

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	7th September 2020
Report of:	Paddy Tipping Police Commissioner
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Agenda Item:	7

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS – PCC UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with an update on national and regional policing developments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel to note the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide the Panel with a brief update on national and regional policing developments.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 On 17th July 2020, the Chief Constable's Update Report to the Commissioner included the following national and regional developments:
- Police Reform Programme, including ESN (Police Reform Transformation Programme)
 - Strategic Policing Requirement
 - National Police Air Support (NPAS)
 - Transforming Forensics
 - East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU)
 - EM Criminal Justice Services (EMCJS)
 - East Midlands Strategic Commercial Unit (EMSCU)
 - East Midlands Collaborative HR Services (EMCHRS) + Learning & Development

- EMPLS - East Midlands Police Legal Services Unit

4.2 This report provides a brief summary of the main issues highlighted for each report. However, the full report can be downloaded by clicking the link below.^a

5. Police Reform Programme, including ESN (Police Reform Transformation Programme)

- 5.1 Nottinghamshire Police continues to plan and prepare for mobilisation activities in readiness for transition onto Emergency Services Network (ESN) in line with national timescales in order to deliver an operationally viable critical communications capability over ESN.
- 5.2 The Home Office is leading the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) that is working across administrations and departments to deliver the new (ESN) critical communications system. This will replace the current Airwave service used by the emergency services in Great Britain.
- 5.3 Nationally, the police service working assumption is that forces will each require a 12-month period of transition during the 24 months prior to Airwave National Shutdown (NSD) in December 2024.
- 5.4 The current predicted commencement of transition onto ESN for Nottinghamshire Police is Q2 2022. The Joint Headquarters Programme is well underway with completion expected early 2022, ahead of the transition to ESN. The timescales for both will be monitored closely to address interdependencies and ensure effective and efficient delivery.

6. Strategic Policing Requirement Compliance Update

6.1 The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) was first issued in July 2012, in accordance with Section 77 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.^b The Government has a responsibility for ensuring that sufficient capabilities are in place to respond to serious and cross-boundary threats and supports Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in balancing local and national priorities. These SPR's can be revised by the Home Secretary as and when required.^c For example, in 2015 Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) was made an additional national threat. The current SPRs in brief are:

- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime

^a <https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Public-Information/Meetings/Strategic-Resources-and-Performance/July-2020/03-Update-Report-Nottinghamshire-Police-July-2020.pdf>

^b <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-policing-requirement>

^c <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-03-03/HCWS329/>

- A national cyber security incident
- Threats to public order or public safety
- Civil emergencies
- Child sexual abuse

6.2 Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are required to have regard to these SPRs in exercising their respective roles.

6.3 In September 2018, HMICFRS undertook an inspection on how the Force was meeting its SPR requirements and found that the Force:

- Has a good understanding of the potential harm facing the public.
- Its armed policing strategic threat and risk assessment (APSTRA) conforms to the requirements of the code and the College of Policing guidance.
- Has a good understanding of the armed criminals who operate in Nottinghamshire and neighbouring force areas.
- Is alert to the likelihood of terrorist attacks and has identified venues that may require additional protection in times of heightened threat.

7. National Police Air Support (NPAS)

7.1 In January 2020 Chief Constables, through the NPCC, were presented with a package of proposals that sought to optimise police air support. The task was to address the underlying challenges associated with service optimisation, delivery model and fleet replacement for the National Police Air Service.

7.2 The current funding model for air support through NPAS is based on ACS (Actioned Calls for Service). It is universally supported within the national review and the NPCC that the service moves away from this charging model. ACS can significantly skew what forces pay year on year, based on factors beyond their control, such as how other forces use the service. It is also evident that some forces / regions are subsidising others. The move to a 'direct cost' model reduces these factors, but further work is required in relation to both the regional and local division of cost by the national programme team.

7.3 There are several recommendations within the review which have purely national perspective, but others which affect Nottinghamshire Police and the East Midlands more directly.

7.4 In summary, the early recommendations and findings of the review is that the East Midlands can continue to receive air support at a similar cost it does now. Nottinghamshire Police would receive an improved service, in relation to response times and the associated operational benefits, with a move to the EMA, and operating on a 18/7 schedule would cater for the vast majority of demand, whilst delivering the necessary efficiencies. More work will be required nationally and

regionally, once the review and supplementary work has reported, in relation to the subsequent division of costs.

8. Transforming Forensics

- 8.1 The Transforming Forensics Programme (TFP) intends to work together nationally to modernise our forensic services in line with the Policing Vision 2025, responding to current challenges and future demands. The programme is working in the following areas:
- Fingerprint Bureau – TFP are working closely with the Home Office Biometrics Programme using technological changes will redesign the way fingerprint services are delivered.
 - Digital Forensics – TFP will assist forces to develop innovative digital forensics to address the rising challenges of digital crime.
 - ISO Accreditation – TFP are working with forces to support them in streamlining the accreditation process.
- 8.2 TFP has secured £26.8 million in Government funding to drive the above forward and established the new Forensic Capability Network (FCN) in April 2020.
- 8.3 The FCN is split into four strands, which are FCN Science, FCN Quality, FCN Commercial and FCN Operations. These strands will support forces and improve performance and efficiency within forensic services. The TFP have secured £5.5 million for 2020/21 to fund the first year of this programme. After the first year, forces will be required to fund this. A Section 22a Agreement will be released in the coming weeks that will outline the funding requirements of each force.
- 8.4 Regionally, EMSOU-FS were the first region in the country to launch Niche Forensics on 27th November 2019. This saw the consolidation of a number of case management systems into one go live, bringing forensics into core policing. Positive feedback has been received from officers and staff in relation to usability. Further work and refinements are in progress as required.
- 8.5 EMSOU-FS are collaborating with the University of Nottingham on the development of new technology that could potentially allow both fingerprint and DNA evidence to be lifted off a surface. The technology detects chemical changes on an object, pinpointing the exact area that has been in contact with skin, narrowing the swab area.

