

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	5 June 2023
Report of:	Commissioner Henry (PCC)
Report Author:	Dan Howitt
E-mail:	ExecutiveSupport@notts.police.uk
Other Contacts:	None
Agenda Item:	9

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE TO MARCH 2023

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with an update on performance exceptions – both positive and negative – relating to the 2021-25 Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan as monitored via the Performance and Insight report to March 2023 shown at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Performance and Insight report is compiled by the force and OPCC on a quarterly basis and is used to track a wide range of indicators and outcomes directly linked to the ambitions of the Police and Crime Plan. This includes Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and an assessment of positive and negative performance exceptions based on their ‘Red, Amber, Green’ (RAG) status.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to scrutinise the contents of this report and seek assurance on any specific areas of concern. The Panel is also invited to request further information where required and make relevant observations and recommendations within the scope of their role¹.
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Panel has a statutory duty² to scrutinise performance in delivering the ambitions of the Police and Crime Plan. This report is designed to assist the Police and Crime Panel in fulfilling this responsibility.

¹ [Police and Crime Panels: A Guide to Scrutiny](#), Local Government Association, Updated 2016

² *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*

3. Positive exceptions

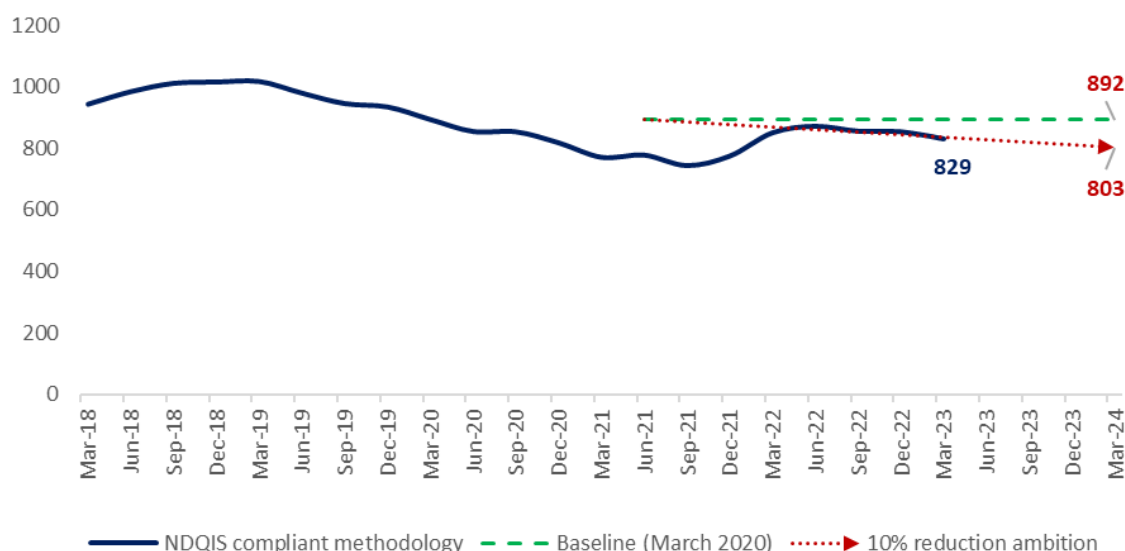
- 3.1 **Criminal Asset Recovery:** Total criminal asset confiscations and cash forfeitures have increased significantly over the last year (+94%) largely impacted by a major recovery secured during the latest quarter. This involved the recovery of a mixture of cash, gold bullion, watches and other jewellery with a combined value of around £500k. A proportion of this funding is used to support a wide range of crime prevention and victim support projects which have previously included the Smile! Stop Hate Crime project (Nottingham Mencap), Scams and Fraud Awareness (Age UK), Trust Building Forum (Karimina) and Making Better Neighbours (Newark Emmaus Trust).
