



3rd December 2015

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Priority Update: Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the Commissioner's priority of tackling serious and organised crime

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note and comment on the report

3. Background

- 3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a statutory duty on PCCs to issue a Police and Crime Plan for their police area. One of the main purposes of the Police and Crime Plan is to set out the PCC's police and crime objectives. Consequently, the PCC has issued the Police and Crime Plan and set the following key priorities:
- i. Prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
 - ii. Provide a Visible and Accessible Neighbourhood Policing Style
 - iii. Tackle Serious and Organised Crime
 - iv. Support Victims Protect Vulnerable People and Maintain Public Safety
- 3.2 This update report focuses on progress to date against the Commissioner's priority of tackling serious and organised crime.

4. Update

- 4.1 Since the Panel was last updated at its meeting on 4th December 2014, Merseyside Police have continued to proactively target serious and organised crime using the 'four P's', **Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare**. Some examples of this performance will be outlined in the main body of the report.
- 4.2 The Commissioner's priority of tackling serious and organised crime has also been addressed through key projects namely **economic crime, major crime, serious and organised crime, human trafficking and modern slavery, guns and gangs**.
- 4.3 Perhaps the most telling statistic of the continued success of the strategy is a 30% reduction in firearms discharges in a year on year comparison (36 this

year compared to 52 for the same period last year). The current levels predict an overall figure of 61, which will be a 50% reduction on the baseline year of 2012 -2013.

5. Pursue

5.1 The Matrix Serious & Organised Crime (MSOC) unit's Central Support team have continued to develop the threat, risk and harm matrix to such an extent that precursor / trigger events are now being identified on a daily basis, assessed and where appropriate deployed against to ensure there is no escalation.

5.2 A 'Strategic Responsible Officer' structure has been introduced as part of the Force's Community First strategy, which the Panel received an update on from DCC Andy Cooke. The structure has resulted in a monthly governance meeting in which the Organised Crime Group Mapping process is reviewed and measured to ensure consistent and proportionate operational responses to high risk organised crime groups.

5.3 Some highlights of operational responses within the year include:

5.3.1 **Operation Kala** a target operation focussing on groups operating in and around Fairfield and Kensington following an increase in violence in this area. A number of key subjects have been arrested and convicted with a cumulative total of 136 years imprisonment for the operational targets. More importantly there has been a reduction in levels of violence within the local communities as supported by a victim impact statement from a local councillor.

5.3.2 **Operation Supola 1**, which is focussed on the threat, risk and harm in the Bootle area, has led to the arrest of a number of principal nominals including one who was residing in a £750,000 house in Childwall. This and other assets will now be the subject of a confiscation investigation to maximise the disruption to the individual and the organised crime group.

5.3.3 As part of the wider disruption of organised crime group activity, **Operation Cobweb** has been developed as part of an operational response managed by Knowsley BCU. This has targeted a significant organised crime group who will subsequently be charged with money laundering offences that will again open up the opportunities to seize assets that have established through their criminality.

5.3.4 Additionally in Knowsley, **Operation Gimlett** resulted in the disruption of an organised crime group that were involved in street level dealing in Huyton that was linked to high levels of violence including firearms discharges. The successful conclusion of this operation led to cumulative prison sentences of over 60 years and a year on year reduction in firearms discharges within Knowsley (4 so far this year compared to 10 for the same period last year).

5.3.5 As part of the broader pursue strategy and in line with threat, risk and harm, multi-agency partnership interventions have continued throughout the year:

- **Project EAW** – Focussing on foreign nationals who are wanted in their

home country. 45 fugitives extradited so far this year.

- **Operation Bangar** – Joint operation with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Trading Standards targeting illegal supply of fireworks. Four premises targeted and large quantities of fireworks seized as they were on the premises without a licence.
- **Operation Lester** – Joint working with William Hills Bookmakers has led to disruption of local organised crime groups utilising the betting offices to launder money.

6. Prevent

- 6.1 Work is being led by Liverpool Community Safety Partnership against prioritised troubled families that have come to attention because of their involvement in gun & gang / serious and organised crime. This has led to the identification of a key cohort of youths who are persistently absent from school. A joint OFSTED/Head Teacher conference was held at Aintree to discuss an action plan going forward to manage this group. This also links into activity connected to the protect element of the strategy in terms of safeguarding of the most vulnerable.
- 6.2 Work has taken place within the MSOC Major Crime Unit to disrupt a supply of antique firearms into Merseyside. This has identified a group of local youths who had identified an internet supplier of antique firearms and ammunition making kits. This led to joint activity with the National Crime Agency and Border Force which culminated in the seizure of two such weapons in Coventry on route to Merseyside, leading to local operational activity and the recovery of a further five weapons. It is clear that these were destined for local criminal groups. The offenders engaged in this enterprise have subsequently received considerable terms of imprisonment respectively 10 and 9 years for the principal conspirators.
- 6.3 Liverpool, Sefton and Knowsley Community Safety Partnerships have continued to develop active groups looking at the gun and gang issues within their areas. The approach of the DISARM group in Liverpool has continued to develop multi-agency plans to cover the hotspot areas and there is now coverage across the spine of Liverpool and across the communities, which have been highlighted as being the most susceptible to threat and risk. Community Engagement Officers from the OPCC continue to lead on the innovative cross border DISARM project in Kirkdale and South Sefton.
- 6.4 Educational programmes have continued to be delivered across Merseyside with the most prevalent being the 'Terriers Play and Educational Package', funded by the Commissioner, which has been delivered to schools, colleges and prisons. This will start its annual autumn tour in November 2015.
- 6.5 Information sharing agreements have been developed with SERCO the key housing provider for asylum seekers. This will ensure that Merseyside Police are in a in a position to develop focussed prevention activities to stop the various groups being exploited and trafficked.

7. Protect

- 7.1 There are a number of cross partnership initiatives running across Liverpool CSP, South Sefton and Knowsley in response to organised crime groups operating across those boroughs.
- 7.2 Chief Superintendent Costello has led on a national initiative protecting the elderly from Fraud. This work is on-going.
- 7.3 Operation Girmont 2 was implemented as part of the Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery week of action the principal purpose being to engage with and protect people who have either been or are vulnerable to trafficking.
- 7.4 Across the serious and organised crime programme of work there have been a number of marketing campaigns, which have proved successful in terms of interest and coverage. Best examples relate to the work focussing on female involvement in criminal groups recently launched in Liverpool city centre, which will involve a poster campaign across key businesses such as beauty salons and hairdressers. The gun crime Christmas card campaign will also run again this year.

8. Prepare

- 8.1 MSOC Central Support has developed a problem profile in relation to Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery across Merseyside. This will now inform pursue, prevent and protect activity.
- 8.2 Work was due to be undertaken with with Liverpool University in relation to "What is working in Gun Crime". Unfortunately, this has faltered due to the University being unable to secure funds for the research. It is intended to make a new bid to the new Centre of Policing at Liverpool John Moores University.
- 8.3 Four P's plans are now in place across the portfolio of business and these will be reviewed in December in terms of overall quality and progress.
- 8.4 Internal and cross partnership training has continued in order to raise awareness of human trafficking and moderns slavery. Work is on-going to map vulnerable premises across Merseyside. This information will be utilised to better inform threat, risk and potential harm with targeted activity directed towards hot spot locations.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The report outlines the work being done to ensure that the priority of tackling serious and organised crime is met.

Rt Hon Jane Kennedy
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

Contact Officer: Dr Jo Liddy, Chief of Staff
Phone No.:0151 777 5155
Email Address: info@merseysidepcc.info