

<b>For Information</b>	
<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategic Resources &amp; Performance Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>The Chief Constable</b>
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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>3</b>

## **Nottinghamshire Police Public Protection and Safeguarding**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to:

- Domestic Abuse
- Rape and serious sexual offences
- Child abuse
- Vulnerability and safeguarding
- Force activity and progress following the IICSA enquiry
- Scrutiny

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the contents of the attached report are noted.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 To inform the Police and Crime Commissioner of Force activity and progress in relation to this area of business.

### **4. Summary of Key Points**

4.1 The attached appendix provides the detail regarding force performance in relation to public protection and safeguarding and how Please see attached briefing note

### **5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision**

5.1 The budget for the department is managed by the Detective Superintendent and monitored frequently. There are no matters to report to the Strategic Resources and Performance meeting.

## **6. Human Resources Implications**

- 6.1 The attached appendix highlights how the Public Protection department is responding to changes in demand through constant assessment of the structure of the unit. Further detail is included in Appendix A.

## **7. Equality Implications**

- 7.1 The Public Protection Department endeavours to increase the representation of officers and staff of those who identify with minority protected characteristics in order to be more reflective of the communities we serve.

## **8. Risk Management**

- 8.1 Any risks associated with this area of business are assessed and scored appropriately. They are managed by the T/Detective Superintendent head of department.

## **9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

- 9.1 The four main strategic priorities of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan 2018 to 2021 are central to public protection and safeguarding, specifically (i) protecting people from harm, (ii) helping and supporting victims, (iii) tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, and (iv) transforming services and delivering quality policing.

## **10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations**

- 10.1 There are no relevant changes in legislation or other legal considerations with regards to this report.

## **11. Details of outcome of consultation**

- 11.1 There is no requirement for consultation as a result of this paper, which is for update only.

## **12. Appendices**

- 12.1 Appendix A – Public Protection and Safeguarding 2019/20 Update.



## **Strategic Resources and Performance Board**

Public Protection and Safeguarding – 2019/2020 update

October 2020

Version 1

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## 1. Introduction

The overall approach to public protection continues to develop well in Nottinghamshire. Although Nottinghamshire Police has not been subject to external inspection this year, a number of key improvements in service delivery further enhance our service delivery. As with other areas of policing, both locally and nationwide, COVID-19 has had a dramatic effect on recorded crime and safeguarding concerns for our vulnerable people during this pandemic.

## 2. Domestic Abuse

2.1 Following increases in reported domestic abuse in recent years, this reporting period (Apr 19 – Mar 20) shows an increase of 5.9% in domestic abuse reported crime. 'Calls for service', when considering domestic abuse crime and non-crime, remains static (+0.14%). The improvement in crime recording standards ensures domestic abuse reporting is recorded correctly and may explain this change in conversion rate between crime and non-crime. This static calls for service should be seen as positive.

Recorded	Dates between 01/04/2019 & 31/03/2020	% Proportion of Total	Dates between 01/04/2018 & 31/03/2019	% Proportion of Total	YTD Volume Change	YTD % Change
Domestic Abuse Crime & non crime	20,812		20,783		29	0.14%
Domestic Abuse Crime	15,088	72.50%	14,252	68.58%	836	5.87%
Domestic non crime	5,724	27.5%	6,531	31.4%	-807	-12.4%

2.2 In terms of domestic abuse, violence where actual injury has occurred has reduced by 15.1%, which is very encouraging.

Domestic Abuse Crimes	Dates between 01/04/2019 & 31/03/2020	Dates between 01/04/2018 & 31/03/2019	YTD Volume Change	YTD % Change
Domestic VAP	11,630	11,022	608	5.52%
- Domestic Violence without Injury	4,310	3,497	813	23.2%
- Domestic Violence with injury	3,826	4,506	-680	-15.1%

2.3 In March 2020, we reported that 35.6% of domestic abuse victims were repeat victims. This is compared to 37.2% in March 2019 and 33.4% in March 2018.

