

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Recipients of the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund announced](#) – 10 November 2018

Government announces the 29 projects receiving a share of the £17.7m Early Intervention Youth Fund over two years to divert children and young people away from violent crime. The projects include work with children and young people at risk of criminal involvement, organisations safeguarding those at risk of gang exploitation and county lines, or who have already offended to help divert them into positive life choices.

[Recipients of the Domestic Abuse Fund announced](#) – 10 November 2018

Housing Minister announces the 63 projects receiving a share of the £22m Domestic Abuse Fund over two years to provide tailored support for domestic abuse survivors and their families. The funding will provide over 2,200 new beds in refuges and other safe accommodation and access to education, tailored employment and life skills guidance to support survivors to rebuild their lives.

[New measures to improve safety among vulnerable road users announced](#) – 22 November 2018

Government response to Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy safety review includes new measures to:

- Invest £100,000 to support police enforcement by developing a national back office function to handle dash-cam evidence provided by the public. This builds on the success of Operation Snap (2016)
- Improve enforcement against parking in mandatory cycle lanes
- Review existing guidance in the Highway Code to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians
- Appoint a cycle and walking champion to raise the profile of Active Travel
- Engage with cycling and walking bodies to develop a behavioural change campaign
- Set goal for local authorities to investment 15% of infrastructure budget on in cycling and walking

[Flexible hours court pilot announced](#) – 16 November 2018

Government to pilot early and late sittings in two civil and family courts in Manchester and Brentford to use the buildings more effectively, enable people to attend court outside of the traditional 10am – 4pm sitting day and explore what more flexibility means for staff and legal professionals.

[UK and Vietnam announce partnership to tackle modern slavery](#) – 21 November 2018

International memorandum of understanding agreed to allow for greater collaboration, intelligence sharing, victim support and prevention work. on human trafficking between Vietnam and the UK

[Home Secretary Speech on ending FGM and forced marriage](#) – 15 November 2018

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 26 November 2018

Government announces new 'Social Value' procurement measures – 19 November 2018

David Lidington announces measures to ensure government procurement takes social and economic benefits into account by summer 2019, such as supporting small businesses, providing employment opportunities for disadvantaged people and reducing harm to the environment. Major government suppliers will also draw up plans for other suppliers to step in in the event of business failure and new outsourcing projects will be piloted with the private sector to provide assurance before deciding to roll the service out fully.

New tool developed to tackle online child grooming – 13 November 2018

A two day 'hackathon' event has brought together engineers from firms including Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Snap and Twitter to develop a prototype tool which automatically flags potential conversations taking place between child groomers and children. When complete, the licensed tool will be rolled out for free of charge to smaller and medium-sized technology companies wanting to deploy it.

Guidance: How to identify & support victims of Criminal Exploitation – 15 November 2018

Quick-reference guidance for Councils published by the National Crime Agency

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Violent Crime: Government Strategy](#) (22 Nov), [Regulation and sale of fireworks](#) (22 Nov), [Domestic violence in England and Wales](#) (21 Nov), [Stalking: Developments in the law](#) (21 Nov), [Road justice and the legal framework](#) (19 Nov)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Stalking Protection Bill](#) (23 Nov), [Mental Health Budget: Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) (22 Nov), [Rape Myths and Juries](#) (21 Nov), [Stalking](#) (20 Nov), [Police: Serious and Violent Crime](#) (15 Nov), [Rural Crime and Public Services](#) (15 Nov), [Police Employer Pension Contributions](#) (14 Nov), [Stop and Search Powers](#) (12 Nov)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Domestic abuse in England and Wales: 2017/18 – Published 22 November 2018

ONS report bringing together statistics on domestic abuse in England and Wales highlights that:-

- 6.1% of people are estimated to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year (Crime Survey E&W)
- Overall prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year has seen no significant change since March 2017
- Despite this, domestic abuse prevalence has fallen in the longer term from 9% in 2005/07 to 7% in 2011/12
- Women were four times as likely as men to have experienced sexual assault by a partner in the last year
- There was a significant decrease in the proportion of female victims of partner abuse reporting to the police in 2017/18 compared with 2014/15, which was the last time this question was asked in the survey
- The number of domestic abuse related crimes recorded by the police increased by 23% in 2017/18, due in part to improvements in recording practices. Still, the majority of domestic abuse cases go unreported
- The percentage of prosecutions resulting in a conviction (76%) is at its highest level since 2009/10
- Referrals to specialist domestic abuse services (e.g. IDVAs, MARACs) were most commonly made by police

Prioritising High Risks of Harm Among Children Exposed to Domestic Abuse – 1 November 2018

Kent-based 3 year tracking study published in the Cambridge Journal of Evidence-Based Policing highlights the strong correlation between children witnessing domestic abuse and their risk of future harm. The study concludes that the findings justify selective targeting of resources for further efforts to protect these children, ideally by using advanced predictive analytics such as random forests modelling.

