Horizon Scanning e-Briefing: 7 October 2019

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

£25m Safer Streets Fund announced to prevent acquisitive crime in hotspot areas – 1 October 2019
Home Office announce £25m fund for projects that aim to prevent burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and other theft offences in areas that are disproportionately affected. The one year fund will be open to bids from PCCs who will be required to work with local authorities and other partners to develop evidence-based crime prevention plans that demonstrate value for money and engage local communities. Some of the funding will be used to support community projects that complement partnership initiatives. Each initiative will be assessed to help inform future government investment. The funding will be available from April 2020.

£20m investment to intensify law enforcement response to county lines – 1 October 2019
Home Office announce £20m funding to tackle and disrupt the county lines alongside measures to:-
- Increase staffing, capacity and capability of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and regional organised crime units to further enhance intelligence sharing, partnership working and proactivity
- Increase disruption on rail networks, which remain a key method of transportation for county lines gangs. This will include BTP teams working exclusively on county lines based at key sites across England
- Invest in technology to disrupt county lines operations, including enhanced data analysis using ANPR to enable police to proactively target vehicles suspected of being used in county lines activity
- Work with money service bureaus to tackle illicit finance by intensifying operations to identify opportunities to take action in order to enable more cash seizures and arrests for money laundering
- Increasing support services for county lines victims by developing an expanded national specialist support service to help young people and their families exit their involvement in county lines.

£10m ring-fenced funding for Taser uplift announced – 27 September 2019
Home Office announces additional ring-fenced funding to significantly increase the number of officers carrying Tasers in order to better protect themselves and the public from harm. The uplift could result in more than 10,000 more police officers in England and Wales being deployed with Tasers. Officers have to elect to be specially-trained to use Taser and it is for Chief Constables to decide how many carry the devices based on strategic assessments of threat and risk in their force areas. A recent Police Federation survey found 94% of officers think Tasers should be issued to more frontline staff.

Home Office Circular 008/2019: Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 – 25 September 2019
Notice of Detention clarifying the conditions under which a person's fingerprints and non-intimate samples can be taken. Code of practice replaces previous Notice of Detention (annex to March 2015 S7 Code of Practice). includes information on training and use of the powers, examination of persons under schedule 7

New regulations on accessibility of public sector websites come into force – 23 September 2019
Regulations come into force requiring all public sector websites launched on or after 23 September 2018 to meet accessibility standards. This includes publishing accessibility statements that explain how accessible their websites are. The deadline for public sector organisations to make their existing websites accessible is 23 September 2020, and the compliance date for mobile applications is 23 June 2021. Government Digital Service (GDS) will monitor public sector websites and apps on their accessibility from 2020. The centre-right think tank Reform have also published a report on the causes of digital exclusion – Inclusive by Default

New Arson and Criminal Damage guidelines come into force - 1 October 2019
The guidelines aim to ensure that courts take full account of the harm caused by offences such as arson attacks on historic buildings or criminal damage leading to severe disruption of public services.

Roll out of sobriety tags and longer prison sentences for most serious offenders – 1 October 2019
Justice Minister announces plans to change the release point for the most serious violent and sexual offenders from half to two-thirds served in prison before being subject to release into the community on licence conditions. A national roll out of alcohol monitoring sobriety tags in 2020 to be used in conjunction with alcohol abstinence orders was also announced.

UK to help develop new tech to stop sharing of terrorist content – 24 September 2019
Home Office provide new funding and support for UK data-science experts to create an algorithm which tech companies can use free of charge to improve the way that they detect violent and harmful videos and prevent them being shared by their users. The outcomes of the research could eventually also be used to help spot other types of harmful content such as child sexual abuse.

UK-US Bilateral Data Access Agreement – 4 October 2019
Home Secretary signs the first UK-US Bilateral Data Access Agreement to enable law enforcement to directly access data held by tech companies where appropriate authorisation is in place. Giving effect to the Crime (Overseas Production Orders) Act 2019, the Agreement will help to accelerate complex investigations into suspected terrorists and paedophiles and serious criminality.

