

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£7.17 million awarded for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes – 18 November 2020](#)

Home Office publishes details of the PCC areas successful in securing government funding for local domestic abuse perpetrator programmes. This comprises £1.2 million funding for implementation of the Drive Programme aimed at high harm, high risk perpetrators and over £5.9 million funding for other perpetrator programmes or interventions delivered to perpetrators of domestic abuse in the community. Independent research has shown that programmes can cut risk of physical abuse by around 82%.

[Funding boost for rape and domestic abuse support - 18 November 2020](#)

Ministry of Justice award an additional £10.1 million to Police and Crime Commissioners to fund rape and domestic abuse support centres and services across England and Wales following a sharp increase in demand during the pandemic. The Home Office has also made a further £683,000 funding available to up to 34 domestic abuse organisations that have shown a need for extra funds for front line and virtual services during this period, while MHCLG has extended the spending period for their £10 million emergency funding for domestic abuse safe accommodation charities. The government have also relaunched their #YouAreNotAlone communications campaign which raises awareness of domestic abuse and guides people to advice and support

[Government appoints independent advisor on political violence and disruption – 23 November 2020](#)

Lord Walney has been appointed as the government's independent adviser on political violence and disruption – a new unpaid role introduced in response to an increase in activity and prominence amongst far-right, far-left and other political groups over the last year. Findings and recommendations from Lord Walney's review will be presented to the government for publication subject to their approval.

[CTP launch ACT Early safeguarding website to tackle online radicalisation – 18 November 2020](#)

Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) launch the [ACT Early](#) website in response to the rise in hateful extremism online seen during the COVID-19 lockdown. The site is designed to help parents, friends and families access specialist support to stop loved ones being drawn into harmful activities or groups.

[Government launches 'Something's not right' campaign – 17 November 2020](#)

Home Office launch 'Something's not right' campaign on Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook to help young people aged 13+ to recognise different forms of abuse, report it and get help. This follows evidence suggesting that risk of sexual abuse, criminal exploitation and domestic abuse increased during the COVID-19 lockdown.

[Strengthening probation, building confidence - Probation Change Bulletin – 19 November 2020](#)

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 23 November 2020

Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales – 18 November 2020

Ministry of Justice publishes a simplified and updated Victims' Code alongside the government response to its consultation: '[Improving the Victims' Code](#)'. The new Code comes into force on 1 April 2021 and includes 12 overarching rights to ensure that victims understand and are aware of the level of service they can expect to receive. The revised code makes clear to service providers that they should aim to minimise the number of different people victims have contact with and where possible, offer a single point of contact. The revised Code also includes information about access support without reporting incidents to the police or at any stage of an investigation; the support available to victims of Foreign National Offenders and; the right for victims of unrestricted mentally disordered offenders to be assigned a Victim Liaison Officer as opposed to requiring victims to contact hospitals directly. Victims of a sexual or violent offences and offences involving a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, victims will be automatically referred to the Victim Contact Scheme which provides updates on offenders and their potential release from prison. The updated Code also introduces more discretion as to when a victim should be offered the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement.

New courtroom protections for vulnerable victims rolled out nationally – 23 November 2020

Ministry of Justice announces full roll out of new technology enabling vulnerable victims and witnesses to have their cross-examination video-recorded and played in court – eliminating the need to attend in person.

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Police powers: detention and custody](#) (20 Nov), [UK courts and the European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act](#) (20 Nov), [A short guide to police complaints](#) (18 Nov), [Regulation and Prevention of Online Harms](#) (17 Nov)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [UK Terrorism Threat Level](#) (10 Nov), [Police Officer Numbers](#) (9 Nov), [Hate Crime](#) (9 Nov), [Knife Crime](#) (9 Nov), [Domestic Abuse: Victim Protection](#) (9 Nov)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Online Bullying in England and Wales: year ending March 2020 – Published 16 November 2020

ONS publication providing estimates of the prevalence and nature of online bullying among children based on findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. 19% of children aged 10 to 15 are estimated to have experienced at least one type of online bullying behaviour in the last year, 52% of which said they would not describe the behaviours they experienced as bullying. 26% did not report their experiences to anyone.

Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, year ending June 2020 – Published 12 November 2020

FRSs attended 549,913 incidents in the year ending June 2020, marking a 4% decrease on the previous year (573,776). Of these incidents, 156,128 were fires marking a 15% decrease on the previous year (182,661). Secondary fires saw the most notable reduction (-20%) following the hot, dry 2018 summer. There were 231 fire-related fatalities in the year to June 2020 compared with 271 in the previous year. Weekly figures during the COVID-19 lockdown indicate that incident figures appear no different to levels expected, with the exception of Road Traffic Collisions which fell below levels typically expected.

Stability index 2020 – 11 November 2020

Children's Commissioner publishes annual analysis of levels of stability for children in care across three domains: placement changes, school changes and social worker changes. Updates relating to social worker changes have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Key stability figures reported at [Local Authority level](#).

