

APPENDIX A

Case Study – Knife Crime

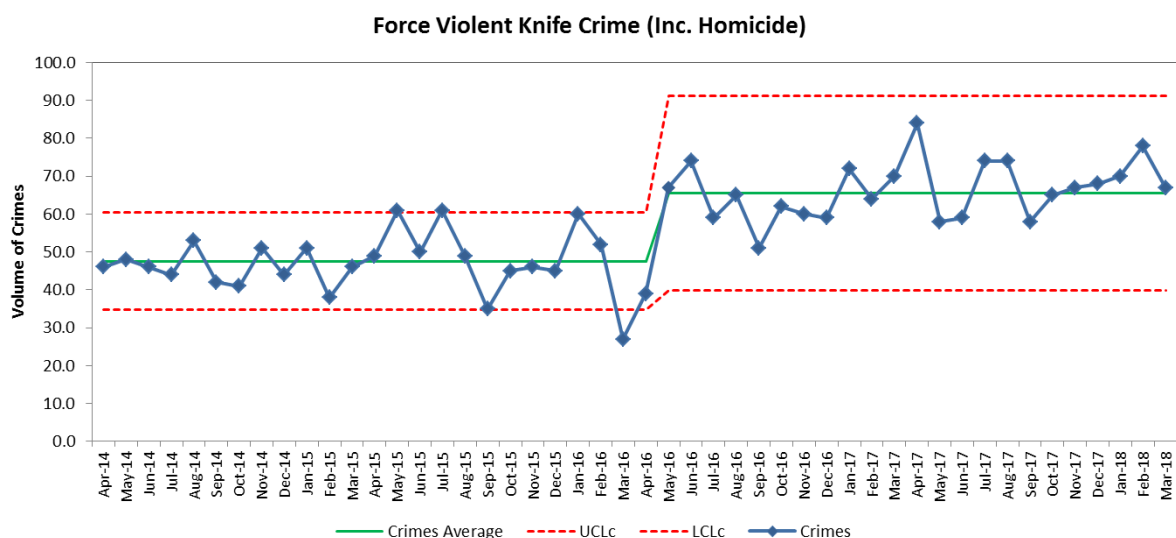
Report Date: 2nd May 2016

P. A. Gilbert

1. Police and Crime Plan (2018-21)

- 1.1 The Commissioner emphasised the importance of tackling knife crime in his new Police and Crime Plan (2018-21) indicating that there are risks relating to youth offending and emerging crime groups getting involved in knife-related violence and the distribution of illicit drugs.
- 1.2 He highlighted, the risk of serious harm which has increased over the last year alongside the national emergence of a culture of knife possession and involvement in local emerging crime networks among a minority of most vulnerable and marginalised young people.
- 1.3 Whilst Nottingham and Nottinghamshire does not have the same level of problems as London he was keen that this worrying trend does not spread locally so he has taken action to tackle the problem in a number of ways as detailed in this case study.

2. Violent Knife Crime – Nottinghamshire Trend (April 2014 to March 2018)

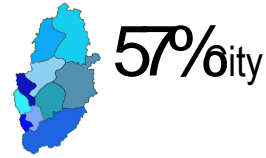


- 2.1 It can be seen in the chart above that there is an apparent step change from April 2016 which in part is due to changes in the Police crime recording standards. There are on average around 65 offences committed each month across Nottinghamshire.

2.2 The breakdown of knife possessions and violent knife crime is shown in the table below. It can be seen that most occur in the City.

