



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[£20m made available to help tackle online grooming of children](#) – 4th August 2017

The Home Secretary has made over £20m available as part of the Police Transformation Fund over three years to help tackle online grooming of children for sexual exploitation. The funding will support the national roll out of pilot led by Norfolk Police which saw dedicated officers operating in online forums and chatrooms to identify and disrupt offenders. Police estimate that at least 25 children were safeguarded because of their intervention

[New Data Protection Bill: The Government's planned reforms](#) - 7th August 2017

Government issues a statement of intent to introduce a new Data Protection Bill for commencement in 2018. The Bill will implement in full the General Data Protection Regulation and include provisions to:-

- Empower individuals to have more control over their personal data by making it easier to obtain information held about them and introducing a right to 'be forgotten' where no legitimate grounds for data retention exist
- Clarify the rules on data protection and create new criminal offences to deter organisations from intentionally or recklessly creating situations where someone could be identified from anonymised data and
- Give more power to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to defend public and consumer interests
- Require organisations undertaking high risk data processing to carry out impact assessments
- Significantly increase in the maximum penalty for serious data breaches from £500,000 to up to £17 million
- The definition of personal data will also be expanded to include IP addresses, DNA and cookies

[Serious and organised crime local partnerships bulletin: July 2016](#) – Published 1st August 2017

Home Office bulletin which this quarter includes features on anti-slavery partnerships, the troubled families programme, the West Midlands Police Prevent team, and Devon and Cornwall's approach to local profiles

[Updated Clinical Guidance: Drug misuse and dependence](#) – 14th July 2017

Department of Health issue updated clinical guidance which includes new guidelines on prison-based treatment, new psychoactive substances and preventing drug-related deaths

[Home Secretary article on the Prevent Strategy](#) – 10th August 2017

Amber Rudd sets out progress and challenges to date in delivering the Prevent Strategy

[College of Policing - Digest: July 2017](#) – Published 16th August 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Asylum Statistics](#) (17th Aug), [Youth unemployment statistics](#) (16th Aug), [Safety in Prisons](#) (10th Aug), [Children: parental responsibility](#) (9th Aug)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Importance of strengthening prisoners' family ties](#) – 10th August 2017

Ministry of Justice publishes Lord Farmer's Review which explores the nature of relationships between prisoners and their families. This follows evidence indicating that a prisoner who receives visits from a partner or family member, is around 39% less likely to reoffend than those that do not receive such visit. The review concludes that family work should always be seen alongside employment and education as a rehabilitative element which brings stability and structure to prisoners' lives. The report's 19 recommendations include:-

- MoJ should ensure that family ties is a golden thread running through its policy and outcomes frameworks
- HMI Prisons must ensure family ties features prominently throughout the new Expectations being refined
- Family work should be included in all four standards of the Government's Prison Reform white paper
- Family contact details should be mandatorily requested by prisoner escort services before leaving court
- Enable men who are eligible for ROTL to attend visits outside prison on approved premises or in community
- MoJ should make a fund available to trial family based innovations – particularly in preventing suicide
- New-build prisons should be subject to the Government's Family Test / produce a family impact assessment
- Prisons should be required to demonstrate mutually beneficial links with local businesses, schools etc.
- Video-enabled virtual visits should be available for family members who cannot visit frequently

[Reducing the Harm of Intimate Partner Violence: The CARA Experiment](#) – 17th July 2017

Cambridge Journal of Evidence Based Policing publishes evidence from a Randomised Controlled Trial of Hampshire Constabulary's CARA workshops. Findings suggest that the approach is an effective way to reduce the future harm of domestic abuse among first time offenders who admit their crime. As part of the approach, perpetrators of low-risk intimate partner violence receiving a conditional caution attended two weekend day-long Cautioning and Relationship Abuse (CARA) workshops led by experienced professionals. Based on the Crime Harm Index, offenders assigned to the workshop group saw a 27% reduction in the severity of crimes for which they were re-arrested compared to offenders assigned to the comparable control group

[Making connections: Understanding how local agencies can better keep children safe](#) – 12th July 2017

Children's Society report explores ways for children's services and the police to work together to share key information about missing children to better inform risk assessment, and build local intelligence of places and adults that may pose a risk to children. The report makes a series of recommendations which include:-

- Areas should ensure that a range of agencies have input to missing child risk assessments
- NPCC and Children's Services Directors to standardise the system for flagging vulnerable children
- The Government should develop and communicate guidance on proportionate information sharing
- The new National Missing Persons database should enable local authorities to submit relevant information
- DfE should collect local authority data on the number of children going missing from out of area placements
- Statutory guidance should require local authorities to notify police in the area they place a looked after child

[Revolving Door: Are vulnerable children being overlooked?](#) – 11th August 2017

Action for Children report estimates that around 140,000 children in the UK are in need of early help provision for issues that are too great for schools, health or other universal services to meet on their own, but are not eligible for support from statutory social care services. Common factors include domestic violence, neglect, abuse, mental health and substance misuse. The report calls on the Government to:-