Public Safety, Public Trust: Innovative Ideas for PCCs in 2020 – 25 September 2019
Criminal Justice Alliance briefing highlights some of the main challenges facing the criminal justice system and provides practical innovative solutions for prospective PCCs to consider in their manifestos for the 2020 elections. Includes case studies relating to tackling violent crime, supporting victims of crime, reducing the harm caused by drugs, breaking the cycle of re-offending and building trust in policing across all communities.

Guidance: Recovery needs assessment (RNA) – 27 September 2019
UK Visas and Immigration guidance on how to carry out a RNA for confirmed victims of modern slavery

Guidance: Representing looked-after children at the police station – 23 September 2019
Howard League for Penal Reform publish a step-by-step guide for lawyers

Recent Parliamentary briefings: Knife crime statistics (3 Oct), Regulating the Internet of Things (2 Oct), The spending of the Ministry of Justice (1 Oct), Suicide in the UK (1 Oct), Houses in multiple occupation (30 Sep), Adult social care: Policy review and anticipated Green Paper (30 Sep), Prisoners' voting rights (30 Sep), Social Care Funding (27 Sep), Managing Offenders: A New Model of Probation (26 Sep), Police stop and search powers (26 Sep), Firearms (25 Sep), Policing in the UK (23 Sep)

Recent Parliamentary debates: Crime and Policing: written statement (2 Oct), Domestic Abuse Bill (2 Oct), Sentencing and Release Framework (1 Oct), Police: Additional Officers (30 Sep)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

'It's not part of the job': Violence and verbal abuse towards shop workers – **10 September 2019**
Co op commissioned review of evidence and policy relating to violence and aggression in shops undertaken by the University of London indicates that the frequency and severity of violent incidents in the retail sector have been increasing significantly over recent years. The main scenarios in which violence and abuse are becoming prevalent include: encountering shoplifters (25%); enforcing legislation relating to the sale of age-restricted goods; hate-motivated incidents; and armed and unarmed robberies. There is a strong relationship between substance misuse, shop theft and the use of violence and aggression by drug-affected offenders, with many being dealt with by inappropriate community orders or short custodial sentences that do nothing to target the root causes of their criminal behaviour. The report makes recommendations for:-

- NPCC to encourage drug testing on arrest for shop theft and violence against shop worker;
- Streamlining the process for reporting incidents to the police and improving the accuracy of data;
- Launching a publicity campaign promoting zero tolerance of violence towards shop workers;
- Measuring hate-motivated offences in shops, including data via the Commercial Victimisation Survey;
- A post-Implementation Review of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which the report argues has downplayed the seriousness of theft, enabling more serious and repeat offending to escalate;
- Changing expectations regarding age-restricted sales to shift the emphasis on to the customer to prove they are old enough to purchase age-restricted items, such as alcohol, knives, aerosol paint and tobacco;
- Introducing an 'Assaults on Retail Workers (Offences) Bill' to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against retail workers in the course of their employment.

English Indices of Deprivation 2019 – **26 September 2019**
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government publish an update to the 2015 English Indices of deprivation which highlights that 88% of neighbourhoods that are in the most deprived 10%, were also among the most deprived in the 2015 IMD. 61% of local authority districts contain at least one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England, with Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Knowsley, Kingston upon Hull, Manchester and Blackpool having the highest proportion of neighbourhoods among the most deprived in England. Many London Boroughs have seen a reduction in the proportions of neighbourhoods that are highly deprived. A range of mapping resources and interactive tools has been made available to help explore the data.

Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge – **5 September 2019**
Research published by Local Trust and Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) highlights that residents in places which lack places to meet, connectivity (physical and digital) and an active, engaged community generally have higher rates of unemployment and child poverty, and worse health outcomes than those living in other deprived areas. The research combines a range of data sources to create a 'community needs' index which can be used to help policy makers target investment in social infrastructure. It also identifies 206 wards as 'left behind' – housing estates predominantly outlying big towns and cities that they not received a fair share of the investment available for services and facilities to help connect and bind their communities. The report calls on government to establish a joint cross-government/civil society task force to consider the evidence and allocate an appropriate proportion of the Stronger Towns Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund to these areas.