2.4 We continue to work with partners to ensure that all high risk cases are reviewed at a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) with up to 175 cases per month heard across Nottinghamshire. Partnership working is strong within the MARAC process, with more referrals being received from our partners, than those generated by the Police, which is again positive. MARACs have continued throughout the pandemic through the use of video conferencing.

2.5 Operation Encompass continues to be delivered in both City and County MASH, where details of children who live in domestic abuse households are shared with education and social care, to provide further safeguarding opportunities. Around 3500 cases were shared in 2019/2020.

2.6 Our victim satisfaction surveys continue to reveal strong performance, consistently reaching over 92% of victims being satisfied with their whole experience with the Police.

2.7 In 2018/19 we considered 500 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) cases, making 224 disclosures. This is double the number of activity in the previous two years.

We continue to promote this important process, used to safeguard victims and empowering people to protect themselves. In 2018 Nottinghamshire Police introduced satisfaction surveys on how we respond to Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme requests, with regular 100% satisfaction returns.

Continuing this drive, in 2020 we are in the process of implementing a systematic approach where every domestic abuse occurrence is subject to **consideration** for DVDS. Recruitment of staff to deliver this new project is under way.

2.8 Over 1100 front line officers and staff have completed the updated domestic abuse training (DA Matters) in the Autumn of 2019. 140 of these staff volunteered to become DA Champions on their own teams and received additional training input. DA Matters focuses on coercive and control behaviour as well as evidence led (aka 'victimless') prosecutions.

2.9 We continue to work in close partnership with Women's Aid in supporting victims of domestic abuse, with the OPCC commissioned Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs). The IDVAs are now co-located within police stations on both the County and the City.

2.10 In October 2017 our Integrated Offender Management (IOM) teams began to manage cohorts of 40 of the highest risk serial perpetrators of domestic abuse, adopting IOM principles to domestic abuse perpetrators.

In 2019, we began placing curfew tags and alcohol tags on DA perpetrators. The alcohol tags have been particularly successful in terms of low re-offending rate. The force has invested further in tags.

2.11 Continuing a theme of prevention, the force is exploring perpetrator programs, working alongside the OPCC and the VRU (Violence Reduction Unit) to identify the most appropriate scheme and funding.

2.12 The force is proud of their commitment to working in partnership to tackle stalking. Following the recruitment of a Stalking Safeguarding Officer and Stalking Clinics in 2018, the force has obtained 13 Stalking Protection Orders since the introduction of the new legislation in January this year.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, Nottinghamshire Police was the first Force in the country to obtain a non-domestic related Stalking Protection Order. There have been 6 breaches of these orders and our first perpetrator to be sentenced for breaching a Stalking Protection Order was in April 2020.

### 3. Rape and Serious Sexual Assault

3.1 Recording of rape offences have been reduced in 2019/20 with a reduction in 172 offences compared to the previous year (-12.9%). This followed the step change increase in demand experienced in 2017/2018. Overall our recording of all types of sexual offences has also decreased by 130 (-3.7%).

<b>Sexual offences</b>	<b>Dates between 01/04/2019 &amp; 31/03/2020</b>	<b>Dates between 01/04/2018 &amp; 31/03/2019</b>	<b>YTD Volume Change</b>	<b>YTD % Change</b>
<i>All Sexual Offences</i>	3,380	3,510	-130	-3.70%
<i>Other Sexual Offences</i>	2,217	2,175	42	1.93%
<i>Rape</i>	1,163	1,335	-172	-12.88%

3.2 We continue to prosecute a number of offenders for rape, achieving notable success. These prosecutions provide confidence to others to come forward, a situation we welcome. The conviction rate at court for rape continues to be strong when compared regionally and nationally.