- Strengthen the statutory framework for early help provision, ensure new requirements are adequately resourced and urgently address the funding crisis for children's social care
- Ensure the Children and Social Work Act Regulations are clear that local Safeguarding Arrangements should address early help for low level needs and include provision for enforcement of the duty to cooperate;
- The report also calls on local authorities to collect and make effective use of data on the response to children's needs post assessment to better direct support to vulnerable children and families

[The views, experiences and perceptions of children in care and care leavers](#) – 4th July 2017

Children's Commissioner publishes a review of the types of evidence available from engagement with children in care and care leavers, including engagement with groups such as disabled children and the very young

[Safeguarding and radicalisation](#) – 3rd August 2017

Department for Education commissioned study of social care interventions in response to radicalisation finds widely varying views among practitioners about the extent to which radicalisation presents a safeguarding risk, often compounded by the level of consensus within an authority as to how they should respond. The research concludes that there are opportunities to increase the sharing of knowledge between local authorities on this issue in order to staff are confident in their practice. The research also highlights an appetite for a central resource of information and guidance to help build capacity and capability within the safeguarding system

[Criminal Justice System statistics to March 2017](#) – Published 17th August 2017

Ministry of Justice statistics show continuing reductions in the number of individuals being dealt with by the criminal justice system over the last year with the figure reaching a record low of 1.71m. The number receiving out of court disposals (274,600) has fallen by 14%, while the number prosecuted in the magistrates' courts has fallen by 4% to 1.43 million. The overall conviction ratio saw a marginal increase from 84% to 86%. The average custodial sentence length (19.5 months) has continued to increase steadily since 2007 (15.3 months)

[Child arrests in England and Wales](#) – Published 7th August 2017

Howard League for Penal Reform research briefing highlights a 64% reduction in arrests of children aged 10 to 17 between 2010 (245,763) and 2016 (87,525). 12 forces recorded reductions of over 75%. The number of children in prison fell by 58% over the same period. [Data available at police force level](#)

[Hate crime statistics 2017](#) – 10th August 2017

National Police Chief's Council publishes hate crime statistics which highlight marked increases in reported hate crime in the week following the Westminster incident (+81), Manchester (+26) and London Bridge (+73) attacks, which later returned to seasonal norms

[National Crime Agency comment on the prevalence of modern slavery in the UK](#) – 10th August 2017

National Crime Agency comment on the growing body of evidence resulting from increased enforcement activity which suggests that modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK is more prevalent than previously thought. The NCA reports that there are currently more than 300 live policing operations targeting modern slavery in the UK, with the number of people being referred into the National Referral Mechanism continuing to rise

3. Audits and Inspections

[HMIC extend inspection remit to fire and rescue services](#) – 19th July 2017

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service [announces](#) extension of HMIC responsibility to the inspection of fire and rescue services in England. HMIC will change its name to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and have a new logo to reflect its new identity

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Are Victims Satisfied? Measurement and Monitoring of Victims' Satisfaction](#) – 16th August 2017

Victims' Commissioner's scoping review into Police measurement and monitoring of victims' satisfaction based on findings from 24 police forces. The majority of forces responding to the review collect data beyond the formerly Home Office mandated categories and use the information to inform performance management and service recovery. The Home Office move to give forces greater autonomy over how this information is monitored and reported from 1st April 2017 has been taken by many forces as an opportunity to develop new survey methods. The review concludes that victims would benefit if police forces continue to monitor their satisfaction and a collaborative approach across police forces may help to reduce costs and improve sharing of good practice. Forces should also publish details of their victim satisfaction survey methods and findings

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- **Evidence in progress:**
 - [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) – preliminary hearings held for [protection of children outside the UK](#) (9th May), [Cambridge House, Knol View and Rochdale](#) (10th May) and [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (11th May)
 - [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing),
 - [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – [New panel member appointed](#) – 25th July 2017
 - **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
 - **Reports awaiting government response:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 25th August 2016), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 17th Mar 2017), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 30th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 1st May 2017)

5. Legislation

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 7th September 2017

Bill to repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and other provisions relating to UK withdrawal from the EU

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 8th September 2017

Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – 8th Sept 2017 [Lords briefing](#) 17th Aug 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 20th October 2017

Private Members' Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers and connected purposes

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 3rd November 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the oversight and management of use of force in mental health units and the use of body cameras by police in the course of duties in relation to people in mental health units

[Prisons \(Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 1st December 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about interference with wireless telegraphy in prisons

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 19th January 2018

Private Members' Bill to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th June 2018

Private Members' Bill to extend Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of public authorities and extend powers of the Information Commissioner

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to amend the length of time for which an individual may have a criminal record under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision for ensuring that police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources to deliver police services. Proposes the appointment of an independent body to report annually on adequacy of police grant funding. Places duty on Secretary of State to ensure grant recipients have sufficient resources to prevent crime, bring offenders to justice, keep the Queen's Peace and protect, help and reassure the community. Also places duty on Secretary of State to consider PCC police and crime plans, latest adequacy of funding report and the need for contingency funding for police forces to deal with exceptional major incidents

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime under the Victims Code of Practice; require PCCs to assess victims services; increase duties of the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner; grant victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute; establish reviews in homicides where no criminal charge has been made; create an obligation on professions to notify cases of possible victims of child sexual abuse

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to state that proceedings under Section 5A of, and Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 are family proceedings

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the publication of certain personal information until an arrested person has been charged with an offence / set out circumstances where such information can be published

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the provision and surrender of driving licences or certificates in relation to certain offences; make provision in relation to identifying persons in connection with FPNs etc.

