

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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To be included on our mailing list, please contact daniel.howitt13452@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Additional £1m Community Funding announced for initiatives to tackle knife crime](#) – 7th March 2018

Home Office announces new round of funding to help communities working with young people to prevent them from being drawn into knife crime. Over 40 charities have already benefited from grants of up to £20,000 as part of the first round of funding which was launched in October 2017. In addition, further funding has been secured for Young People's Advocates until at least the end of March 2019, to provide support for vulnerable women and girls at risk of exploitation by gangs. A new Serious Violence Strategy will be published in the spring.

[Transforming the response to domestic abuse](#) – 8th March 2018

Government sets out proposals for further action to tackle and prevent domestic abuse – some of which will be set-out in the Queen's speech and taken forward via the draft Domestic Abuse Bill. This includes proposals to:-

- Promote awareness by introducing a new statutory definition of domestic abuse which includes economic abuse, help all schools deliver high-quality Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and further improve identification, understanding and response to domestic abuse among statutory agencies and professionals
- Protect and support victims by creating a new Domestic Abuse Protection Order to help prevent escalation of abuse, put the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme into law to drive greater national consistency, encouraging multi-agency working to deliver holistic support to victims, exploring how victims who face specific barriers can be better supported and technology can be better used to enhance the safety of victims
- Pursue and deter perpetrators by ensuring that sentencing recognises the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and children involved, explore whether the wider use of conditional cautions would be appropriate in some circumstances, consider whether the coercive or controlling offence is working effectively and what more can be done to tackle perpetrator behaviour and improve offender management
- Improve performance, particularly in reducing regional variations in recording, criminal justice outcomes and victim support, improving data collection, quality and linkage, improving understanding of what works, exploring how learning from domestic homicide reviews can be best applied and providing the domestic abuse commissioner with a key role in overseeing and monitoring provision and domestic abuse services.

The government is also making £8m available to support the recovery of children who witness domestic abuse, making £2m available to support female offenders who have been victims, consulting on how some of the £20m dedicated domestic abuse funding should be allocated and seeking more general feedback from victims, support organisations, research experts and professionals on how domestic abuse can be best tackled.

[Integrated Communities Strategy green paper](#) – 14th March 2018

Government publishes Integrated Communities Strategy green paper, seeking views on the vision and proposed actions to tackle the root causes of poor integration and build stronger communities. The government will commit £50m over the next 2 years to support delivery of the strategy, which will include:-

- [Boosting English language skills](#) and promoting the adoption of the English language via a new community-based English language programme, a new network of conversation clubs, and support for language tuition
- [Increasing economic opportunity](#), particularly for women, people from isolated communities and young people, who should have the opportunity to mix and form relationships with those from different backgrounds
- [Building stronger leadership](#) in national and local government, business and civil society to ensure all services have a strong focus on integration.
- [Supporting the integration of recent migrants](#) by providing practical information to help them understand and navigate British life, values and culture and improve communities' ability to adapt to migration
- [Respecting and promoting equal rights](#) with new measures to empower marginalised women, potential legal reform on marriage and religious weddings and stronger action to tackle hate crime and improve reporting.
- [Building vibrant communities](#) - an Integration Innovation Fund will be introduced to enable organisations to test out new approaches to bring people from different backgrounds together

The government will work with 5 'Integration Areas' (Blackburn with Darwen, Bradford, Peterborough, Walsall, Waltham Forest) to develop local integration plans, with a view to sharing learning as the programme develops.

[Government Policy: Secure By Design](#) – 7th March 2018

Policy paper from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport advocates a shift in responsibility for the security of consumer "internet of things" (IoT) products from consumers to manufacturers. The report proposes a draft Code of Practice for IoT manufacturers and service providers and sets out thirteen practical steps to improve the security of these products. Published alongside a literature review on the subject of IoT security.

[Anonymous voter registration made easier for domestic abuse survivors](#) – 7th March 2018

Parliament passes proposals to make it easier for domestic abuse survivors in refuges to register to without their name and address appearing on the electoral roll, broadening the professionals able to provide an attestation to include police inspectors, medical practitioners, nurses, midwives and refuge managers and expanding the list of court orders to include Domestic Violence Protection Orders and FGM Protection Orders.

