

Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

Apply for funding: £300k made available for preventing hate crime – 12th September 2016

The Home Office is inviting applications for funding (£25,000 or £50,000) for innovative community projects that prevent or respond to hate crime, increase reporting, improve support for victims or build our understanding. Funding will be available to spend by 31 March 2017 and the deadline for applications is 14th October 2016

Apply for funding: Building a Stronger Britain Together programme – 16th September 2016

The Home Office is inviting funding applications (grants up to £50,000 and in-kind support up to £75,000) from organisations with a track record of promoting community cohesion and tackling extremism. The deadline for grant applications is 14th October 2016 and deadline for in-kind support applications is 9th December 2016

Government announces £80 million funding for youth involvement activity – 11th September 2016

The Government and Big Lottery 'Youth Investment Fund' will make £40m available through to 2020 to support schemes in targeted disadvantaged areas that open up community involvement opportunities for young people. The first awards will be made in spring 2017. A further £40m will be awarded to the Step Up to Serve campaign

DFE announces projects receiving £4.4m funding to combat bullying in schools – 8th September 2016

Transforming our justice system – Government proposals for reform – 15th September 2016

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice have announced a package of court reform measures which include national roll out of [pre-trial evidence for vulnerable victims and witnesses](#). This would build upon a successful pilot programme and reduce the need for vulnerable victims and witnesses to appear in court by enabling pre-recorded cross-examinations to be played during trials. Other proposed reforms include replacing legal jargon with simple language, enabling people to plead guilty to some minor offences and pay fines online and to 'go digital' by eliminating paper forms in every court and tribunal in England and Wales

National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2016 - 9th September 2016

National Crime Agency Assessment highlights ongoing improvements in our understanding of serious and organised crime and identifies the top five threats to the UK for the year ahead. These are child sexual exploitation / abuse, organised immigration crime, cyber-crime, firearms and high-end money laundering

Social Value Case Studies – 5th September 2016

The Office of Civil Society has published the [first two](#) in a series of case studies that aim to help commissioners embed social value into their processes. 6 further case studies will be published between Oct - December 2016

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 19 September 2016

Prioritisation: seven challenges for the police – 14th September 2016

Police Foundation research report highlights the complex nature of strategic priority setting within the police service alongside key challenges for PCCs and other police leaders to consider. The report highlights that:-

- The police are subject to complex and changing governance arrangements that make it difficult to focus on a small number of clearly defined priorities (e.g. Strategic Policing Requirement, duty to consult/consider)
- The police role is very broadly defined and public expectations of that role have broadened further as a result of social change (e.g. 'non-crime' demand such as mental health, ASB and safeguarding)
- Democratic accountability implies an emphasis on the priorities of the majority and the public understanding of the police role, which may ignore more hidden and less frequent harms
- Complex interdependencies within police operating models make 'core' and 'discretionary' resourcing decisions highly problematic
- Deciding how to define the social issues of crime and public safety when prioritising is problematic and there is a tendency to subdivide crime types and related social problems
- An inability to weigh the importance of poorly understood hidden harms against more visible ones
- The immature evidence base about the nature and extent of harm, 'what works' to reduce it, and cost effectiveness of interventions, which limits the potential for empirical analysis to guide prioritisation

A review of 43 Police and Crime Plans (May-June 2016) also found that plans tended to lack 'an overarching purpose' or failed to 'invoke values other than acting out the will of the majority and ensuring value for money'. The report recommends that: Police leaders are more explicit about the values that underpin prioritisation decisions; priority setting leads to substantive, discretionary proactivity and becomes a defensive strategy to head-off future criticism if things go wrong; the evidence base about vulnerability and harm is developed as a matter of urgency, including measurement and how to reduce them in a way that delivers value for money; consideration is given to how the emerging governance landscape will impact on police priority setting

Electoral Commission report on administration of 2016 PCC Elections – 8th September 2016