Wasted: Reducing the pressure alcohol and violence puts on the NHS – 12 November 2018

Cardiff University Professor of Public Health Research, Professor Simon Moore, provides an overview of the pressure alcohol and violence puts on the NHS, and what can be done to reduce it

Implementing a Burglary Prevention Program with Evidence-Based Tracking – 20 November 2018

Greater Manchester-based case study published in the Cambridge Journal of Evidence-Based Policing demonstrates how a high quality super-cocooning tracking system can be implemented to help to manage and provide feedback to officers, PCSOs and their line managers. This involved the use of body-worn video, GPS and written records, and was implemented in a manageable way within the supervisory time available. The findings suggest that tracking systems of this kind can be a feasible element of police business as usual.

The voices of young adult defendants – 21 November 2018

Centre for Justice Innovation research presents the case for a new approach to working with 18 to 24 year old offenders within the criminal justice system, recognising their distinct needs to both children and older adults. The paper makes recommendations for the MoJ to test of a model of procedural fairness in court which would:- Provide better information to defendants before attending court

- Enhance engagement during and after the hearing – e.g. check defendants' understanding, explain roles
- Give defendants an opportunity for direct engagement with the bench
- Support voluntary take-up of community services to tackle wider needs linked to offending behaviour

Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2017/18 – 15 November 2018

Latest Defra statistics show a marginal (-1%) reduction in the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by England local authorities in 2017/18 year, following steady annual increases recorded since 2013/14. 66% of fly-tips involved household waste. Household waste decreased by 4% while fly-tipping on highways decreased by 7%. Local authority enforcement actions increased by 4%, with the number of FPNs issued rising by 20%.

Criminal justice system statistics quarterly: June 2018 – Published 15 November 2018

The total number of individuals formally dealt with by the criminal justice system has reached the lowest level (1.61m) since comparable records began in 1970. The overall conviction ratio, meanwhile, increased to 87% in the year to June 2018, continuing the steady increase seen since 2013. The custody rate for indictable offences has been increasing since 2010, from 23.9% to 32% in 2017/18, with the average custodial sentence length having increased from 15.4 months to 20.2 months. Offenders with long criminal careers now account for 37% of the offender population, having increased from 28% since 2010. The proportion that are first time offenders (13%) has been increasing since March 2013 and has reached the highest level since 2000.

Football-related arrests and banning orders: season 2017 to 2018 - Published 15 November 2018

Football-related banning orders (1,822) fell by 6% in the year to August 2018, with 460 being new football banning orders issued. There has been a steady decline in the total number of football banning orders in force over the last 7 seasons, falling by 43% since November 2011. Football-related arrests (1,542) fell by 6% in the 2017 to 2018 season, with public disorder (36%), violent disorder (20%) and pitch incursion (12%) remaining the most common offence types. [Data available at league and club level.](#)

Mental Health of Children and Young People 2017 – 22 November 2018

NHS Digital publishes findings from the first national survey of children's mental health since 2004 alongside updated statistics on the prevalence of mental disorders in children and young people.

Multi-agency response to child exploitation and missing children – 14 November 2018

Youth unemployment statistics: Commons Briefing – 13 November 2018

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) – 22 November 2018

Knife crime statistics – 9 November 2018

Live tables on local government finance – updated 2 November 2018

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and slavery](#) - 14 November 2018

Report on findings from three [joint targeted area inspections](#), (spring 2018) examining the multi-agency response to child exploitation and children missing from home, care or education highlights that agencies must learn lessons from past sexual exploitation cases if they are to effectively respond to 'county lines' drug running and other forms of child criminal exploitation. The report finds that all children, not just specific groups, are vulnerable to exploitation and not all agencies are currently sharing their intelligence to help recognise, understand and respond to the risks. The report concludes that:-

- All agencies need to get the basics right with effective and efficient 'front door' services that prioritise training on exploitation for staff on being curious, compassionate and recognising the potential signs
- Agencies should not wait until they uncover a high-scale operation to respond to criminal exploitation. Partners should work together to plan how to respond and understand local issues of exploitation and gangs
- Partnerships need to not only identify and respond to the risk of exploitation, but work with children, parents and local communities to prevent exploitation through awareness-raising.
- When children are identified as being exploited, professionals need to 'stay with' the child. Both children and their families may be in danger and in need of help, support and protection
- The only way of responding to and preventing highly organised criminal operations that exploit children is to have a highly coordinated multi-agency and whole-council approach.