[LGA raises concerns over cuts to youth offending team budgets](#) – 5th March 2018

[Justice Secretary speech on prison reform and reducing reoffending](#) – 6th March 2018

[Victoria Atkins' speech: Widening the fight against modern slavery](#) – 13th March 2018

[Spring Statement 2018: Philip Hammond's speech](#) and [summary](#) – 13th March 2018

[Home Office Circular 013/2018: Selection and appointment of Chief Officers](#) – 9th March 2018

Outlines the legal requirements and principles for the appointment of Chief Officers

[Guidance: Chief Officers' post-service employment – Requirement to notify](#) – 9th March 2018

Home Office guidance on requirement for Chief Officers to provide notification of their post-service employment

[Home Office guidance for young people: Indecent images of children](#) – 15th March 2018

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Press regulation after Leveson - unfinished business?](#) (12th Mar), [Rights of victims of crime](#) (12th Mar), [Rough sleepers: access to services and support](#) (9th Mar), [Alcohol: minimum pricing](#) (9th Mar), [Misogyny as a hate crime](#) (6th Mar)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Hate Crime](#) (13th Mar), [Victims of Crime: Rights](#) (13th Mar), [Misogyny as a Hate Crime](#) (13th Mar), [Secure Tenancies \(Victims of Domestic Abuse\) Bill](#) (13th Mar), [Domestic Abuse](#) (8th Mar), [Victims and Witnesses: Court Experience](#) (6th Mar)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Frontline online. Smarter blue light services](#) – 13th March 2018

Reform paper considers how smart technology can help to deliver more effective and collaborative emergency services and be used by first responders to assess situations en route to incidents. Getting the most from this technology demands better handling of data, particularly as data quantities across emergency services continue to expand. Better collaboration over sharing data is essential and risks should be overcome through using access keys that only allow emergency services to see permission data. Cloud-based storage, used throughout the private sector and in the future, technology such as blockchain could further enhance security and accountability. Paper is sponsored by Motorola Solutions. Blog: [Now is the time to move to digital policing](#)

[Survival and Beyond: the domestic abuse report](#) – 7th March 2018

Women's Aid report includes statistics on support provided to survivors of domestic abuse across their network and findings from the Women's Aid Annual Survey 2017. In 2016/17, refuge workers provided places of safety for an estimated 13,414 women and 14,353 children fleeing domestic abuse. An estimated 154,306 survivors were also supported in community-based support services. 60% of responding services cited funding cuts and uncertainties as their biggest challenge in 2016/17 and over one in ten of responding services reported that they had experienced a decrease in staffing levels during the year. There was also a 13% decrease in the number of organisations who were able to provide counselling as part of their support provision.

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to December 2017](#) – published 8th March 2018

The number of terrorism-related arrests (412) in the 12 months to December 2017 saw a 58% increase on the previous year and reached the highest level since data collection began in September 2001. The data includes 56 arrests made in connection with attacks on Westminster Bridge, Westminster Palace, Manchester and London Bridge between March and June 2017. As investigations following these attacks led to a higher number of people released without charge, the overall proportion of arrests resulting in charge fell to 33% (135), with a further 8% (33) being released on bail pending further investigation. Out of 86 trials completed by the Crown Prosecution Service during the year, 77 (90%) led to a conviction. As at 31 December 2017 there were 224 people in custody for terrorism-related offences domestic extremism / separatism, which marked a 24% increase on the previous year. Further [annual](#) and [quarterly](#) outcome and demographic profile data available

[Knife and offensive weapon sentencing quarterly: Oct to Dec 2017](#) – Published 8th March 2018

Ministry of Justice statistics show a 9% increase in knife related offences dealt with by the CJS compared to 2017 compared to 2016. 63% of adult offenders received a custodial sentence, having increased from 42% in 2008. The average custodial sentence (7.5 months) has risen by 2.3 months since 2008. Knife offence sentencing and cautioning is now more likely to occur alongside another offence (59%) than in 2008 (45%). 86% of adult repeat offenders received some form of custodial sentence.

[Road safety factsheets and ad-hoc statistics](#) – published 9th March 2018

Department for Transport publishes series of briefings relating to specific road user groups

[Attorney General Office: Outcome of unduly lenient sentence referrals](#) – published 13th March 2018

[Youth custody data: January 2018](#) – published 9th March 2018

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

- Police responses to people with mental health problems TBC
- The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review TBC

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[The operation of Individual Quality Assessments in the CPS](#) – 13th March 2018