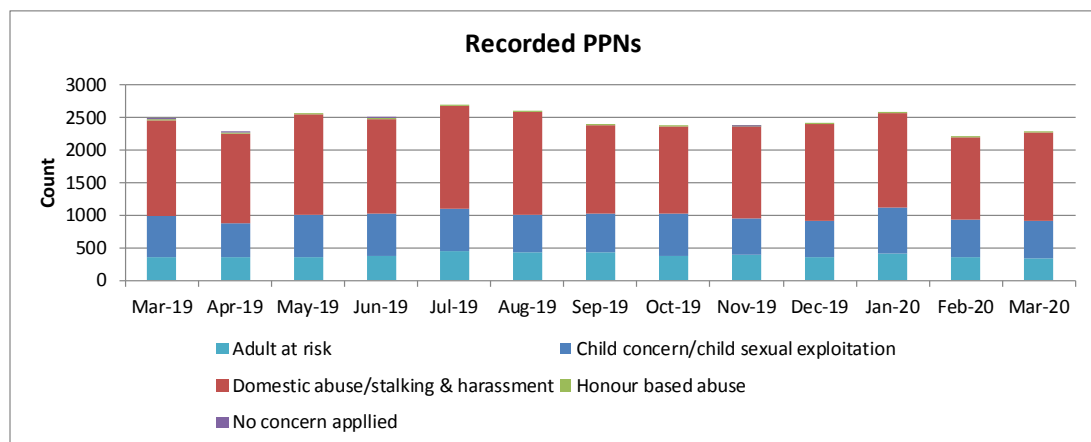
3.3 Designed to improve our referrals into support mechanisms, ISVAs and CHISVAs, commissioned by the OPCC, have commenced co-location with at our two main bases of our Public Protection department. Although affected by COVID-19, we aim to continue and improve the use of this support mechanism for victims of rape.

3.4 A new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is in advance stages, to be built next to the current facility at Oxclose Lane. This updated facility will provide enhanced support and forensic examinations and has been designed in consultation with survivor groups and key partners. Completion is expected in April 2022.

## 4. Vulnerability

4.1 The force continues to focus upon safeguarding vulnerable people under the headline of “Know it, Spot it, Stop it!”. Safeguarding referrals from front line officers continue to be strong.

4.2 Public Protection Notices (PPNs) are used by staff to highlight vulnerability of both adults and children and are shared within the MASH. An electronic version of the PPN was introduced in July 2018.



4.3 Strategy discussions have been a focus of improvement in 2019/20 within our MASH following OSTED inspections. Nottinghamshire Police have worked well with our statutory partners and we are now in a strong position in terms of our safeguarding responsibilities at strategy discussions, with Health now making swift improvements also.

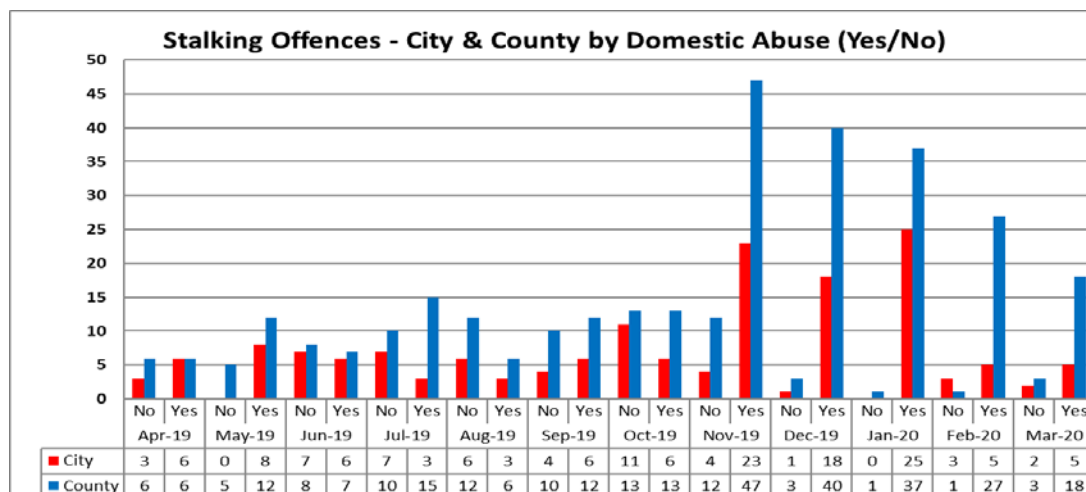
4.4 The Mental Health Triage car is a joint Police and Health initiative, now running into its 6<sup>th</sup> year. This car responds to potential mental health incidents reported into the Police. The service is designed to prevent harm to both the subject and the public.