Electoral Commission report highlights that while most voters felt the PCC elections were well-run, 72% did not feel informed or have enough information to understand the PCC role. Furthermore, 96% of candidates consulted felt dissatisfied with the Government's arrangements for communicating their views to voters. The report highlights a need to improve the design and wording of ballot papers for all elections which use the supplementary vote and enable online registration status check for voters to improve efficiency. Recommendations for the Government include:-

- Ensuring that voters receive a candidate information booklet ahead of future PCC elections
- Changing the way instructions appear on the ballot paper to reduce confusion for voters
- Ensure any amendments to PCC election legislation is made by no later than November 2019
- Carefully considering the complexity of the combined polls currently scheduled for 2020
- Developing an online system to allow voters to check whether they are already registered before applying

Boundary Commission proposals on parliamentary constituency reform – 13th September 2016

Proposals to equalise the size of parliamentary constituency boundaries, reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600 and make savings of an estimated £13m per year have been published as part of the Independent Boundary Commission review. The proposals have taken into account of changes in demographics, house building and geographical migration and aim to minimise the difference between constituency sizes to no more than 5% points. Final recommendations will be presented to Parliament in autumn 2018

College Digest – September Edition – 13th September 2016

Recent Commons briefing papers include [Domestic abuse victims in family law courts](#) (14th Sept), [Taser use in England and Wales](#) (12th Sept), [Knives and offensive weapons](#) (8th Sept), [Scamming and its effect on vulnerable individuals](#) (6th Sept), [Parliamentary Boundary Review: Public Consultation](#) (13th Sept)

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 19 September 2016

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Violence Against Women and Girls Report 2015-16 – 6th September 2016](#)

Crown Prosecution Service report highlights the ongoing rise in prosecutions and convictions for rape, domestic abuse, sexual offences and child abuse cases, which have come to account for 18.6% of the CPS caseload. Prosecution rates for domestic abuse (75%) reached the highest levels recorded, due in part to more survivors having the confidence to report abuse and [improvements in the police and CPS response](#) to vulnerable victims. The report includes prosecution data on new offences introduced since April 2015, which include: controlling or coercive behaviour (Serious Crime Act 2015); disclosing private sexual images without consent (Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015) and human trafficking (Modern Slavery Act 2015)

[Childline Annual Review 2015-16 – 7th September 2016](#)

NSPCC's annual report highlights a 5% increase in children and young people supported via the Childline counselling service in 2015/16 and an 87% increase in counselling with young people who were experiencing difficulties accessing local support services. The top 3 concerns counselled were low self-esteem/unhappiness, family relationships and bullying/online bullying. 1 in 3 cases related to mental health and wellbeing, with counselling about suicidal thoughts and feelings reaching the highest levels recorded. There were also marked increases in counselling sessions about sexuality, gender identity and transgenderism or gender dysphoria

[Crime and Disabled People – 6th September 2016](#)

Equality and Human Rights Commission analysis of findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales highlights reductions in overall hate crime since 2013, but significant disparities in experience of crime between disabled people and non-disabled people, particularly among those with mental health conditions. Worry about being the victim of crime has declined among both disabled and non-disabled people over this period.

[Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales: 2015 registrations – 9th September 2016](#)

In 2015, drug poisoning deaths involving both legal and illegal drugs reached the highest level since comparable records began (1993) at 44 deaths per million population. Deaths involving cocaine and heroin and/or morphine all reached the highest on record in 2015. Males and people aged 30 to 39 had the highest mortality rate from drug misuse. Mortality rates were also higher in Wales and North East England

[Use of police cells for people in mental health crisis 2015/16 – 6th September 2016](#)

National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) data on use of police custody as a place of safety (s136 of the Mental Health Act 1983) shows a 54% reduction in use of s136 in 2015/16 compared to the [previous year](#), and a 73% reduction among children and young people. Direct referrals to health-based places of safety have increased

[Youth custody statistics to July 2016 – published 9th September 2016](#)

MOJ statistics show continued reductions in the number of children/young people within the secure estate (861)

[Knife possession sentencing to April to June 2016 – published 8th September 2016](#)