Service user involvement in the review of probation services – **2 September 2019**
HMI Probation Research Bulletin highlights a range of approaches to service user involvement (SUI) being employed across probation services, often facilitated and supported by committed staff who strongly believed in its value. Staff found SUI beneficial for gaining service users' perspectives, improving service delivery, utilising service users' skills, and providing a refocus for probation work, but also identified challenges in integrating the work successfully into probation culture, engaging a representative range of service users, a lack of investment in terms of both time and resources, and difficulties in implementing SUI proposals. The report sets out a number of key enablers for the successful delivery of SUI.

HMI Prison and Probation Service: Desistance: An evidence based summary – **3 October 2019**
Evidence–based summary explaining what desistance is and how to help someone desist from crime

Reported road casualties in Great Britain, Annual report: 2018 – **26 September 2019**
National Statistics publication showing that the annual number of reported road deaths in Great Britain has remained relatively stable since 2012 at 1,784. The number of overall casualties of all severities (160,697), meanwhile, has fallen by 6% since 2017. There were 25,511 serious injuries in road traffic accidents reported to the police in 2018. However, comparison of this figure with earlier years should be interpreted with caution due to changes in systems for severity reporting by some police forces. A new road safety data download tool is being trialled which enables users to develop bespoke reports. Department for transport also published data relating to Reported drinking and driving accidents and casualties

Fire prevention and protection statistics 2018/19 – **3 October 2019**
Home Office statistical release highlights a reduction (-27%) in the number of Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) since 2013/14, but increases in the total number of targeted checks among people aged 65 and over (+37%) and disabled people (+54%) over the previous five years. In 2017/18, 90% of households owned a working smoke alarm, which has increased by 2% points since 2012/13.

Criminal court statistics quarterly: April to June 2019 – **26 September 2019**
Ministry of Justice statistics showing reductions in Magistrates court workloads over the past three years, while the volume of outstanding cases has remained relatively stable. Outstanding cases have fallen steadily since 2014, despite a 1% increase in the last quarter. Average waiting times in the Crown Court continue to fall.

Legal aid statistics quarterly: April to June 2019 – **Published 26 September 2019**

Upcoming statistical publications

- Hate crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019 – 15 October 2019
- Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to June 2019 – 17 October 2019
- Police powers and procedures, England and Wales 2018/19 – 24 October 2019
- Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: 2018/19 – 31 October 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

PEEL: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy 2018/19 – Tranche 2 reports **– 27 September 2019**
Latest tranche of 15 forces inspected as part of the annual PEEL programme finds the majority to be 'GOOD' at reducing crime and keeping people safe (67%), operating efficiently and providing sustainable services to the public (60%) and in the way it treats the public and its workforce (73%). Only three forces (Cleveland, Northamptonshire and West Mercia) were assessed as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' across all three areas assessed. Findings from the final tranche of forces will be published in early 2020.

Shining a light on betrayal: Abuse of position for a sexual purpose **– 27 September 2019**
PEEL Spotlight report based on findings from forces inspected during the 2019/20 period to date finds that most forces have been slow to take the steps necessary to root out those abusing their position for a sexual purpose, despite progress in improving understanding of the problem. While there has been good proactive engagement with external agencies who receive feedback from those they support about the behaviour of officers and staff, this work is often carried out using relatively modest resources. Despite inconsistent recording practices, the findings also indicate that around 35,000 people working as either officers, staff, contractors or volunteers within the police service are estimated to not have the required levels of vetting. The report recommends that forces:
- be more proactive in looking for the signs of officers and staff abusing their position for a sexual purpose;
- have enough staff to do this;
- have the right tools, such as monitoring software that allows them to easily see the records staff are accessing and the contact they have with victims and other vulnerable people; and
- form more effective relationships with those agencies who support vulnerable people and who are most likely to become aware of the early warning signs of grooming before abuse takes place.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic — Pending
- Joint Inspection of Evidence-led Domestic Abuse prosecutions (HMCPSI) — Pending
- Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS) — Fieldwork
- HMICFRS Roads Policing Thematic (Sec. State Transport Commission) — Fieldwork
- Fire and Rescue Service inspection (third tranche) — December 2019
- HMICFRS State of Fire and Rescue Services in England — December 2019
- Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment — Early 2020
- PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 3 — January 2020
- HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support — 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic) — 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Counter-terrorism — 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Older people in the criminal justice system — 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Cyber-crime — 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Use of PNC by non-police organisations (Home Office commission) — 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Police response to domestic abuse (annual review) — 2019/20
- HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) — Ongoing
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements — Ongoing