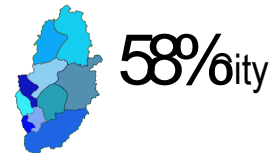
487

Knife Possessions in Nottinghamshire



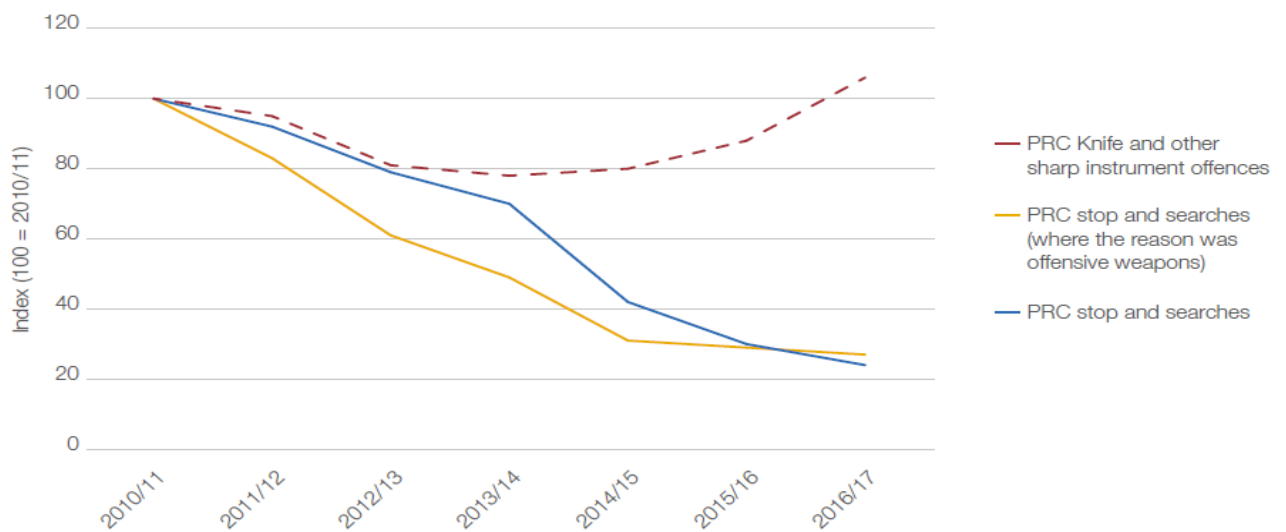
822

Violent Knife Crimes in Nottinghamshire



3. Stop and Search

Figure 5: Indexed trends in police recorded knife crimes and stop and searches, 2010/11 - 2016/17



Source: Home Office police recorded crime (PRC) and police powers and procedures statistics

3.1 The above chart shows the national fall in the number of stop and searches overall and those where an offensive weapon was suspected compared to the increase in knife crime offences. Locally, the positive outcome rate for stop and searches conducted by the knife crime team is 47.4% due to greater emphasis placed on intelligence led stop and searches.

3.2 It is unclear whether the increase in knife crime is related to the fall in the number of stop and searches and whilst there is concern that the Police need to do more, it is important that any increase is intelligence led.

4. Performance Measures (2018-21)

4.1 The Commissioner has set the Chief Constable a number of performance measures to ensure that weapon enabled crime is monitored and scrutinised in relation to:

4.1.1 Number of weapon enabled crime compared to 2017-18:

- a. Gun Crime
- b. Violent knife crime
- c. Possession of offensive weapon
- d. Positive outcome rate for violent knife crime

5. Strategic Activity

5.1 The Commissioner stated in his Plan that he would ensure that a Knife Crime Strategy Manager was appointed to improve joint working and mainstream the knife crime team. In this respect, a Police Superintendent was appointed to the role on 19th February 2018 and the Knife Crime Team (the only dedicated team outside of the Metropolitan Police) continues to successfully target offenders based on good intelligence resulting in a high positive outcomes for stop and search.

5.2 The Chief Constable has appointed an Assistant Chief Constable to provide leadership and a Police led Strategy Group has been meeting for over a year.

5.3 A small Partnership Strategic Advisory Group involving the Director of Health & Community Wellbeing of Gedling Borough Council, the Head of Community Safety and Cohesion in the City and the Head of Strategy and Assurance in the Commissioner's office has been meeting with the ACC lead for the past six months to discuss and provide advice on the role of Knife Crime Strategy Manager and action to be taken to best tackle knife crime.

5.4 Since 19th February 2018, the Knife Crime Strategy Manager has been undertaking the tasks set out in his job description which includes:

5.4.1 Researching best practice and problem solving relating to weapon enabled crime and writing a detailed draft partnership weapon enabled strategy addressing the 4 Ps (pursue, protect, prevent, and prepare) together with detailed structured delivery plan using appropriate performance measures and outcomes in consultation with strategic leads.

5.4.2 Providing leadership, overseeing effective implementation of all strategic, tactical and operational activity in liaison with nominated Delivery Plan lead officers; resolving blockages through effective negotiation and partnership influence escalating issues of concern as appropriate to achieve successful outcomes.

5.4.3 Obtaining a detailed understanding of the full range of all weapon enabled activity being undertaken across Nottinghamshire and take appropriate action to ensure joined up working; to be the point of contact for providing specialist weapon enabled crime advice and guidance to Command

Officers, Commissioner, OPCC, Partners, various Community Groups, and colleagues as well as local and national media.

6. Funding

- 6.1 On 27th April 2018, three innovative youth projects were been granted funds by the Commissioner to curb knife crime and divert young people from street violence in Nottinghamshire.
- 6.2 Following on from his recent budget pledge, the Commissioner and the Chief Constable provided more than £50,000 funding for community-led work reaching those at risk of gang involvement and knife crime across the county.
- 6.3 Each project will work closely with the Knife Crime Strategy Manager to develop the work and ensure they are targeting the right age groups and geographical areas to maximise the impact of the campaign.
- 6.4 They include football-led workshops, free boxing sessions and an online support network.

“If we’re going to dismantle knife culture and lead young people away from street violence then we need the help of the people they know and trust from within their communities,”

“We recognise the immense power of our youth leaders to motivate, build self-confidence and promote self-respect among young people, particularly those who feel alienated from society. We need to harness these skills to tackle this serious issue.