[Home Office's management of asylum accommodation provision](#) – 20 November 2018

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration report makes recommendations for the Home Office to produce a comprehensive 'Action Plan' for asylum accommodation by October 2018, introduce regular quality assurance checks for decisions about the application of service credits for non-conformance with COMPASS contract KPIs and review the role, size, structure, geographical distribution, workload and performance targets in advance of the commencement of new COMPASS contracts; establish a process to capture data about local authority inspections of asylum accommodation; discuss and agree with Providers, what information needs to be shared, especially in the case of particularly vulnerable individuals and ensure data in relation to vulnerable groups is captured and analysed.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Efficiency and effectiveness of disclosure in the criminal justice system](#) – 15 November 2018

Attorney General review highlights that the duty to record, retain and review material collected during the course of investigations is not routinely complied with by police and prosecutors. This has caused costly delays and has led to cases being pursued without clear evidence. It notes that the police and other investigators could be better supported by technological advancements when reviewing and capturing digital evidence and further statutory guidelines are required in this area. While welcoming steps already taken by the police and CPS through the National Disclosure Improvement Plan, the review concludes that a 'zero tolerance' culture to failings must be established to enable lasting change. The review proposes the following actions:-

- Attorney General taking responsibility for strategic oversight of the collective response from all parts of the system – from police, to prosecutors to the judiciary via the Criminal Justice Board
- Government to convene a 'Tech Summit' in spring 2019 to support forces in handling this type of evidence
- Introduce guidelines through secondary legislation help meet challenges of the rise of modern technology
- Government will oversee the CPS's delivery of a new data collection regime which is fit for purpose

[Forensic early warning system \(FEWS\) annual report](#) – 19 November 2018

Report on the Home Office forensic early warning system, which identifies new psychoactive substances

[Safeguarding Adults Annual report 2017-18](#) – 20 November 2018

[Serious and organised waste crime: 2018 review](#) – 14 November 2018

Independent review finds that serious and organised waste crime cost the English economy more than £600m in 2015 and continues to impact significantly on local communities and business, particularly in rural areas. The review makes recommendations for:-

- A Joint Unit for Waste Crime to be established to direct and co-ordinate joined up multi-agency responses
- Strategic relationships between the Agency and PCCs should also be strengthened, and the inclusion of waste crime within police and crime plans should be encouraged
- Environment Agency should be equipped with the tools and powers to pursue and disrupt organised crime – search premises, seize materials, issue low level financial penalties for deliberate mis-description of waste
- Waste sector legislation should be amended to allow for more effective prevention and disruption
- Mandatory electronic tracking of waste, and a national database of registered brokers, should be introduced
- The Environment Agency should be granted full access to relevant police PND and PNC databases
- Registration and duty of care requirements for carriers, brokers and dealers should be reformed
- Waste producers should be held accountable for the end destination of their waste products
- Government should reform funding for the regulation and policing of the waste sector at earliest opportunity

[Review of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#) – 19 November 2018

Home Office review of the impact of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 indicates that the Act has led to open sale of NPS via head shops having ceased, with many closing down altogether. It also led to a considerable reduction in NPS use among the general adult population, however prevalence among vulnerable users appears to be more mixed, with qualitative evidence suggesting a significant fall in some regions, and other regions unaffected. The Act appears to have led to increases in the price of NPS and reductions in their availability, although this also led to a large-scale shift away from retailers to street dealers becoming the main source, particularly for synthetic cannabinoids, and an increase in potency. The Act also does not appear to have significantly disrupted darknet NPS activity, with the UK remaining one of the leading dark web sellers of NPS both before and after the Act. Evidence from prisons indicates that the use of NPS was widespread before the Act, and has continued to be so - or in some cases increased since the Act was introduced. In conclusion, most of the main aims of the PSA appear to have been achieved, with the open sale of NPS largely eliminated and health-related harms having reduced. Some areas of concern have, however, remained, such as the supply of NPS by street dealers and the continued development of new substances.

