

28 January 2014**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES.****NEW CRIME STATISTICS FRAMEWORK****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Committee about the new crime statistics framework which will better reflect how the police respond to reports of crime, and ensure that it is clear, accessible and meaningful to the widest possible audience.

Information and Advice

2. In recent years, there have been growing concerns over the current detection framework, with calls from the police and wider criminal justice partners that it hinders police officer discretion and fails to provide a transparent picture of 100% of crimes.
3. Since April 2011, to address the fact that the current framework does not recognise informal disposals, the Home Office has been receiving data (on a voluntary basis by 22 police forces) on crimes 'cleared up' by the application of local community resolution or restorative justice disposals.
4. The current 'detection' framework for recording crime outcomes is divided into two categories: sanction and non-sanction detections. The former occurs where the offender receives some formal sanction and the latter occurs in certain circumstances where the offence was 'cleared up' but either no further action is taken against an offender, or for example, where the alleged offender has died.
5. On 19th October 2012, the Government launched a targeted consultation seeking views of key partners and directly affected parties to the revised framework, including the police, criminal justice practitioners, victims groups, the voluntary and community sector, other government departments, and organisations with a direct interest in crime data. Members of the public were also invited to comment. The consultation was published on the Home Office website.
6. The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposed new disposal categories. A new crime statistics framework which will better reflect how the

police respond to reports of crime will be launched by the government. This will come into force in Humberside from 1st January 2014 with the rest of England and Wales coming on line from April 2015. Nottinghamshire Police will bring the changes into force in April 2014.

7. Under the current system, 70 per cent of crimes are recorded as 'undetected', giving some victims and the public the wrong impression that nothing was done by police even though full investigations were carried out. However, the revised recorded crime outcomes framework will change that.
8. The 'undetected' category will be replaced by a set of more detailed explanations of how the crime was dealt with. This might be particularly useful, for example, when police deal with allegations of historic sex abuse where the alleged perpetrator has died or is too ill to stand trial, or a key witness does not want to give evidence.
9. Previously these cases would be recorded as 'undetected' – now there will be a more detailed category for them. This broader set of information can then be used by the public to hold the police to account and as a basis for better engagement between communities, the police and Police and Crime Commissioners.
10. By giving every crime an outcome, it will help the public understand – and therefore support or challenge – police activity. Four police forces, including Humberside, trialled the new framework during 2013.
11. At present, police forces are only required to provide data on "sanction detections" such as charges, cautions and penalty notices. Implementation will be phased to give forces enough time to make necessary changes to their IT systems.
12. The revised recorded crime outcomes framework reads as follows:
 - Charged / summonsed
 - Cautioned
 - Taken into consideration
 - The offender has died (all offences)
 - Penalty notices for disorder
 - Cannabis warning
 - Community resolution
 - Prosecution not in the public interest (Crown Prosecution Service) (all offences)
 - Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (police)
 - Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility
 - Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute
 - Prosecution prevented – named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence

- Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified: the crime is confirmed but the victim either declines or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender
- Named suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
- Named suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action
- Prosecution time limit expired: suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired
- Investigation complete: no suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. There are no financial implications attached to this report

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. Crime and disorder implications are outlined in the report

RECOMMENDATION/S

16. Members are asked to note the details of the revised crime outcomes framework due to be implemented in Nottinghamshire from April 2014.

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Equalities Implications

17. There are no equalities implications attached to this report.

Constitutional Comments (NAB 16/01/14)

18. The Community Safety Committee has authority to consider the matters in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SEM 15/01/14)

19. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Consultation On A Revised Framework For Recorded Crime *Outcomes* (Home Office – October 2012)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All