HMCPSI thematic inspection of Individual Quality Assessments (IQA) which were rolled out in 2015 to assess compliance with quality standards for casework and advocacy by individual prosecutors. While there has been a clear improvement on the previous quality assurance regime, inspectors found a lack of robustness and misunderstanding about the IQA requirements, which are hampering efforts to deliver improvements. Inspectors found that 12.1% of the IQAs showed an overly lenient rating, while the CPS overall judged the quality of its casework to be 14.3% better than the inspectors' assessment. IQA is also not helping as much as it could to raise standards with regard to disclosure, despite this being the most significant casework issue facing the CPS and police at present. The report recommends the development of a national training package and that the CPS includes a separate set of disclosure questions when developing the revised IQA app and guidance.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Financial Sustainability of Local Authorities](#) - 6th March 2018

National Audit Office report examines whether departments with responsibility for local services understand the impact of funding reductions on the financial and service sustainability of local authorities. The report concludes that financial pressures have increased markedly since 2014 as services face reducing funding, new demand and cost pressures and no reduction in their statutory obligations. The current pattern of growing overspends on services and dwindling reserves is not sustainable over the medium term. The report recommends that the Department must set out a long-term financial plan for the sector at the earliest opportunity. Departments need to build a consensus about the role and significance of local government as a whole in the context of the current funding climate, rather than engaging with authorities solely to deliver their individual service responsibilities.

Inquiries

[Modernising the Disclosure and Barring Service](#) – Announced 8th March 2018

Public Accounts Committee will hold an evidence session on 19th March which will examine delays in the modernisation of the Disclosure and Barring Service, why the modernisation programme is so late and over budget and what safeguarding benefits will be delivered and by when.

[Disclosure of evidence in criminal cases inquiry](#) – Launched 22nd February 2018

Accepting written submissions until 21st March 2018.

[Digital currencies inquiry](#) - Launched 22nd February 2018

Accepting written submissions until 13th April 2018.

[Transforming Rehabilitation](#) – Justice Committee – Oral evidence session 20th March 2018

APCC criminal justice portfolio lead, [David Lloyd](#) calls for PCCs to 'have same powers over the criminal justice system that they currently have over police – set the plan, the budget, appoint a chief and hold to account'

[Harassment and intimidation near abortion clinics](#) – Home Affairs Com – Oral evidence session TBA

[Hate crime and its violent consequences](#) – HA Committee – latest evidence 13th March 2018

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future](#) – Justice Committee – latest evidence 7th March 2018

[Business rates retention](#) - CLG Committee – latest evidence 5th March 2018

[Emergency Services Network](#) – Public Accounts Committee – [Evidence session](#) held 26th February 2018

[Reducing Modern Slavery](#) – Public Accounts Committee – [Evidence session](#) held 21st February 2018

5. LEGISLATION

[Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill](#) – Commons Report stage – TBA [Commons briefing](#)

Government Bill to give the UK the necessary legal powers to maintain existing sanctions regimes currently imposed through EU law and introduce new measures against countries, organisations and individuals who threaten our security or undermine international law following Brexit. [Further information](#)

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee stage – 19th March 2018 [Lords briefing](#)

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

[Data Protection Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th March 2018 [Commons Library Analysis](#)

The Bill to modernise and make data protection laws fit for the digital age by empowering people to take control of their data; supporting UK businesses and organisations through change and ensuring that the UK is prepared for the future after leaving the EU. [Government fact sheets](#)

[Secure Tenancies \(Victims of Domestic Abuse\) Bill](#) Commons 2nd reading – 19th March 2018 [Briefing](#)

Government bill to make provision about granting of old-style secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse.

[Laser Misuse \(Vehicles\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 26th March 2018 [Lords briefing](#)

Government bill to make provision creating new offence of shining or directing a laser beam towards a vehicle

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th June 2018

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,

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons Report Stage – 27th April 2018 [Briefing](#)

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

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 21st March 2018 [Briefing](#)

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 Committee Stage – TBA

Private Members' Bill includes provisions to create a new power for the Secretary of State to authorise public communications providers, such as mobile network operators, to interfere with systems in order to disrupt the unlawful use of mobile phones in prisons. Amend existing Prisons (Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy) Act 2012.

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBA [Lords briefing](#)

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBA [Lords briefing](#)

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

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons Committee Stage – TBA [APCC response](#)

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

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBA [Lords Briefing](#)

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

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 16th March 2018

Private Members' Bill to protect drivers of emergency vehicles responding to emergencies from civil liability and criminal prosecution in specified circumstances and related provision about criminal proceedings

[Service Animals \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 27th April 2018

Private Members' Bill to make it an offence to attack service animals, including police dogs and horses; to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against such animals. Prompted by the attack of Hertfordshire Police Dog Finn and his handler, in which the only serious charge available for the attack on Finn was criminal damage. The bill is in line with legislation passes in other countries including, Canada, Australia and the USA

[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

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 26th October 2018

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the exercise of taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions in relation to persons about whom there are safeguarding or road safety concerns [LGA article](#)

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 18th January 2019

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the removal of foreign national criminal offenders from UK

[Foreign Nationals \(Criminal Offender & Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 22nd Feb 2019

Private Members' Bill to make provision for creation of secure safe houses for children subject to trafficking

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

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.