- 3.2 Nottinghamshire OPCC has convened the Breaking Drug Supply Chains subgroup since February 2023 as part of new governance and oversight arrangements supporting delivery of the Government's ten year From Harm to Hope Strategy. One of the strategic aims of the group is to 'go after the money – disrupting the operations of organised crime groups and seizing their cash'. To achieve this, the group is mapping current partnership delivery arrangements to tackle drug supply and working with partners to identify and address gaps in provision, information, intelligence and partnership working.
- 3.3 **Perception that drug use and dealing is an issue in the local area:** The proportion of respondents to the Notts Police and Crime Survey reporting drug use and dealing as an issue of concern in their area has fallen from 43% in March 2020 to 30% in 2022/23. These improvements have coincided with the roll out of the Operation Reacher programme which in 2022/23 made 4,629 stop and searches, 638 PACE searches, made 762 drug seizures, cash seizures amounting to £998k, 1,885 arrests and 379 Magistrates warrants.
- 3.4 **Identification of modern slavery and child criminal exploitation:** The number of modern slavery offences identified and recorded by Nottinghamshire Police has seen a positive improving trajectory since June 2022, rising from 96 per year to 119. Similarly, the number of Child Criminal Exploitation cases has risen from 55 to 78 per year over the same period. These often highly complex cases can be highly resource intensive and require a co-ordinated multi-agency response.
- 3.5 The Slavery and Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference model established in the city and conurbation has provided highly effective in identifying and responding to hidden harm and improving outcomes for vulnerable people through co-ordinated early intervention. In the year to July 2022, the SERAC managed a wide range of referrals which included cases of cuckooing (57), financial exploitation (56), sexual exploitation (28), human trafficking (19), criminal exploitation and county lines (21) and child sexual exploitation (7). The

