related lost minutes in 2013-14, mostly caused by fatalities and suicidal trespassers. The average clearance time for non-suspicious and unexplained fatalities was down to 76 minutes, an improvement on the 83 minutes average for 2012-13 and lower than the 90 minutes target. The force had been working closely with stakeholders to reduce cable related lost minutes, which at the end of 2013-14 accounted for 6% of police-related disruption, down from 26% in 2010-11.

The Committee highlighted the peaks in delay caused by trespass in each August, when the schools were on holiday and more trespassers were visible during the long daylight hours, and queried the work that was going on around reducing this issue. ACC Newton highlighted that each Division focuses on a number of targeted schools and works in partnership with Home Office forces and others to give safety messages and talk about preventing trespass. BTP has also been looking at trespass as part of its work in preventing disruption as a whole. The force has been looking at Network Rail data and doing work on other areas, such as mapping problem schools and the issue of trespass overall.

Members highlighted that there has been good work to reduce disruption and the force shouldn't take its eye off this, but that there were also other reasons for trespass. It was requested that, for the next meeting, it would be good to get another layer of detail added to the quarterly report around this work.

**Action: BTP to provide some additional detail in its quarterly report for the 2014-15 quarter 1 meeting about the work going on around its work to reduce trespass.**

The Committee was informed that, nationally, the number of suicides has increased by 8% compared to the previous year. The force was finding a consistent level of people at risk and that there was a problem with respect to preventing suicidal people from returning to railway stations after they had been removed. The importance of working in partnership, to ensure that mental health partners were doing their duty, was highlighted. Members stated that good relationships have been built up with stakeholders and suggested that we could be more assertive in highlighting their required roles and duties. BTP's Head of Suicide Prevention and Mental Health had produced evidence for the Home Affairs Committee inquiry into policing and mental health; it was suggested that this be circulated to the Committee Members.

**Action: BTP evidence for the Home Affairs Committee inquiry into policing and mental health to be circulated to PRC Members.**

There was a discussion about Network Rail disruption data and whether the minutes were accurate and being correctly attributed. The Committee was informed that BTP would be getting a Network Rail analyst to help them improve their understanding of the Network Rail data and the methods used. ACC Newton highlighted that there was some disquiet on the front-line about secondary minutes, which were out of the force's control but were contributing to its performance figures. The Committee Chair highlighted the importance of being able to say that the force has handed back the track but that partners had not taken the required actions; this however relied on the appropriate level of data being available.

The Committee was informed of BTP's tenth annual reduction in recorded crime. Theft of passenger property accounted for the highest proportion of crime recorded in 2013-14 and was the offence type with the largest reduction, contributed to by Operation Magnum.

Cycle crime was up by 4%, compared to the previous year, but down by 11% compared to 2011-12. Violence against the person offences had increased by 4% compared to the previous year; a number of factors contributed to this, including an internal audit which recoded 127 offences as violence against the person. The Committee Chair queried how confident the force was in recording of these offences. The Committee was informed that the force was confident for these offences. For other offences, such as public order an internal audit had revealed a lower level of confidence. There was work for the crime recording centre to do to ensure that if something is an assault, it was being recorded as so.

There was a 20% increase in the number of recorded sexual offences. This was contributed to by the proactive work under Project Guardian. Members queried the range of sexual offences that were being recorded and how the force was tackling these offences. ACC Newton highlighted that Operation Guardian, launched in partnership with Transport for London (TfL) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), aims to encourage victims in the reporting of sexual offences, which may typically involve touching, moving to exposure and rape.

The Committee was informed that 80% of respondents to the Autumn wave of the National Passenger Survey (NPS) thought that their personal security on board trains was "Good" or "Very good", with a rating of 72% for stations. The weighted average rating for both scores was 76%. The next NPS wave, which will include the new BTP questions, was expected in June. The Committee Chair queried whether there would be sufficient time to pull together some information on the Spring Wave of the NPS for the next PRC meeting in July. The Committee was informed that this should be possible.

**Action: Details about the results of the Spring Wave of the NPS to be reported to the 2014-15 quarter 1 PRC.**

There was a discussion about whether there were any related external communications with respect to confidence. It was highlighted that there was a lot of external communications, for example with regard to text reporting, but that confidence related communications was something that could be looked at.