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

National Crime Agency's relationship with regional organised crime units – 12 November 2020

HMICFRS inspection report finds that the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCUs) work well together in some areas of law enforcement and have an effective meeting structure that helps to maintain strong organisational links. The inspection found significant difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff in both the NCA and the ROCUs and reduction in the number of Regional organised crime co-ordinators rendering them less able to engage with the ROCU network. The report advises the NCA to invest in its control room in order to better manage the agency's resources. The report also noted that ROCUs face pressure to operate according to the priorities of chief constables and PCCs who are responsible for their main funding – as opposed to national priorities. This can create a tension between the NCA's work and that of the ROCU network. The report makes recommendations for:-

- Home Office, as part of its review of the Strategic Policing Requirement, should consider how greater emphasis is placed on national threats such as serious and organised crime by PCCs and chief constables
- Home Office should conduct a review of the funding arrangements for ROCUs that would reduce barriers to better integrated working between the NCA and ROCU network
- Home Office to consider changes to legislation can be made to allow the NCA to formally task ROCUs
- NCA must make sure its control room has an effective duty management system with immediate effect
- NCA should revise and publish the job description for the regional organised crime co-ordinator role
- NCA and the ROCU network should agree to the use of the NCA method of defining threat and prioritisation

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

New Inquiry Launched into Self-Generated Indecent Images of Children – 9 November 2020

APPG for Social Media launched the inquiry "Selfie Generation: What's behind the rise in self-generated indecent images of children online?" The inquiry will seek to understand how such content is generated, the current initiatives in place to prevent its circulation and explore what the impact is of the new Relationships, Health and Education curriculum could be in developing children's understanding of healthy relationships. The inquiry would like to hear from stakeholders across the child protection landscape, law enforcement, teachers, parents, guardians, tech companies, academia and children themselves about the extent of this challenge. Submissions to media@iwf.org.uk are requested by 5pm on Sunday 31 January 2021.

Children and Young People in Custody (Part 1): Entry into the youth justice system – 12 November 2020

House of Commons Justice Committee inquiry highlights a diminishing number of children and young people aged 10-17 entering the youth justice system (YJS) alongside increases in the proportion of involved in serious offences, many compounded by issues of mental health, social exclusion and substance misuse. The report also further highlights issues of disproportionality, with more than half of all children currently in youth custody being from minority ethnic backgrounds. Key recommendations include:-

- Development of a whole system approach to address the complexity of the issues faced by those in the YJS
- MoJ and YJB should centrally collect data on non-statutory informal diversion schemes, including demographic information to help assess levels of disproportionality
- MoJ should commission a national evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of formal and informal out of court disposals and set out national guidance on their use informed by evidence and good practice
- MoJ and YJB should review current funding to ensure it reflects YOT's pre-court diversionary work
- MoJ should review the age of criminal responsibility, considering data from other comparable jurisdictions

Ministry of Justice Annual Report and Accounts 2019 to 2020 – 19 November 2020

College of Policing Annual Business Plan 2020/21 – Published 13 November 2020

Exceptional Delivery Model arrangements for probation in response to COVID-19 – 18 November 2020

HMI Probation thematic review commends probation leaders and staff on their compassionate and professional response to COVID-19, having implemented exceptional delivery plans prioritising effective safeguarding and public protection were prepared at speed. Multi-agency partnership arrangements to manage the risk of harm presented by individuals residing in approved premises were good despite variations in mental health provision and reduced access to drug and alcohol services. The report notes innovations introduced during the pandemic including the establishment of a 'live chat' service for victims of domestic abuse in one area inspected and notable examples of partnership working in some Integrated Offender Management (IOM) teams. Some service users reported that their contact with responsible officers had become more frequent during the pandemic. Services to manage the risk of harm that individuals presented were largely being delivered well, although there are lessons to be learned and some work to keep people safe should have been more comprehensive. Contact levels offered were, however, commensurate with the assessed level of risk and need.

The work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic – 18 November 2020

HMI Probation thematic review concludes that leaders and managers at a local and partnership level responded quickly to the needs of children and families during the early stages of the pandemic, prioritising children in greatest need and the safety of the workforce. The review finds examples of innovation, care and commitment to supporting children. Local authorities and YOT partners did, however, feel inundated with guidance documentation which would have benefited from being in a standard format. Some work was initially halted but safely reintroduced over time. Out-of-court disposal panels resumed quickly alongside work to support desistance. Case managers to focus on children who were identified as high priority as new court-ordered cases reduced as a result of the closures. The clearing of court backlogs is, however, expected to have a significant impact on YOT workloads over the coming months. The review found that some aspects of work have lent themselves to a remote approach; including attendance at multi-agency meetings. Staff were creative in developing online sessions with children, promoting learning and their wellbeing. Multi-agency risk management processes continued during the pandemic, however, the report notes that a sharper focus and more detailed planning is still required in protecting parental victims of child and adolescent violence.