pooling of PCC and local authority funding in 2023/24 will enable the SERAC model to be rolled out across the whole county.

3.6 Reductions in violence with injury and violent knife crime: Violent knife crime offences continued to show a steady reduction throughout 2022/23 in line with the pre-Covid (2019/20) trend. Levels of violent knife crime have fallen by 2.5% over the last year, standing 4.8% below the pre-Covid baseline and are on track to meet the 10% reduction target by March 2024.

3.7 Positive pro-active work continues in this area, with the number of police recorded possession of weapon offences having increased by 32% over the last year. A knife crime in schools multi agency panel has been convened by the OPCC which is working to ensure that the areas most impacted by youth-related knife crime can be identified for targeted early intervention. The Another Way project will be launched in June 2023 working closely with young people aged 11-24 at risk of involvement in group violence as part of a partnership approach

Fig. 1. Police recorded violent knife crime: 12 month rolling trend

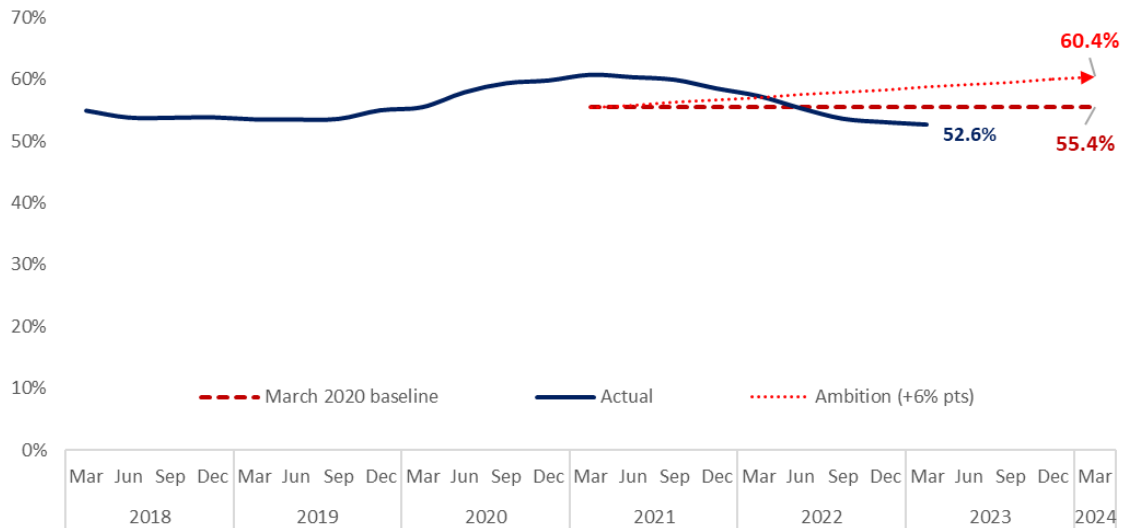


3.8 Maintaining strong call handling performance, with more than 93% of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds, one of the strongest levels in the country, and more than 91% of 101 answered within 60 seconds. This is despite a 5% rise in 101 call demand, with calls increasing from 652,570 a year in 2021/22 to 688,600 in 2022/23. Abandonment rates for the 999 (0.4%) and 101 (1.5%) services remain low. The Commissioner and Chief Constable showcased Nottinghamshire’s state-of-the-art force control room as part of the Home Secretary’s visit to Police Headquarters in May 2023.

4. Negative exceptions

4.1 **Further reductions in public confidence in the police:** Public confidence in the police, as measured via the Notts Police and Crime Survey, fell 2.8% points below the pre-Covid baseline during 2022/23, with strong indications that this reflects a wider national trend³. Consequently, levels of public confidence in the police are currently stand 6.1% points below the aspirational target. The most significant reduction has been seen perceptions that the police ‘have a good reputation amongst local people’ which fell from 53.1% to 45.4% (-7.7% points) in the year to March 2023. National events, including publication of the Casey Review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police⁴ in March 2023 are likely to have impacted upon these trends.

Fig 2. % Reporting confidence in the police in their area – Police and Crime Survey



	Year to March 2020	Year to March 2023	Percentage Change
South Notts	61.7%	52.1%	-9.6%
Nottingham	59.3%	56.6%	-2.7%
Mansfield & Ashfield	49.5%	51.7%	+2.2%
Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood	46.9%	48.5%	+1.6%
Police Force Area	55.4%	52.6%	-2.8%

³ [YouGov](#) routinely asks the British public about their confidence in the police to deal with crime in their local area. The proportion of respondents stating that they had confidence in the police fell from 53% in March 2020 to 43% in October 2021. The Crime Survey for England and Wales provides the most robust national indicator of trust and confidence in the police, however these questions were temporarily suspended in March 2020 when the Telephone Based Crime Survey was introduced to address Coronavirus-related fieldwork challenges.

