

APPENDIX A

Case Study – Knife Crime

Report Date: 11 August 2016

- 1.1 Knife crime is a policing priority for the Commissioner. In the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan (refreshed) for 2016-2018 he outlined in his priorities that although Nottingham and Nottinghamshire remain a safe place to live and work he was committed to working hard to reduce knife crime.
- 1.2 Within his plan's priority themes, he set two objectives underpinning his desire to drive down knife crime offending: (1) Set up a dedicated pro-active violent crime team and provide resources to support action to reduce knife crime, and (2) Continue to use stop and search power in a necessary and proportionate manner; sharing data and encouraging greater scrutiny. In support of his objectives, the Commissioner set the Chief Constable the targets of a reduction in the number of victim based crimes compared to 2015-2016.
- 1.3 Whilst knife-related offences have seen a 42% reduction in Nottinghamshire over the previous six years, and remains marginally higher (8%) than England and Wales average at around 550 per year, offences have seen a sharp rise since February 2015. For example, the number of incidents in July 2015 was almost double the rate in February 2015.
- 1.4 Possession of weapons offences recorded by the Police has increased markedly since March 2015, largely due to the number of knife and sharp instruments identified having risen by around 100 offences per year to 418 (+28%). Increases have been reflected across all local authority areas especially Nottingham City where the increase is more pronounced.
- 1.5 In the 2015/16 performance year a total of 580 knife crime offences were recorded (excluding simple possession offences). This is an increase of 6% (33 additional offences) on the 2014/15 performance year.
- 1.6 Knife crime increased on both City and County areas, with the County at +7.3% (+16 offences) and the City at +5.2% (+17 offences) over the same period. Looking at the 2016 -2017 year-to-date picture (to June) the Force has recorded an increase of 14.5% (23 offences) on the same period of last year, with high volume months in May (69) and June (74). This compares to a 12 month average to April 2016 of 48 offences.
- 1.7 Knife crime is seen across a wide range of offending including domestic violence, Serious Aquisitive Crime, night Time economy policing and serious and organised crime.

Victims & Offender

- 1.8 The majority of victims and offenders of knife enabled violence are aged 27 or under, with those aged 23-27 accounting for a quarter of the total alone.
- 1.9 The majority of both victims and offenders are male.

- 1.10 Where the ethnicity of victims is known 67% were white (North European), 16% black, 6% Asian.
- 1.11 Whilst in relation to offenders 52% of offenders are white (North European), 35% black, 6% Asian (where ethnicity is known).

Location

- 1.12 Between December 2015-mid-June 2016, figures show that the City areas have seen approximately 33% more Knife Crime than the County areas.
- 1.13 Partnership activity around knife crime in Nottinghamshire is coordinated by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board's (SNB) Serious and Organised Crime Group and within Nottingham by the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership through their Serious and organised Crime Board.
- 1.14 Within Nottingham a partnership sub group chaired by the Police has the responsibility for developing joint tactical activity and reporting back into the SOC Board.
- 1.15 In line with the Commissioner's pledge in January 2016 a dedicated police team was introduced. The Knife Crime Team is an intelligence-led proactive team whose aim is to reduce knife enabled crime through providing an on-street presence.

Positive Impact of Team

- 1.16 The KCT has had a positive effect on knife enabled crime figures with a 62.5% month-on-month reduction between January and March 2016
- 1.17 Data shows that in the weeks immediately prior to the KCT's creation, Knife Crime was showing an upward trend. Once the KCT started, however, the trend reversed and went down
- 1.18 The reduction in Knife Crime was most effective during the weeks where the KCT were actively patrolling local areas
- 1.19 While the KCT was present in an area it resulted in a 20% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 1.20 Had a positive impact on the majority of the community and disrupted the activities of knife carriers, drug dealers and other criminals.

Stop Searches / Possession

- 1.21 Targeted stop searches by the knife crime team have proved to be very effective for drugs and knives with positive outcomes as high as 44%.
- 1.22 Knife crime is a serious issue facing our communities, the impact on individuals and families of this type of offending is immense. Knife crime is not a simple problem and tackling it requires that every organisation with a part to play is actively involved. To

reflect this fact in April 2015 partners in the city came together at a knife crime summit to set an agenda for closer joint working.

- 1.23 The illegal use of knives as weapons is not an issue however that can be solved by policing alone. While it is an issue for the whole city, there are times, places and contexts which are at greater risk. Our evening and night time economy is one of those areas.
- 1.24 Following the summit and over the last year Nottinghamshire Police and Community Protection have worked with city centre venues to enhance the approach taken to searches by door staff. Alongside the use of metal detectors to protect venues from knives. Door teams continue to proactively detect knives.
- 1.25 The City Council also continues to fund Operation Promote. Operation Promote utilises passive drugs dogs to identify drugs in the night time economy. Searching offenders also reveals other concerns such as weapons. This operation continues to be one of our key initiatives for detecting knives and protecting citizens.

Vanguard Plus

- 1.26 Vanguard plus continue to work with young people at risk of becoming involved in gang and youth violence in conjunction with the Youth Offending Team, Probation, Department of Work and Pensions and the City Council Community Protection Team.
- 1.27 Vanguard Plus continue to deliver a knife prevention message across all primary schools within Nottingham City.
- 1.28 The Police and City Trading standards continue to carry out test purchase operations at retail outlets selling knives with a view to educate and enforce to ensure retailers are not selling knives to under 18s.
- 1.29 The police, City Community protection and the Trauma Unit at the QMC are working towards embedding Youth workers within the Accident and Emergency department to interact with victims of knife crime at their most "Teachable Moment". Research within Nottingham has shown that once a person becomes a victim of knife crime they are at increased risk of becoming a repeat victim but are also much more likely to carry a knife in future.
- 1.30 Planning is underway to launch a knife amnesty later this year involving police and partner agencies.
- 1.31 A Police / City council violence summit is to take place in August 16 to ensure that all available resources are being properly focussed to tackle violence and knife crime in line with the priority given to this area by the Commissioner.

Conclusion

- 1.32 The Commissioner's commitment through his leadership and financial support has significantly changed the provision of resources to address Knife crime. The benefits of specific knife crime activity and targeted resources for the Police and City Council, are showing real benefits in terms of partnership activity, action to support victims and address perpetrating behaviour. This has been translated into action through the Partnership knife crime action Delivery Plan, which has seen significant progress

made with partner agencies to commit to tackling knife crime and incorporating this into their business.