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

Digital Justice: HMCTS data strategy and delivering access to justice – 2 October 2019
HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) have pledged to 'maintain or improve access to justice' as part of the ongoing £1.7bn programme of court reform. This report from the Legal Education Foundation recommends that in order to test and review whether this pledge has been achieved, HMCTS should:-

- Improve systems and introduce a robust strategy for data collection, analysis and sharing
- Collect data on vulnerable users of online courts, in terms of age, disability, race and sexual orientation
- Consider giving users of online courts 'unique identifiers' so their progress can be traced
- Collect data to confirm that legal duties relating to access and fairness of the justice system are met, including obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Produce a 'data catalogue' to explain what data HMCTS currently hold
- Commission an independent report on the current arrangements for disseminating judgments to the public

Independent review of Prevent: Ways of working document published – 30 September 2019

Inquiries

Road safety: young and novice drivers – Transport Committee – Open: Accepting written submissions

Ageing prison population – Justice Committee – Open: Accepting written submissions

Children and young people in custody – Justice Committee – Open: Accepting written submissions

Court and Tribunal Reforms – Justice Committee – Report in preparation

Detention of children with learning disabilities - JC on Human Rights – Open

Islamophobia – Home Affairs Committee – Open: Oral evidence ongoing

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On – Home Affairs Committee – Open: Oral evidence ongoing

Modern Slavery – Home Affairs Committee – Open: Oral evidence ongoing

Progress implementation Lammy Review recommendations – Justice Committee – Open

Racial harassment in higher education – Equality and HR Commission – Open

Work of the Home Office – Home Affairs Committee – Open

Counter-terrorism - Home Affairs Committee – Open: Oral evidence ongoing

Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry – Open

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) – Open
- Public hearing dates for 2020 announced – 25 September 2019

5.   LEGISLATION

Prorogation of Parliament expected 8 October 2019 bringing the current parliamentary session to an end. Any bills set to be re-introduced as part of the new legislative programme will be announced as part of the Queen's Speech. The Prime Minister has confirmed that the European Union Withdrawal Agreement Bill will be a central feature of the new legislative programme alongside work to address crucial public priorities such as 'helping the NHS, fighting violent crime, investing in infrastructure and science and cutting the cost of living'.

Domestic Abuse Bill - Carry Over Motion – 2 October 2019   Factsheets Briefing
Government issues response to Joint Committee and announces the introduction of a new bill to:
- promote awareness - to put abuse at the top of everyone's agenda, legislate for a statutory definition
- protect and support victims, including by introducing a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Order
- transform justice response - helping victims give their best evidence, prevent cross-examination by abusers
- improve performance - Domestic Abuse Commissioner to drive consistency and performance improvements
- Secure tenancies to support victims in social housing to leave their abusive situation and rebuild their lives
- HO and MoJ will also commence a three year pilot of mandatory polygraph testing for DA perpetrators

Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill – Carry Over Motion – 4 September 2019   Briefing
Bill to give effect to Law Commission recommendations relating to commencement of enactments relating to sentencing law and to make provision for pre-consolidation amendments of sentencing law

6. CONSULTATIONS

Offensive Weapons Act 2019: draft statutory guidance
Home Office consultation on draft statutory guidance for police, retailers and trading standards on how the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 should be implemented and applied, the obligations imposed under the act, and what factors should be taken into account when making decisions on how to proceed with individual cases of the possession, sale and delivery of knives, corrosives and offensive weapons, and their use to threaten others.
Open date: 15/08/2019
Close date: 09/10/2019

Local government finance settlement 2020 to 2021: technical consultation
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on the government's intended approach for the 2020 to 2021 local government finance settlement. Consultation will be of particular interest to local authorities, and representative bodies for local authorities.
Open date: 03/10/2019
Close date: 31/10/2019

Statutory guidance review for local youth services: have your say
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation to inform a review of the guidance which sets out the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities to provide appropriate local services to improve young people's wellbeing. Review aims to highlight the positive role Local Authorities should play in providing youth services.
Open date: 03/10/2019
Close date: 30/11/2019