A thematic review of probation recall culture and practice – 10 November 2020

HMI Probation thematic review of recall decision-making finds that public protection and the protection of victims are the primary focus of probation service decision-making. Responsible officers make impressive efforts to engage non-compliant service users in what can be highly complex and resource-intensive cases. The inspection did, however, find inconsistencies in knowledge, criteria and processes among some staff and managers and inconsistencies in the threshold, recording and delivery of warnings and in the access to and use of alternatives to recall, such as approved premises (APs) and electronic monitoring. The report makes recommendations for HM Prison and Probation Service to:-

- introduce a revised process for issuing licence warnings (incl. guidance on thresholds and practice advice)
- review the use, accessibility and effectiveness of alternatives to recall (incl. the role of approved premises)
- analyse information on recalls to identify significant variations in practice between and within organisations
- ensure that bias and unconscious bias in recall decisions are reviewed as part of the assurance process
- review the operation of executive release to ensure it operates consistently across all organisations
- ensure time to fully assess suitability of release addresses when implementing home detention curfews
- ensure a shared understanding of the recall framework within the new English regional probation divisions.

ACMD Publishes Review of GHB and Related Compounds – 20 November 2020

ACMD review of harms relating to the use of GHB, GBL and associated compounds concludes that there is a need to develop systems for future monitoring of their prevalence, including higher use among the LGBT community. The report also highlights evidence of significant harm arising from the criminal use of GHB, GBL and related compounds including escalated risk of murder, drug-facilitated sexual assault and robbery. The report recommends that GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD is reclassified from Class C to Class B.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

[Fire Safety Bill](#) – Ping Pong – TBA

[Covert Human Intelligence Sources \(Criminal Conduct\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage - TBA

[Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBA

[Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Lords Second reading - TBA

[Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) – Lords Report Stage - TBA

[Serious Violence Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA

[Police Powers and Protections Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA

[Online Harms Bill](#) - April 2019 White Paper

Private Member's Bills

[Forensic Science Regulator and Biometrics Strategy Bill](#) - Commons Committee stage – 10 Nov 2020

[Protest \(Abortion Clinics\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 8 January 2021

[Death by Dangerous Driving \(Sentencing\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 8 January 2021

[Assaults on Retail Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 8 January 2021

[Problem Drug Use Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 15 January 2021

[Hate Crime \(Misogyny\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 15 January 2021

[Hate Crime \(Misandry and Misogyny\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 15 January 2021

[Sentencing \(Women\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 15 January 2021

[Speed Limits \(England\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 15 January 2021

[Foreign Nationals \(Offender and Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) – Second Reading in Commons – 15 Jan 2021

[Police Stop and Search \(Repeal\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 15 January 2021

[Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#) – Report Stage – 22 January 2021

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 22 January 2021

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 29 January 2021

[Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 29 January 2021

[Sexual Offences \(Sports Coaches\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 5 February 2021

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Revisions to the extradition police codes of practice](#) **NEW**

Home Office consultation on revisions to the Extradition Act 2003 police codes of practice following significant changes to PACE codes and a new power of arrest brought about by the Extradition (Provisional Arrest) Act 2020 - where the UK is arresting, transporting or detaining an individual subject to a valid extradition request.

Open date: 17/11/2020

Close date: 14/12/2020

[Reform of the communications offences](#)

Law Commission consultation on proposals to improve protection afforded to victims of harmful online behaviour such as abusive messages, cyber-flashing, pile-on harassment, and the malicious sharing of information known to be false.

Open date: 24/09/2020

Close date: 18/12/2020

[Post-conviction confiscation regime](#)

Law Commission consultation on proposals to improve the process by which confiscation orders are made, to ensure the fairness of the confiscation regime, and to optimise the enforcement of confiscation orders.

Open date: 17/09/2020

Close date: 18/12/2020

[Supporting effective investigations guideline](#) **NEW**

College of Policing consultation seeking knowledge and experience of front line police officers and staff to inform the development of new investigation guidelines to ensure a consistent approach.

Open date: 24/11/2020

Close date: 21/12/2020

[Hate crime laws](#)

Law Commission consultation on hate crime law reforms including extending the application of aggravated offences (stirring up hatred and football chanting offences) and adding sex / gender to protected characteristics.

Open date: 23/09/2020

Close date: 24/12/2020

[Modern Slavery Offences](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation seeking views on a draft of the first dedicated sentencing guidelines for offences under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Open date: 15/10/2020

Close date: 15/01/2021

[Expanding the offence of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving](#)

DfT consultation on proposals to broaden the offence 'using a hand-held mobile phone while driving' to capture standalone mode functions as well as interactive communication functions and to introduce a new exemption to the offence to allow drivers to make contactless payments using a mobile phone at appropriate locations

Open date: 17/10/2020

Close date: 17/01/2021

[Firearms safety](#) **NEW**

Home Office consultation seeking views on enhanced security for particularly powerful rifles, introducing licensing controls on miniature rifle ranges, and tougher controls on ammunition. Proposals include further, targeted controls on the security of air weapons and access to them by under-18s in England and Wales.

Open date: 24/11/2020

Close date: 16/02/2021