

Report to: Police Authority
Agenda item: 10
Date: 26 January 2017
Subject: Performance Review Committee
Update, Quarter 3

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1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the main business done at the quarter 23 Performance Review Committee (PRC) meeting. Members considered the following items;
- Q3 performance report which highlighted emerging trends and proposed responses to
 - Violence against the person
 - Cycle theft
 - Theft passenger property
 - Disruption
 - A first cut of victim of crime data by protected characteristic
 - Q3 update on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights
 - Audit plan updates
 - Timeliness of crime recording
 - Use of Out of Court Disposals

2. Quarter 3 Performance Report

- 2.1 The Committee opened by welcoming the new style performance commentary report (attached at Appendix A for information) noting that its more concise style enabled key messages to be identified and explored more easily. The Committee thanked the Force for the efforts in developing this revision and agreed that the report would remain under review while the style of presentation was further refined.
- 2.2 At the end of quarter 3 BTP was not achieving any of the National Policing Plan targets, and was achieving 16 out of 32 Local targets.

Specifically notifiable offences had increased by 10% compared to the same period last year, and this is the forecast year-end position.

- 2.3 By way of illustration of the challenge of responding to a rise in volume crime, the Committee noted that there had been a spike in the number of cycle thefts although there was still a low number of offences overall. The range of tactics being deployed to address this trend was also reviewed; similarly the Committee was updated on examples of activities undertaken to tackle violence against the person. Regarding the ongoing increase in offences Members observed that while stakeholders were currently satisfied with BTP's approach, there was a point at which the trend may become more of an issue.
- 2.4 The Committee considered the links between rising crime, BTP's demands for service and the night time and leisure economy. The Committee requested a problem profile on policing of venues which may be considered 'non-core' activities for BTP (such as Leeds station's clubs and bars and the Manchester Arena) to understand the extent and nature of the demand they were generating. Once this data had been analysed the Committee will review the findings and report to the Authority on whether commercial agreements, including Enhanced Police Service Agreements should be considered to tackle specific issues, such as this, in certain locations.
- 2.5 The Committee also received an overview of the Force's notifiable crime statistics including and excluding the Scottish data. The overall crime figures for Scotland were noted to be very low and had little effect on the overall volume and pattern of crime. These figures would be monitored for any changes during the devolution process.
- 2.6 An overview of BTP's usage rates for a range of outcomes was received; it was noted that BTP had a higher positive outcome rate for violence against the person offences compared to Home Office forces. The Committee was also informed that there had been some challenges with applying the correct outcomes to records but that these had been corrected and that the Crime Management Unit were carrying out a review to ensure their accuracy, staff had received training and that the compliance was now much stronger. The Committee also recorded a gradual drop in detection rates, this theme would be revisited to consider any emerging trends at the next meeting.
- 2.7 The recently launched Officer Assault Pledge was introduced; this provided a commitment to officers that if they were a victim of an assault, the Force would provide ongoing support to enable them to return to work. BTP would report on the impact this pledge had on the levels of reporting around officer assaults; there was no

expectation that there was significant underreporting of this type of crime but this will be kept under review.

- 2.8 In reviewing disruption, the Committee recorded that while there had been 18 fewer fatalities on the network compared to the same period last year, there had been an increase in overall resulting lost minutes and an increase in the number of incidents causing significant delay. It was also noted that the average clearance time for fatalities had now gone slightly over 90 minutes. The reasons for this were being researched but may have been as a result of the target hardening of some high frequency high impact locations, driving incidents to more remote locations that were harder for BTP to access. The impact of an increasingly busy network on the disruption caused by each disruptive incident was also noted.
- 2.9 The Committee welcomed the first presentation of the victims of crime diversity data, an exercise conducted in support of BTP's Equality Strategy commitments and specifically to better aid understanding of who BTP provides its policing services to. An obvious gap in ethnicity data was noted alongside plans to improve overall data collection in this area. The Committee agreed to receive an updated data set to a future meeting at which point a more detailed analysis would be conducted to identify any patterns in victim data which could aid decision making around targeted response plans.

3. Diversity and Inclusion update

- 3.1 BTP provided a regular update on hate crime data, specifically reviewing patterns in rail staff victimisation and repeat victimisation rates. While on duty rail staff accounted for approximately one quarter of hate crime victims they accounted for two thirds of repeat victimisation. BTP described mechanisms for working with operators to equip their own staff to avoid conflict situations. The Committee also noted ongoing challenges in correctly identifying hate crime at first point of contact and the efforts to ensure that any hate crime element in a reported crime was explored and recorded accurately.
- 3.2 The BTP annual equality report was noted as nearing completion and this will be circulated to the Committee for final comments by the end of January.

4. Audit plan focus - timeliness of crime recording

- 4.1 The Committee received a presentation on recent challenges to timely recording of crimes on the Niche system and the steps taken to recover the situation in response to the findings of a recent BTP

crime audit report. The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) requires forces in England and Wales to record crimes within 24 hours and for a period during 2016 BTP was not meeting the required standard. Causes of the delay included the introduction of changes to the platforms for crime and incident recording in quick succession, associated training abstractions and subsequent reductions in staffing in the First Contact Centre.

- 4.2 The Committee noted that there was no longer a backlog of crimes awaiting entry and crime was now being recorded in a timely fashion. However it asked that, as part of the review of the Niche implementation programme, the related lessons learned were captured to ensure future projects were not affected by the same implementation challenges.
- 4.3 Committee also noted that, depending on the date of the forthcoming and unannounced Crime Data Integrity inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Force was also carrying a risk that it would be found to be inadequate in this particular area of NCRS compliance. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance and improvements in this area.

5. Audit plan focus - use of Out of Court Disposals

- 5.1 Also in response to the findings of a BTP crime audit report on use of Out of Court Disposals, the Committee received a report on performance in this area. This follows a thematic on the same topic presented to the Committee in 2014 where similar challenges were noted.
- 5.2 'Out of Court Disposals' refers to a set of outcomes available to the police which is intended to divert offenders away from the Criminal Justice System; these disposals include cautions, community resolutions, penalty notices for disorder and drugs warnings. The presentation highlighted that the Force had identified a need for urgent improvement in this area following a series of audits undertaken between November 2015 and October 2016.
- 5.3 In response to the audit findings a number of actions were undertaken to provide post probationary training, revise policies and processes, and to update forms to make administration simpler and improved scrutiny. As a result compliance has started to improve and the Committee will revisit the topic to monitor ongoing progress with compliance.

6. Reports to be taken at the next meeting

- 6.1 Members commissioned a thematic report on BTP's approach to civil contingencies as part of the Committee's ongoing oversight of BTP's response to the Strategic Policing and National Policing Requirements.
- 6.2 The Committee will also receive initial proposals from BTP on its approach to reporting under the new performance framework.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Members to note the content of this report.