There was a discussion about the sickness related value for money target. BTP had slightly missed its target for sickness to less than 7.3 days per employee, with a rate of 7.34 days. Members queried whether the sickness rate had been partly reduced though redundancies. The Committee was informed that this had not been

the case; the sickness rate was being managed, when people were hitting certain triggers they were being managed, possibly receiving warnings. Some people have been able to get back to work although some have not. It was highlighted that the force was being strict in setting a 28 day limit for officers on temporary duty restrictions. Members noted the force's good performance in achieving a low sickness rate, with the Policing Plan target only slightly missed and the sickness rate down compared to the previous year.

### **13/2014 Stop and search six monthly update**

#### Agenda Item 4

The Committee was informed that there had been a 28% increase in the number of reasonable grounds stop and searches, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), and a 72% rise in the number of stop and accounts conducted by the force. This was attributed to the Operation Magnum activity to tackle theft of passenger property; the majority of these stops were in London.

There was a 14% increase in the number of stop and searches under Section 60 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. The Committee was informed that robust measures had been put in place mid-year and that in the second half of 2013-14 there had been 22 Section 60 stop and searches, compared to 440 in the first six months.

The arrest rates, although inline with the national average, were a concern for BTP. There was a 12% arrest rate for reasonable grounds searches this compares to the 7% arrest rate for drugs searches, which accounted for 62% of all stop and search activity. The force was also concerned about the proportionality ratio of stop and searches. It was noted that a black person was 7.8 times more likely to be searched under reasonable grounds powers than a white person, and there was work underway to look at this proportionality ratio.

There was a discussion about the use of drugs dogs. Members were informed that there was a clear correlation between the use of drugs dogs, which were very sensitive even to people not carrying drugs, and set piece operations to the high number of negative searches. Members queried whether the use of passive drugs dogs was a good tactic for the future. Members were informed that the force had to be careful about the indiscriminate use of them. Some of the ways in

which they are used is targeted; better deployment will have a positive result. Part of the criteria for deployment will involve central approval, where the request will be considered against other priorities.

BTP has set up working groups to look at and monitor disproportionality of stop and searches. In the two months following January the arrest rates had increased. The Committee was informed that it was difficult to state how significant this increase would be, but the rate was going in the right direction.

It was noted, with respect to internal governance, that there was improved focus in the Divisions, driven by the force's Stop and Search Steering Group and a range of new measures from the centre. It was also noted that the force was working to address some of the issues identified from the last HMIC inspection and that there had been a parliamentary question around the use of stop and search under Section 44 of Terrorism Act 2000.

Members noted that the high number of stops and searches, and officers, in the former BTP North Western Area were football related. Ms France suggested that it would be useful to have some narrative in the commentary to explain this.

It was highlighted that Ms Crawford was now the Authority's lead for stop and search and that it would be useful for a meeting to be set up with the relevant person in the force about the use of stop and search at a strategic level.

**Action: Mrs Elvy to arrange a meeting between Ms Crawford and ACC Thomas to discuss what the force is doing and where it is progressing with stop and search matters.**

It was suggested that, once we are confident in the data, it would be useful to have some communications around stop and search to highlight that we are confident in the use of this tactic.

There was a discussion around the accuracy of stop and search data. Mrs Elvy was previously on the force's Stop and Search Group. One of the Group's discussions had been around arrests not always being recorded and the other types of disposals that were not being captured when a stop and search was carried out. It was suggested that a more positive picture may emerge if these types of disposals were captured.

## **14/2014 Update on use of firearms and taser**

### Agenda Item 5

The Committee was informed that there had been a reduction in the use of taser in the second half of 2013-14. During the 2013-14 year there were 97 deployments by BTP, which represented a slight increase in usage compared to the previous year; however, the force was less likely to use tasers than Home Office forces. There had been no complaints around BTP's use of tasers and it continued to be the preferred non-lethal use of force; Members were informed that the general experience was that once taser had been seen it acted as a deterrent.

It was highlighted that frequently asked questions around the use of tasers had been added to the BTP website. This had considerably reduced the number of Freedom of Information requests.

BTP was one of ten police forces trialling new tasers; these allowed for easier computer maintenance and did not require a change of cartridge between one use and the next. These tasers were free of charge from the Home Office. The new types of taser were different to use than the old types, but could in future become the new national standard.