MOJ statistics show a 14% increase in knife possession offences dealt with by the criminal justice system compared to the same quarter last year. The proportion of adults (39%) and young people (12%) receiving immediate custodial sentences has increased by 5% points and 7% points respectively in the last year. The average custodial sentence length has increased by 3.5 months to 8 months over the last eight years

[Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody: End of Term Report – 2nd September 2016](#)

The Independent Advisory Panel report covering the period April 2015 to August 2016 provides updates on the progress of the IAP priorities and annual statistical information regarding deaths in custody

[Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#) due to be published on 21st September 2016 include Criminal justice interventions in domestic violence, Motivational approaches for domestic violence perpetrator programmes and Domestic violence perpetrator programmes

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 19 September 2016

3. Inspection and Audit

Accommodation of homeless 16 and 17 year old children working with YOTS – 7th September 2016

HMI Probation's report highlights 1 in 3 homeless 16-17 year olds who were working with youth offending teams had been placed in unsafe or unsuitable accommodation, with particular risks among those sharing hostel or bed and breakfast accommodation with adult strangers. These issues largely resulted from a lack of joined-up working, a lack of recognition of children's wider needs and poor or incomplete assessments, however limited provision of suitable accommodation was also noted. Recommendations to Directors of Children's Social Care Services included: ensuring homeless 16-17 year olds are not placed in accommodation alongside adults who may pose a risk, ensuring vulnerability is fully recognised by staff; ensuring services are tailored to individual needs, and ensuring YOT case managers are routinely included in joint assessment and planning

Life in Prison: Food – 7th September 2016

HMI Prisons report summarising literature surrounding food in prisons and young offender institutions makes recommendations for NOMS to: set minimal specific nutritional values and the conditions, ensure prisoners in new prisons can eat out of their cells communally, ensure governors arrange meal times to reflect what is considered the norm in the community and place greater emphasis on providing opportunities for self-catering

Upgrading emergency service communications: Emergency Services Network – 14th September 2014

National Audit Office report highlights risks relating to the Emergency Services Network (ESN) which is set to replace the existing emergency services communication system, Airwave. The risks include:-

- Technical challenges of extending EE's network coverage and developing the required software and devices
- Ensuring user take-up given the discretion given to emergency services as to how and when they transfer
- Commercial arrangements, which may limit the level of control users have over the service they receive

While the NAO conclude that ESN is the right direction strategically, the report calls for more independent testing and assurance regimes and improved engagement with the emergency services given the risks identified and ambitious timeline for technical implementation

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme – 13th September 2016

National Audit Office report concludes that delivery partners performed well in meeting the commitment to resettle 1,000 Syrian refugees in 2015 and have made progress in redesigning the programme in light of lessons learned. NAO highlights risks to the chances of refugees integrating successfully into the UK going forward if higher than predicted costs impact local authorities' ability to deliver quality services and makes recommendations to ensure a full monitoring and evaluation framework is in place as soon as possible

HMIC Inspection Programme

• PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership	In progress
• JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation (thematic)	Summer 2016
• JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse	Fieldwork Autumn 2016
• PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU	Fieldwork Autumn 2016
• HMIC: Counter-terrorism	Unannounced visits
• HMIC: Modern Slavery	TBC
• Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led)	TBC
• HMIC Force Management Statement template issued	April 2017
• Force Management Statement completion deadline	October 2017
• HMIC: Crime data integrity (unannounced visits)	Rolling programme

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 19 September 2016

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools – 13th September 2016](#)

Women and Equalities Committee inquiry finds that sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools is a significant issue affecting a large number of children and young people, however there is insufficient data to assess whether it is a growing problem. The Committee also reports that schools lack the guidance, training and structures to deal with incidents effectively and makes recommendations for Government and schools to:-