⁴ [Baroness Casey Review](#), Final Report March 2023

- 4.2 Nottinghamshire Police and OPCC are developing a programme of activity to identify and address the aspects of public confidence in the service with are with the force's local control. This includes work to strengthen local scrutiny and accountability arrangements, embed a new force wide Community Engagement strategy within the newly configured Prevention and Engagement Hub and drive improvements in the level and quality of service through new initiatives such as Rapid Video Response. Trends in public confidence and the drivers of public confidence continue to be monitored and assessed at a local level.
- 4.3 **Increase in levels of recorded Rape and Serious Sexual Offences:** Police recorded rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) have increased by 6.1% over the last year to a level 11.9% higher than the 2019/20 pre-Covid baseline. It is not currently possible to determine the extent to which increases have been driven by a rise in the underlying level of sexual offending or improvements in confidence to report and disclose offences. It should be noted, however, that there has been no significant change in the proportion of reported offences that are non-recent (17%) compared to the pre-pandemic period (20%).
- 4.4 The Commissioner is committed to investing in prevention and early intervention initiatives in this area, having provided £150,000 additional funding in 2022/23 to expand the schools-based Healthy Relationships programme into the county. The Commissioner also continues to provide funding for a range of support services for survivors of sexual assault, which included the launch of the new Sexual Assault Referral centre in August 2022 and commissioned services from Nottinghamshire Sexual Violence Support Services (NSVSS) and SHE UK, along with IMARA and Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse support services.
- 4.5 Furthermore, Nottinghamshire maintains a comparatively strong performance position in terms of criminal justice outcomes for rape with 6.6% of offences resulting in a positive outcome, 75% of pre-charge decisions resulting in a CPS charge and 89% of survivors reporting that they were satisfied with the service they received from the police (compared to 1.8% that were not).
- 4.6 At the March Police and Crime Panel meeting, Members enquired about the disparity between total RASSO offences (3,253) and the total of offences when broken down by adult (1,735) and child (1,422) victims. Further analysis has highlighted that in a small proportion of cases (3%), the age of the victim is not known. This is predominantly a factor in cases of third-party reporting where the victim could not be contacted, and it was not possible to ascertain a date of birth.
- 4.7 **Increasing levels of online fraud and cyber dependent crime:** Levels of reported online fraud have increased by 18% (+659) over the previous year, continuing the long-term rise seen since March 2020. Similarly, the proportion of respondents to the Police and Crime Survey reporting experience of fraud or

attempted fraud (18.6%) remains significantly higher than the pre-Covid baseline (13.0%), despite stabilising during 2022/23.

- 4.8 Nottinghamshire Police received a positive inspection report on its response to fraud in Autumn 2022 and has been exploring opportunities to improve the support centralised serious fraud officers can provide to uniformed and frontline colleagues in dealing with a wide range of less serious fraud investigations. The force remains committed to ensuring that every report received from Action Fraud is reviewed by a professional and experienced, mixed-equity fraud triage team and that vulnerable victims are supported and safeguarded (Op Signature).
- 4.9 The Commissioner convened Nottinghamshire's first force wide Fraud Partnership on 23 May 2023, bringing together a wide range of local stakeholders and specialists including police, local authorities, universities, third sector partners and the banking sector. The group has developed a comprehensive delivery plan setting out a range of priority actions and activity aligned to the priority objectives of preventing fraud, responding effectively, supporting victims and collaborating across agencies to tackle and reduce fraud.
- 4.10 **Reductions in levels of overall satisfaction with the police:** Around 24% of all respondents to the Police and Crime Survey report having had some form of contact with Nottinghamshire police over the previous year. Of these, 54% reported being satisfied with the service they received compared to 26% that were not. Lower levels of satisfaction were typically associated with not receiving an expected outcome, a lack of police attendance or a lack of follow up or action taken – particularly in response to vehicle crime (34%).
- 4.11 Conversely, service satisfaction remains strong across the priority areas of service subject to formal victim satisfaction surveys, with 88% of domestic abuse victims reporting that they were satisfied with the service they received and 83% of hate crime victims.

5. Decisions

- 5.1 None – this is an information report.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 None - this is an information report.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 The Commissioner's decisions and strategic direction are fully compliant with the Equality Act 2020

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 There are no significant risks within this report that would need to be drawn to the attention of the Police and Crime Panel.

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

- 9.1 This report provides members with an update on performance in respect of the Make Notts Safe Plan.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 Changes to the Specified Information Order came into force on 31 May 2021 requiring Police and Crime Commissioners to publish a statement on how their force is performing in relation to key national priorities for policing on their websites
- 10.2 The Commissioner has taken steps to ensure compliance with the amended legislation and will be publishing a statement on how the force is performing in relation to the national police outcomes framework when publishing her statutory Police and Crime Plan.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 The Chief Constable has been sent a copy of this report.

12. Appendices

- A. Nottinghamshire Performance and Insight report to March 2022

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

Make Notts Safe Plan 2021 - 2025

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Dan Howitt, Head of Strategy and Performance of the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, ExecutiveSupport@notts.police.uk, Tel: 0115 8445998