In May 2019 Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust agreed with Nottinghamshire Police to expand the service and extend the service provision period to 0830hrs until 0100hrs. The team resourced/triaged 1,922 incidents in the three months period between Jan-Mar 2020.

## 5. Harassment, Stalking and Cyber Bullying

5.1 Recent changes to crime recording guidance have impacted on the recording of harassment offences. This makes analysis very difficult until a benchmark has been established.

5.2 The recording of stalking has increased dramatically, rising from 149 in 18/19 to 438 in 19/20. The rise in recording can be directly correlated to the focus and training provided to Nottinghamshire Police staff in advance of the introduction of Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs). Training was delivered in November 2019, with the new legislation coming into force in January 2020.



5.3 As mentioned in 2.12, the force has obtained 13 Stalking Protection Orders since the introduction of the new legislation on 20<sup>th</sup> January this year and was the first in the country to obtain a non-domestic related Stalking Protection Order. There have been 6 breaches of these orders.



## **6. Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage & Female Genital Mutilation**

6.1 Following additional recruitment in April 2019, Public Protection now has two dedicated HBA Safeguarding Officers increasing our professional knowledge and safeguarding expertise.

6.2 HBA recorded incidents has increased by 5.9% in the last year. Female Genital Mutilation continues to be entirely a support function for Nottinghamshire Police with no crimes having been reported to have occurred in the county. A total of 24 victims of crimes committed abroad have been supported, an increase from 19 the previous year.

6.3 The force has successfully applied for 24 Forced Marriage Prevention Orders (FMPOs) and 29 Female Genital Mutilation Orders in 2019/20, a rise from 8 in 2018/19. These are preventative measures and display our improvement in engaging with hard to reach communities and our investment of resources in this area.

## **7. Child Sexual Exploitation**

7.1 Demand from child sexual exploitation and abuse will continue to increase. Key vulnerabilities include when teenage girls go missing and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). We now have staff employed in both the County and the City, working with children in care, designed to prevent them from going missing or being exploited.

7.2 We are currently recruiting two Child Criminal Exploitation officers who will coordinate our activity and referrals to the multi-agency exploitation panels conducted within the City and County Partnerships.

7.2 We continue to have a strong Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit (SEIU) who reactively investigate and proactively safeguard children. They use a risk assessment tool to identify people at risk of CSE and work with our partners in the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panels.

7.3 We have recently recruited a Perpetrator Coordinator within the SEIU team. This officer coordinates formal assessment, score and management of CSE Perpetrators that sit outside of our traditional Police enforcement and disruption techniques. This is similar to IOM principles already used for acquisitive crime and domestic abuse.

7.4 We continue to react positively to Online Child Activist Groups (aka 'paedophile hunter groups') and indeed arrested 45 people in 2019/20 as a direct result of this activity.

## **8. Child Abuse**

8.1 The number of cases involving child abuse is relatively static. Reported sexual abuse of a child between Apr 18 – Mar 19 (outside COVID19 period) has in fact reduced by 0.9% (1516 compared to 1530). Crimes of violence against a child rose by 1.5%, but like domestic abuse, violence causing injury reduced by 10% (2,198 from 2,431), which is encouraging.

Although outside the time parameters of this report, of potential concern is the reduction of reporting of child abuse under COVID-19. This reduction may result from the reduced contact with professionals including teachers.