- Make tackling sexual harassment and sexual violence an immediate policy priority
- Directly reference sexual harassment and sexual violence in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'
- Consider including sexual harassment alongside hate-related bullying in Ofsted / Government guidance
- Promote a 'whole school' approach to tackling the issue with staff, students, governors and parents
- Publish and publicise national guidance for primary and secondary schools by September 2017
- Ensure sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools is captured in police recorded data
- Improve guidance on what constitutes sexual harassment / violence and how it should be recorded
- Collect data nationally and publish information annually
- Ofsted should monitor actions in preventing and tackling the issue and supporting survivors
- Ensure all children have access to high quality SRE and make SRE and PSHE a statutory subjects
- Improve guidance to schools on how to approach the topic of pornography in an age appropriate manner
- Assess ways to ensure all school staff are well trained to prevent and deal with the issue

[Female genital mutilation: abuse unchecked – 15th September 2016](#)

The Home Affairs Select Committee report recommends that:-

- Govt. adopts a more sophisticated, data-driven approach to eradicating FGM and allocating resources
- Home Office identify a more reliable methodology for measuring the number of girls at risk
- Clinicians are reminded of their duty to record and report FGM cases and guidance is re-issued
- Government introduce stronger sanctions for failure to meet the mandatory reporting responsibility
- FGM Unit is given central remit and budget for FGM Govt policy as a joint enterprise with HO, DoH and DfE
- A single reporting and safeguarding system is introduced to remove institutional barriers
- FGM Unit publish quarterly reports showing results, progress in police investigations and best practice
- PSHE should be made compulsory and include tackling violence against women and girls including FGM
- Home Office investigate additional legislative measures to securing more prosecutions and support victims
- Government reconvenes its international FGM Summit of June 2014 within the next year

[Understanding and preventing drug-related deaths – 9th September 2016](#)

Report from the national expert group's inquiry into recent rises in drug-related deaths in England highlights recommendations and 'principles for action' for local authorities, drug treatment providers. These include:

- Ensuring complex needs are met through co-ordinated whole-system approaches
- Maintaining evidence-based, high quality drug treatment among other interventions
- Maintaining a balanced approach to risk and ambitions for recovery
- Reflecting on commissioning and clinical practice to avoid poor performance

[Troubled Families inquiry launched – 12th September 2016](#)

Public Accounts Committee inquiry following issues identified via an [independent evaluation](#) in August 2016

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- **Reports in preparation:** [Future role of the magistracy inquiry](#) (Justice Committee), [The rise of anti-Semitism inquiry](#) (Home Affairs Committee), [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) (Science and Technology Committee), [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) (Justice Committee)

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 19 September 2016

5. Legislation

Investigatory Powers Bill - Lords Report stage - 11th October 2016

Make provision about the interception, acquisition and retention of communications data and other bulk data for analysis and the use of equipment interference. Establish the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and other Commissioners and make provision about oversight arrangements; make further provision about investigatory powers and national security; amend s3 and s5 of Intelligence Services Act 1994. Due to be enacted 2016.

See [Lords briefing paper](#) (21st June 2016) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information

Policing and Crime Bill – Lords Report stage - TBC

- Places a statutory duty on police, fire and ambulance services to collaborate to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Enable PCCs to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services.
- Reforms the police complaints and disciplinary systems, including measures to extend disciplinary procedures to former officers (up to 12 months after leaving). Makes changes to governance of the IPCC.
- Enable chief officers to confer a wider range of policing powers on police civilian staff and volunteers.
- Introduces provisions in respect of breach of pre-charge bail conditions and makes changes to rules governing how police deal with people suffering mental crisis under s135 & s136 of Mental Health Act 1983
- Makes changes to terms of office for Deputy PCCs and would give the Home Secretary the power to change the name of a police area by order
- Provides statutory definition of the terms 'lethal', 'component part' and 'antique firearm' (Firearms Act 1968)
- Amends Licensing Act 2003 to make clear powdered and vaporised alcohol are both covered by the Act
- Makes provisions relating to the enforcement of EU, UN and other financial sanctions
- Mandates that offences relating to CSE (Sexual Offences Act 2003) cover streaming / transmission of indecent images of children. Enables Secretary of State to issue statutory guidance to local taxi and private hire licensing authorities with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- [Supporting documents](#) and [running list of amendments](#) (11th Sept 2016)

Children and Social Work Bill – Lords Report stage – 18th October 2016

Bill to make provision about looked after children; ensure lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases; create a new 'power to innovate' giving local authorities the freedom to test out innovative new ways of working and introduce measures to improve how agencies share information

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill – Lords Committee stage – TBC

Private Members' Bill to require commercial organisations and public bodies to include a statement on slavery and human trafficking in their annual report and accounts; and to require contracting authorities to exclude from procurement procedures economic operators who have not provided such a statement. [Briefing](#)

Asset Freezing (Compensation) Bill – Lords Committee Stage - TBC

A Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms.