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

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

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

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 – TBA

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 - TBA

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

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- **[Draft Domestic Abuse Bill](#)** to better prevent domestic abuse by promoting awareness, protecting and supporting victims, pursuing and deterring and rehabilitating perpetrators and improving performance across all local areas, agencies and sectors. The Bill aims to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences and 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 [ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Call for evidence: Home Office treatment of vulnerable adults](#)

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration call for evidence on how effectively, efficiently and consistently the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS) treats vulnerable adults. Evidence will be used to inform an inspection of Home Office policies, guidance, training and practice in this area.

Open date: 01/03/2017

Close date: 23/03/2018

[Professionals Breaking the Silence](#)

NSPCC is seeking feedback from professionals on their experiences of listening to children and receiving disclosures of abuse and neglect. Responses will be used to inform the development of a practical resource to support professionals working with children and improve children's experiences of the disclosure process.

Open date: 09/02/2017

Close date: 25/03/2018

[Reducing crime at sites handling waste, and introducing fixed penalties for waste duty of care](#)

DEFRA consultation seeking views on proposed measures to enforce more appropriate competence standards for permitted waste site operators and make changes to waste exemptions to prevent them being used to hide illegal activity. Also seeks views on ways to improve householder awareness of their waste duty of care and proposals to introduce a fixed penalty for householders failing to pass their waste to authorised waste carriers.

Open date: 15/01/2018

Close date: 26/03/2018

[Fit for the future: transforming the court and tribunal estate](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation setting out the proposed future strategy for HM Courts & Tribunals Service in its approach to court and tribunal estate reform – focusing on ensuring access to justice, delivering value for money and enabling efficiency in the longer term.

Open date: 18/01/2018

Close date: 29/03/2018

[Data-sharing MoU between NHS Digital and Home Office](#)

Public Health England call for evidence on the public health impact of the [MoU on data sharing](#) between NHS Digital, the Home Office and the Department of Health, particularly on the healthcare-seeking behaviour and health outcomes of the migrant population.

Open date: 15/02/2018

Close date: 30/03/2018

[Draft guideline on preventing suicide in community and custodial settings](#)

NICE consultation seeking feedback from stakeholders on draft guideline and supporting evidence on preventing suicide in community and custodial settings. The guideline looks at measures that can be used in places where suicide is more likely, and at ways to identify and help people at risk. It also covers how local services can best work together and what plans and training they need to put in place.

Open date: 27/02/2018

Close date: 12/04/2018

[New ways to report road accidents to the police](#)

Department for Transport consultation on proposals to allow police forces to offer drivers the option of submitting accident reports by other methods, including online. Currently, under Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, road traffic accidents should be reported in person at a police station or to a police constable.

Open date: 30/01/2018

Close date: 24/04/2018

[Local government ethical standards](#)

Committee on Standards in Public Life call for evidence as part of its review to examine the structures, processes and practices in local government, maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors, investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process, enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct, managing conflicts of interest and whistleblowing.

Open date: 29/01/2018

Close date: 18/05/2018

[Transforming the response to domestic abuse](#)

Government consultation seeking feedback from victims and survivors, support organisations, research experts and professionals across policing, criminal justice, health, education and local authorities on how best to tackle domestic abuse at every stage - from prevention through to rehabilitation. Consultation will be used to inform development of the Domestic Abuse Bill and will include a series of consultation events across the country.

Open date: 08/03/2018

Close date: 31/05/2018

[Integrated Communities Strategy green paper](#)

Government green paper seeking views on the vision for stronger and more integrated communities and proposed actions to tackle the root causes of poor integration by boosting English language skills, increasing economic opportunity among people from different backgrounds, building stronger leadership, supporting the integration of recent migrants, respecting and promoting equal rights and building vibrant communities.

Open date: 14/03/2018

Close date: 05/06/2018

[Parole process review](#)

Victims' Commissioner is seeking views from victims, and those who have been invited to join the Victim Contact Scheme in particular, as part of the Government's review of the parole process. The consultation seeks feedback on how victims are engaged and involved in the process and whether arrangements for keeping victims informed at all key stages of the parole process are working

Open date: 14/02/2018

Close date: N/A