Inquiries

[The role of the magistracy \(follow up\)](#) – Justice Committee – Oral evidence session 27 November 2018

[Asylum accommodation](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session 20 November 2018

[Local Government Spending](#) – Public Accounts Committee – Announced 16 November 2018

[Work of the Home Office](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session 13 November 2018

[Forensic Science](#) – Science and technology Committee – oral evidence session 23 October 2018

[Modern Slavery](#) – Home Affairs Committee - latest evidence 16 October 2018

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 16 October 2018

[Financial sustainability of police forces inquiry](#) – Public Accounts Committee – latest evidence 10 Oct

[Hand car washes](#) - Environmental Audit Committee - latest evidence 5 September 2018

5. LEGISLATION

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Act 2018](#) – Royal Assent – 1 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

Act making provision for increased oversight and management of the use of force in mental health units in England and Wales, and would require police officers to wear body cameras when attending mental health units. The Act follows a private member's bill introduced in the House of Commons by Steve Reed (Labour MP for Croydon North), following the death of his constituent Olaseni Lewis on 4 September 2010, who died after being restrained by police officers in a mental health unit.

[Counter-Terrorism & Border Security Bill](#) – Lords Report Stage – 3 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

Government Bill to close gaps in existing counter-terrorism legislation, including provisions to:- extend the [offence](#) of inviting support for a proscribed organisation to cover reckless expressions of support, update the [offence](#) of obtaining information likely to be useful to a terrorist to cover material that is just viewed or streamed

[Voyeurism \(Offences\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – 26 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

Government Bill to insert a new offence under Section 67 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to include instances of 'upskirting' where the purpose is to obtain sexual gratification or cause humiliation, distress or alarm. A summary conviction would carry a sentence of up to one year in prison and/or a fine.

[Prisons \(Interf with Wireless Telegraphy\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage - 26 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

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.

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 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, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

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

[Courts & Tribunals \(Judiciary & Functions of Staff\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 26 Nov 2018

[Briefing](#)

Government Bill to increase efficiency by allowing greater flexibility to deploy the right judge to the right case.

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons 3rd reading – 23 November 2018

[APCC response](#)

Private Members' Bill (with Government support) to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking, including the introduction of new civil Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs)

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Commons Report Stage – TBA

[Overarching documents](#) [Briefing](#)

Government Bill to ban the sale of the most dangerous corrosive products to under-18s, make it a criminal offence to possess corrosive substances in a public place without good reason, introduce restrictions on online sales of knives and make it illegal to possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives in private.

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

[Briefing](#)

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

[Lords Briefing](#)

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Violent Crime \(Sentences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Youth \(Services and Provisions\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

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

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

[Service Animals \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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

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

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

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

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

[Discarded Needles \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Withdrawn – 23 November 2018

Private Members' Bill to make it an offence to discard needles in public places in specified circumstances

[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

Local government pension scheme: technical amendments to benefits

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation on proposals to make amendments to the statutory local government pension scheme to accommodate judgements already made, give some flexibility to respond to potential future developments and make a technical amendment required to an earlier Scheme.

Open date: 04/10/2018

Close date: 29/11/2018

Establishing an Independent Public Advocate

Ministry of Justice consultation setting out proposals for the role of the Independent Public Advocate to support bereaved families and enable them to fully understand and engage in the investigation following a disaster. Consultation seeks views on when the support should be available and who will be eligible for support.

Open date: 10/09/2018

Close date: 03/12/2018

Forensic medical exam standard for adult and child sexual assault complainants

Home Office and Forensic Science Regulator (FSR) consultation on draft "Forensic medical examination standard for adult and child sexual assault complainants" following a call for a review of the standard.

Open date: 02/11/2018

Close date: 28/12/2018

Extremism in England and Wales: call for evidence **NEW**

Independent Commission for Countering Extremism launches a 10-week public Call for Evidence on the harms inflicted by extremists. The evidence will inform a wide-ranging study of extremism to be published in spring 2019, which will aim to build understanding of extremism, in all its forms and give people the confidence to challenge it. The Commission wants to hear from all those concerned about rising extremism, including charities, academics and those working on the frontline to counter extremism.

Open date: 11/11/2018

Close date: 31/01/2019

Airside alcohol licensing at international airports: Call for Evidence

Home Office consultation seeking to help government to assess the scale of drunk and disruptive passengers at international airports, the extent to which airports and airlines use their statutory powers effectively and the impact of current and proposed interventions in relation to [airside alcohol licensing](#).

Open date: 01/11/2018

Close date: 01/02/2019

Review of enforcement agent (bailiff) reforms: Call for Evidence **NEW**

Ministry of Justice call for evidence as part of the second post-implementation review of regulations which were introduced in 2014 to regulate the operation of enforcement agents and the fees that they charge. The review invites feedback from people who have been contacted by enforcement agents, enforcement agents, creditors, debt advisers, the judiciary and anybody else with experience of working with enforcement agents.

Open date: 25/11/2018

Close date: 17/02/2019