The Committee was informed that an additional four railway stations were now covered by firearms patrol. This was because of the unpredictability of those who may be conducting hostile reconnaissance and because these additional stations were just as busy as ones already being covered. The force had also been granted a provisional licence to conduct its own firearms training.

It was suggested that because BTP collates and submits firearms figures, but is not included in the Home Office figures, the force could replicate this data for the BTP website.

## **15/2014 BTP EDHR update**

### Agenda Item 6

There was a discussion about duplication of work by the Committees; the Equality and Diversity Strategy had already been submitted to a previous People and Standards Committee meeting

and it will be submitted to the next Strategy and Planning Committee meeting. Ms France suggested that the inward focussed aspects of the strategy be covered by the People and Standards Committee while the PRC focuses on the external facing aspects.

There was praise for the force's recent work in developing the Strategy and it was highlighted that the Gold Group was very good. There was good progress at the Group in looking at and getting to understand the force's diversity data. It was suggested that if we can understand what is needed for targets this would be a good step forward.

There was a discussion around the complexity of the diversity related data. It was noted that the data reflects the requirements of legislation. The dashboard used to present the diversity data was a standardised College of Policing dashboard. The Committee was informed that this was less complicated than before.

It was noted that the dashboard indicated a relatively large number of people within BTP declaring a disability. It was highlighted that this was suspected to be because of a data issue, and was something that was being looked at.

## **16/2014 ASB - Impact of the BTP strategy on recording, identification of repeat and vulnerable victims, and victim aftercare**

### Agenda Item 7

Superintendent Conaghan gave a presentation on BTP's policing of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and its work around repeat and vulnerable victims. ASB has a large impact on the travelling public and there is a direct link to confidence. BTP deals with all aspects of ASB, with largest type of activity falling within the nuisance category.

There is a clear link to ASB in BTP's strategic aims. The force works in partnership with industry and has a range of initiatives. The Neighbourhood Policing Teams are at the front-line of tackling ASB and a range of Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings and Problem Solving Plans (PSPs) are in place.

There were largely positive findings from the 2012 HMIC inspection on ASB. The findings were complementary around the way that BTP tackles ASB; however, there were some issues around the



identification of repeat and vulnerable victims. The force has since put in place a policy and has an efficient process.

Members were informed that a useful prevention tool for the rail network was Withdrawal of Implied Permission (WIP), in which operators withdraw permission for individuals to be on a particular station; this makes it an offence for the person to be in the respective railway station. New legislation will also, in future, introduce new measures, which will replace Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). These will include Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs); CBOs will be less time-consuming than ASBOs and will require a civil, rather than criminal, level of proof. The challenge, however, will be in implementing the new standards into the BTP systems.

There was a query around under-reporting of ASB. The Committee was informed that there will be an unreported demand; for example, the force does not receive a lot of reports for late-night trains and it was almost accepted by the public that there will have to be some tolerance on these trains. BTP will be running Operation Trafalgar, with Cambridge University; this will involve evidence based deployment of resources, and covering late-night trains. The force was, as a result, anticipating an up-lift in offences over the next two years. It was noted that this increase may impact public confidence and that it would be important to have some communications around this.

## **17/2014 Scoping discussion for work plan 2014/15**

### Agenda Item 8

The Committee Chair proposed that, following the recent Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) report into recorded crime statistics and prior to the force's HMIC inspection into crime recording, the PRC be proactive and focus on crime recording. ACC Newton highlighted that the force could report on internal work on the accuracy of recorded crime statistics and issues that were being picked up on. There was a discussion about whether this area should be picked up as part of the audit process, given that was a topical issue; it was suggested that it be on the risk register.

Members suggested that trespass, and any underlying trends around trespass, should be looked at and that there be something on stop and search later in the year, once Ms Crawford had met with ACC Thomas. It was also proposed that the force's work around cyber-

crime be looked at as part of the protective services and strategic policing requirement oversight. ACC Newton stated that there was work going on around this area and requested that this be covered later on in the 2014-15 year. There were also proposals for something on operational policing, such as Operation Trafalgar and, later on, possibly something on the Scottish referendum.

It was requested that future quarterly performance reports include route-based reporting.

### **18/2014 Any Other Business**

Agenda Item 9

There was no other business.