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make further provision for transparency in supply chains in respect of slavery and human trafficking

[Bills announced in the Queen's Speech](#) – 21st July 2017

- **Data Protection Bill** will aim to ensure that UK data protection is suitable for the “new digital age”, whilst also modernising and updating regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, proposals for a new Digital Charter will be developed alongside technology companies, charities, communities and international partners to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”. This will be underpinned by an effective regulatory framework. The Bill will make it simpler to withdraw consent for the use of personal data; allow people to ask for their personal data held by companies to be erased; enable parents and guardians to give consent for their child's data to be used; require ‘explicit’ consent to be necessary for processing sensitive personal data; expand the definition of ‘personal data’ to include IP addresses, internet cookies and DNA; update and strengthen data protection law to reflect the changing nature and scope of the digital economy; make it easier and free for individuals to require an organisation to disclose the personal data it holds on them; make it easier for customers to move data between service providers. New criminal offences will be created to deter organisations from either intentionally or recklessly creating situations where someone could be identified from anonymised data
- **Sanctions Bill** will make provisions to update, amend or lift key sanctions following the UK's exit from the European Union. [Government plans](#), which include measures to enable Britain to play a central role in global sanctions to combat the threat of terrorism, were published 2nd August 2017
- **Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill** to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences. The Bill includes proposals to establish a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner to hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse, define domestic abuse in law, create new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime, ensure that sentencing of abusive behaviour involving children reflects the life-long impact that this abuse can have and [measures to ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts
- **Courts Bill** to modernise and improve the efficiency and accessibility of the courts system. The Bill will include provisions to end the direct cross examination of domestic abuse victims by alleged perpetrators in the family courts, enable more victims to participate in trials through virtual hearings and enable those charged with some less serious criminal offences to opt to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online in order to free up court time for more serious cases. [PCCs Dame Vera Baird and Marc Jones call for new legislation to tackle “upskirting”](#) (8th August 2017)

6. Consultations

[Criminal Finances Act 2017: Codes of practice](#)

Attorney General and Home Office consultation on codes of practice governing new seizure, detention and forfeiture powers created by the Criminal Finances Act 2017 and consequential amendments to codes of practice for the **Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001**

Open date: 31/07/2017

Close date: 25/08/2017

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Child Cruelty](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on sentencing guidelines for the offences including cruelty to child (Children and Young Persons Act 1933), causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) and failing to protect a girl from the risk of female genital mutilation (Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003)

Open date: 13/06/2017

Close date: 13/09/2017

[Security of Network and Information Systems Directive](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation seeking views from industry, regulators and other interested parties on Government plans to implement the Security of Network and Information Systems Directive which would require essential service operators to develop a strategy and policies to understand and manage cyber security risks and implement measures to prevent attacks or system failures. Organisations failing to implement effective cyber security measures could be fined as much as £17m or 4% of global turnover

Open date: 08/08/2017

Close date: 30/09/2017

[Use of Overt Surveillance Camera Systems in public places](#)

Surveillance Camera Commissioner is seeking details on Police use of surveillance camera systems and compliance with responsibilities under the Surveillance Camera Code. PCCs are also invited to provide details of any surveillance camera systems which falls within the scope of the Code which they separately operate and any resources or financial assistance they make available to Local Authorities to help with their CCTV systems

Open date: 08/08/2017

Close date: 30/09/2017

[Laser pointers: call for evidence](#)

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy consultation seeking responses from stakeholders and the public on the market for laser pointers and how they are used. This is part of a call for evidence which will consider updating regulations governing the import and trade of laser pointers, as well as potential solutions to the misuse of lasers, such as licensing arrangements, restrictions on supply, and the introduction of a specific criminal offence for 'laser attacks' on planes or vehicles

Open date: 12/08/2017

Close date: 06/10/2017

[The Sentencing Code](#)

Law Commission consultation seeking scrutiny of and feedback on the draft Sentencing Code which aims to provide a single reference point for sentencing, simplify many complex provisions and remove the need to refer to historic legislation. Consultees are invited to feedback on any aspect of the Code, including its structure and wording, but reminded that substantive policy changes to the law on sentencing are outside the project's remit

Open date: 27/07/2017

Close date: 10/10/2017

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Manslaughter](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on new sentencing guidelines for four types of manslaughter which comprise unlawful manslaughter, gross negligence, manslaughter by reason of loss of control and manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility

Open date: 04/07/2017

Close date: 10/10/2017