

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore,
Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection**

Report to:	Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 December 2016
Subject:	Neighbourhood Policing

Summary:

This report has been prepared to provide an update for Councillors in relation to planned changes to Neighbourhood Policing across the County. This report is a follow up to an earlier briefing presented to scrutiny in January 2016.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on this report.

1. Background

Following considerable financial challenge and the need to respond to a number of significant emerging issues the force has undertaken a review to determine how it deploys its limited resources in such a way that it prioritises its response to significant threats whilst maintaining the safety of its communities with effective neighbourhood policing.

Emerging threats and risks have been identified as follows:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – This is a complex area of business requiring specialist skill sets, particularly in respect of the misuse of the internet. The force is experiencing an increase in the number of offences and investigations that target vulnerable children.
- Cyber-Crime – another increasing and challenging area of business. Organised Cyber Crime focuses on the most vulnerable in our society, often resulting in the loss of large amounts of cash by a variety of deceptions. Cyber-crime also includes Harassment, Abuse, Rogue Trading, Scams and CSE.
- Missing Persons – this presents a significant issue for police resources, often over a considerable period of time. Employing a dedicated resource to improve partnership working with Children's Homes and Nursing Homes will identify better ways of reducing this demand. This area of work links with the threat of CSE with our most vulnerable children.

- Offender Management – evidence from re-offending rates suggest that a different approach is required to tackle the most persistent offenders who are disproportionately engaged within our criminal justice services. The police along with other partner agencies are developing a different approach to targeting prolific offenders and their rehabilitation to reduce this demand.

This review identified that 39 additional Officers would be required within the Public Protection arena to enable the force to respond effectively to the demand presented from these emerging issues. In a climate where there would be no growth in policing numbers the exercise identified that other departments, including neighbourhood policing, would need to work in different ways to support the challenge and divert resources. As a result the police are working more effectively with dedicated teams targeting these threats.

Neighbourhood Policing Structure (NHP)

Lincolnshire Police introduced NHP in 2002. The premise being that the service and community should work closely together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The NHP model was designed to ensure that the police effectively recruited the support of the whole community, both in developing and sharing intelligence, reporting crime and influencing some of our operational decisions via Neighbourhood Community Panels. Much work was done in linking County, District and Parish Councillors into policing.

It was also recognised that every criminal and victim lived in the community and by effective engagement Police were in a better position to monitor and influence the behaviour of both. The final focus of NHP was to work more closely with partners using their skills, knowledge, resource and powers, recognising interdependencies and therefore realising some efficiencies through economy of scale.

The PCC and the Chief Constable recognize the importance of neighbourhood policing which is well documented in their policing plans.

Current position of Neighbourhood Policing:

Community Beat Managers (CBM) – Police Constables have been reduced from 42 to 32

- Each policing team or area is managed and supervised by a Beat Manager and a Neighbourhood Sergeant.
- Policing demands resulted in the 42 CBMs being abstracted on a regular basis to meet local policing calls for service.
- Reducing the number of CBMs has allowed for a "red circling" approach to this resource. This means that they would be taken from their beat area only in exceptional circumstances.
- Work is underway to identify the success of this red circling.

- The decision to make changes to beat management was based upon a number of factors including Population, Geography, Crime, ASB, and Demographics in respect of poverty, vulnerability etc.

Police Community Support Officers – target number 149 – actual number 122

- The force has struggled to maintain this number as many PCSOs are successful in being recruited to become Police Constables (nine in the next intake)
- The PCC is committed to maintaining the numbers but is also committed to maintaining police officer numbers and awaits the outcome of the policing funding formula which will influence his budgets and decisions upon recruiting.
- The force has managed to maintain their support of the families working together project which currently has 3 x PCSOs seconded
- The force has 52 volunteer PCSOs, some of which are patrolling independently
- The PCSOs are operationally effective and some areas are PCSO led (supported by CBM's and Neighbourhood Sergeants)

2. Conclusion

In addition to the above the force is adopting a threat risk and harm approach to delivering its service to the public. This includes the way in which calls for service are triaged and resourced.

The force has used a 'traffic' light approach using data as outlined above to prioritise and identify areas of risk (Red); areas with increased demand (Amber) and areas of limited demand (Green). The force has placed its resources in areas where demand and risk are identified as being the greatest and reduced its resource in areas where the demand is reduced and the risks are lower.

The Force maintains an effective and efficient model for the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing tackling problems and working with partners and the community whilst addressing emerging risks in challenging times.

The force have identified a strategic lead for the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing who will continue to review the delivery supported by four district Chief Inspectors who have the responsibility for Local Policing which includes Neighbourhood Policing.

The NHP teams are supported and guided by the document "Neighbourhood Policing Strategy 2016" which provides the strategic direction.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

The "Neighbourhood Policing Strategy 2016" is attached which provides additional detail

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Daryl Pearce, County Officer Public Protection, who can be contacted on 01522 554593 or daryl.pearce@lincolnshire.gov.uk.