9. East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU)

- 9.1 In 2020, the Nottinghamshire Major Crime Unit undertook eight new homicide investigations. Seven are detected including Op Haxey which was a category A murder. Op Hoppee, remains under investigation. This relates to a death following a 'herbalist' supplying a substance which the victim consumed and is waiting toxicology results.

- 9.2 There continues to be pressure on the Drugs Expert Witness capacity throughout the region. EMSOU is exploring the possibility of coordinating this function across the region, this may require an additional post at the centre, which would also contribute to capacity.
- 9.3 Covid-19 has resulted in Security Service's creation of a priority list for operations as well as investigative leads and the suspension of many lower priority cases. All such cases in the East Midlands have been risk assessed by the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) and, where appropriate, mitigating measures put in place. Priorities are regularly reviewed with CTP involvement in the process.

10. EM Criminal Justice Services (EMCJS)

- 10.1 A spike in demand has been seen in the prosecutions section across the region due to forces clearing their backlogs resulting in more pre-charge files and postal requisitions being sent into Criminal Justice (CJ) as well as an increase in pre-charge files being sent directly to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by Officers. Many of these result in further work for both CJ and the CPS. Senior management at the CPS have recently written to the five Chief Constables across the region to raise the issue. As a result, a Gold Group has been created which features the Heads of Prosecutions, an ACC per force and representatives from the CPS to work on addressing the matter.
- 10.2 In addition to the above there is a significant and growing backlog of cases within the Court. This is making it difficult for forces to manage the victims and witnesses as well as the witness care sections who are working extremely hard to warn and de-warn them, whilst trying to keep them engaged in the process. Data shows a variation throughout the region of court backlog data.
- 10.3 Nottingham Magistrates have struggled to maintain a number of Legal Advisors posts. The available slots in these two Courts are split between Postal Requisition and Charge and Bail. Comparatively, Nottinghamshire appear to have a significant number of cases pushed through the postal requisition process and as a team are reviewing the amount of work that arrives.
- 10.4 Demands upon listing numbers include initial hearings, interim hearings and trials. The numbers of interim hearings aren't shown in these figures but many can be attributed to the number of adjournments required for material to be supplied before progress can be made.
- 10.5 Nottinghamshire also have the greatest workload which is identified in the backlog of Mags and Crown court trials which now need to be relisted. Prior to Covid-19, the backlog for Nottinghamshire was significantly more than the region, this is being reviewed, to establish if there are any victimless cases that can be discontinued or dealt with by way of out of court disposal.
- 10.6 The Force continues to meet fortnightly with HMCTS and CPS colleagues to review our situation and renegotiate the way forward. Slow progress is being

made but it is on a local Mags court basis and we have to await our turn in terms of court houses passing risk assessments to accommodate the way forward.

11. East Midlands Strategic Commercial Unit (EMSCU)

Project Regain

11.1 EMSCU are working closely with the project team on the procurement of the two information systems and are aiming to make an award by the end of August 2020.

Custody Suite

11.2 EMSCU are supporting the project team in attending weekly updates with Wilmot Dixon to review progress and to help resolve any issues associated with project progress.

Joint HQ

11.3 The tender evaluations have been concluded and all six bidders have been informed of the outcome. The Joint Force HQ project team is currently working with the preferred bidder.

12. East Midlands Collaborative HR Services (EMCHRS) + Learning & Development

12.1 The EMCHRS L&D structure which commenced on 1st April 2020, continues to embed. The team has been working very closely with lead officers of the Force. An internal review is being undertaken of current workloads and will report on capabilities and any gaps that exist within Learning & Development. The review will also highlight opportunities to use more innovative approaches.

12.2 Nottinghamshire Police re Covid-19 - the Learning & Development team are now moving in to recovery plans and the majority of learning has recommenced.

12.3 The L&D Team continue to utilise technology to deliver some of the initial recruit training, which has been well received by the new officers in the service. There are plans to implement a WebEx solution ahead of the rollout of MS Teams in 2021.

13. EMLPS (East Midlands Police Legal Services Unit)

13.1 An important area of work that EMPLS undertakes for Nottinghamshire Police is assisting officers in obtaining civil orders to deprive criminals of the proceeds of their crimes and to obtain civil orders to protect some of our most vulnerable members of our communities. For instance, domestic violence protection orders, stalking prevention orders, anti social injunctions, football banning orders, force marriage protection orders, female genital mutilation protection orders or sex

offender orders. Where EMPLS apply for such an order, they succeed in over 96% of cases

14. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

- [Reports to Strategic Resources & Performance Meeting – 15th July 2019](#)

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