“As positive role models, they can have a lasting impression on young people and transform lives and nowhere is this work more vital than in addressing knife crime.

“This funding will support their efforts and ensure young people have access to people who understand the challenges they face, have personal experience of overcoming them and can support them to make the right choices in the future.”

said Mr Tipping.

- 6.5 The successful projects are:

“Lives not Knives!” - Nottingham Forest Community Trust and the Pythian Club

- 6.5.1 This project will receive £20,132 to use the positive power of professional football and free boxing sessions to engage young people in high-quality structured activity, proving free access to established diversionary programmes which promote positive communication, respecting rules that support safe behaviour, healthy physical activity and team working.

“Don’t Hate – Be a Mate” – Switch Up CIC

6.5.2 This project will receive £15k to deliver free boxing sessions for young people at risk of knife or hate crime or extremist views. Partner agencies will be able to refer young people at risk and the boxing sessions will encourage young people to work together and develop healthy relationships based on their shared love for sports.

“Tackling Knife Crime through Safe Space” – Fearless Youth Association

6.5.3 The project will receive a grant of £15k to develop a physical and online “Safe Space” where young people can meet and discuss issues while learning skills and receiving support from appropriate professionals. The focus will be on improving relationships with intervention partners and diverting young people from crime and antisocial behaviour.

7. Knife Crime Conference and School Liaison officers

- 7.1 On 30th April 2018, over 160 representatives from the Police and Partner organisations, led by the Commissioner, came together for a major conference on knife crime.
- 7.2 The Commissioner invited Community Safety, Criminal Justice, Local Authority and third sector Partners from across the County and beyond to take part in his Knife Crime Conference to assess current knife crime problems in the City and County and identify action in preparation for the launch of his Knife Crime Strategy later this summer.
- 7.3 The event, which was hosted at The Atrium in Carrington, Nottingham, also featured the powerful testimony of Trish Bergan whose 27-year-old son Jerome Eugene Bergan was killed following a single stab wound to the chest in Strelley, Nottinghamshire, in December 2002.
- 7.4 The conference heard the Commissioner outlining a raft of new measures to tackle knife crime across the County including the recruitment of 11 dedicated knife crime officers who will be assigned to Schools in the County at an investment of more than £500,000.
- 7.5 The new police School Liaison Officers will be tasked with re-educating pupils on the dangers of carrying knives and building stronger relationships with young people at risk of knife crime as perpetrators or victims.
- 7.6 The Commissioner, who has already committed funding to employ a Knife Crime Strategy Manager, said at the conference,

“Knife crime is one of the most serious threats facing our young people today and it’s imperative that we act now before the next generation of children grow up and duplicate the violence they see from their peers.

“We need to stop young people carrying knives and this means reaching young children at an impressionable age who’ve not yet formed opinions or ideas about who they want to be. This is why it’s so

important we develop a strong presence in our schools and steer young people in a positive direction.

“This conference brought together everybody affected by knife crime and those responding to it including the police, criminal justice partners and the third sector to decide the best way forward.”

7.7 Chief Constable Craig Guildford said:

“The fact that so many agencies came together at this conference shows just how committed and enthusiastic we are about the Lives not Knives project and how strongly we feel that working together is the key to tackling this national problem.

“Like all other forces with a core city, we have seen an increase in knife crime following changes to crime recording but it still only accounts for a tiny proportion of all the crimes we deal with. Reducing knife crime remains one of our key priorities but this issue is far more complex than police just locking up offenders which is why it requires a united front from all avenues of our community.

7.8 Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Community and Customer Services, Cllr Toby Neal also attended the conference, and said:

“Knife crime is something we all have a part to play in tackling and so it’s very positive for a range of agencies to come together to discuss the best ways to do this.

“It was a productive meeting where all organisations were able to share their own ways of approaching the issue and we discussed next steps in the fight this crime which can have such a devastating effect on victims, offenders, their families and the wider community.”

7.9 Dave Wakelin, Chair of the South Notts Community Safety Partnership Operational Group, added:

“Today has been a key meeting to harness the Counties determination to reduce the harm caused by knives. Community Safety Partnerships are key to drive the activity needed around prevention in local areas, over the coming months we’ll be involving a range of local partners to join us in building up and delivering a range of interventions that are prevention and enforcement focused.”

7.10 The Conference featured presentations from knife crime experts including Patrick Green, chief executive of the Ben Kinsella Trust; Rachel Tuffin OBE, director of the College of Policing; Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police Craig Guilford; and Det Supt Simon Firth from Nottinghamshire Police.

7.11 Following the presentations, delegates were invited to take part in a host of table-top workshop discussions discussing safeguarding and prevention.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 Table facilitators have been tasked with preparing and feeding back to the Commissioner's office detailed notes of the discussions around 14 key themes. The Knife Crime Strategy Manager will analyse this feedback and use it to inform the Weapon Enabled Strategy and the development of a comprehensive Action Plan.