8.2 We work closely with partner agencies, often within the MASH, to ensure proportionate and appropriate investigation is conducted, jointly identifying the lead agency to investigate.

A review has recently been conducted, alongside our Local Authority colleagues, to assure us of the correct level of 'joint versus single' agency working. This review reported positively, in that in general we get these decisions right first time.

8.3 The effects of domestic abuse on children continues to receive focus from Nottinghamshire Police, working closely in partnership through the MASH and particularly via Operation Encompass, a daily multi-agency information sharing process solely in respect to children experiencing domestic abuse. As stated previously, around 3500 cases were shared in 2019/2020.

8.4 Knife crime continues to be another key focus of concerted partnership activity in Nottinghamshire. Public Protection Notices (PPNs) submitted by our front line officers highlight children who are vulnerable as victims of, or perpetrators to, knife crime. These PPNs are processed through the MASH and appropriately shared with partners.

8.5 Child Criminal Exploitation Panels (CCEPs) continue to operate across the Partnership tackling a number of areas in which young people are put at risk of criminal exploitation both through participation in and as a victim. Key crime types are:-

- Knife crime
- County Lines activity

- Carrying weapons
- Gangs

8.6 Following some excellent partnership working in 2019/20, Nottinghamshire Police and both Local Authorities share information of children who are subject to Child Protection Plans (CPP). We now tag all addresses of these children so that control room dispatchers and attending officers are aware of the wider safeguarding information and hence forth more aware of any contextual safeguarding at that address. In a reciprocal arrangement, we systematically share incident details to the LA of all calls to the Police involving families of children under CPPs.

8.7 The new safeguarding arrangements for children are now in place, both in the City and County, following the introduction of Working Together 2018. Now known as the Safeguarding Children Partnerships, we are fully embedded in these arrangements, both at a strategic and tactical level.

## **9. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) – Operation Equinox**

9.1 Operation Equinox was established in 2016 to address significant reporting of non-recent abuse of children within City and County Local Authority managed establishments. It additionally became the conduit for the Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and Operation Hydrant, the National Coordination Centre for non-recent abuse.

9.2 Following the recommendation from the IICSA report, published in August 2019, we worked with Nottingham City and other child protection partners in an independent external evaluation of our practices concerning harmful sexual behaviour including responses, prevention, assessment, intervention and workforce development. This took place in November/December 2019, under commission to the NSPCC.

The NSPCC has concluded its evaluation, presenting its findings in a joint event on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The delivery plan is being led by Nottingham City Council.

9.3 Nottinghamshire Police has introduced a new Harmful Sexual Behaviour procedure which includes guidance to staff on supporting victims/survivors and investigatory decisions via the Brooks Traffic Light Tool. A copy of the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Procedure has been provided to the OPCC for scrutiny.

## **10. Additional Internal Scrutiny and Audit**

10.1 In 2019/2020 Nottinghamshire Police completed a number of audit and scrutiny reports in order to assess its efficiency and effectiveness in relation to areas of public protection. These are both quantitative and qualitative assessments. They include

- Voice of the Child
- Victim Satisfaction Surveys for Domestic Abuse, Rape and Claire's Law.
- Adult Rape deep dive
- Child Rape deep dive
- Domestic Abuse deep dive

The Head of Public Protection currently chairs an implementation group to deliver recommendations from the deep dive audits.

10.2 Both the Children and Adults Safeguarding arenas have ACC scrutiny. The ACC Crime and Operations chairs the Child Centred Policing Plan, which governs all recommendations and risks in relation to the theme of 'children'. Likewise, since Feb 2020, ACC Meynell has chaired the Adults Safeguarding Scrutiny Board. Both boards are attended by the OPCC.

10.3 This scrutiny, alongside the Public Protection department performance framework and the Safeguarding Boards' own Quality Assurance Groups, provide a robust performance framework for safeguarding in Nottinghamshire.