Digital Economy Bill – Commons Committee stage – 11th October 2016

Bill to make provision about; restricting access to online pornography; protecting intellectual property related to electronic communications; [improving government data to transform public services](#) - allow public authorities to share personal data with other public authorities to improve the welfare of individuals (e.g. Troubled Families programme), measures to help detect and prevent government losses due to fraudulent activity, The Bill also proposes tougher penalties for nuisance callers and increasing the sentencing options for people who infringe copyright laws online. Royal Assent is expected spring 2017. [Commons analysis paper](#) (9th Sept 2016)

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[Sexual Offences \(Pardons Etc.\) Bill – Commons 2nd reading – 21st Oct 2016](#)

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the pardoning, or otherwise setting aside, cautions and convictions for specified sexual offences that have now been abolished

[Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 16th Dec 2016](#)

Private Members' Bill to require UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Amendment\) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 2017](#)

Private Members' Bill to repeal CT and Security Act 2015 provisions requiring teachers, carers and responsible adults to report signs of extremism or radicalisation amongst children in pre-school educational settings

[Rehabilitation of Offenders \(Amendment\) Bill - Lords 2nd reading - TBC](#)

Private Members' Bill to make provision about rehabilitation periods for particular sentences - amending Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

[On-line Safety Bill – Lords 2nd reading - TBC](#)

Private Members' Bill to require internet service providers (ISPs) to provide an internet service that excludes adult-only content; require information to be provided about online safety; make provision for parents to be educated about online safety; make provision for the regulation of harmful material through on-demand programme services; to introduce licensing of pornographic services

[Missing Persons Guardianship Bill – Lords 2nd reading – TBC](#)

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the administration of the affairs of missing persons

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill – Introduced 9th September 2016 - Lords 2nd reading - TBC](#)

Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

New legislation announced as part of the Queens Speech – 18th May 2016:

[Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill](#)

Prevent radicalisation, tackle extremism in all its forms, and promote community integration. Provide stronger powers to disrupt extremists and protect the public; ensure better mental health provision for individuals in the criminal justice system. Consultation on powers to enable government to intervene where councils fail to tackle extremism. Government will consider the need for further legislative measures following Louise Casey's review

[Criminal Finances Bill - Justice Committee questions Justice Secretary on priorities](#) (7th Sept 2016)

Tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. Allow the Government to recoup more criminal assets by reforming the law on proceeds of crime, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect the public. Improve the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to recover criminal assets more effectively, particularly in cases such as those linked to grand corruption

[Prison and Courts Reform Bill - Justice Secretary refuses to guarantee bill will go ahead](#) (7th Sept 2016)

Make provision for new 'reform prisons'; transformation of the prison education system; new prison-based counter extremism programme; 'secure alternative academies' for young offenders; problem-solving courts; expanded use of tags / satellite tracking and new arrangements for women offenders with children. Reform Courts and Tribunals to ensure delivery of faster and fairer justice for users by making better use of technology

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 19 September 2016

6. Consultations

[Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention](#)

Open date: 05/07/2016

Close date: 26/09/2016

[Prison Reform – Call for Evidence](#)

Open date: 27/07/2016

Close date: 30/09/2016

[Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect](#)

Home Office and Department for Education consultation on plans to improve outcomes for vulnerable children in line with the aims of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#) and 2015 [tackling child sexual exploitation report](#).

Open date: 21/07/2016

Close date: 13/10/2016

[College of Policing Survey 2016](#)

College of Policing are inviting views and feedback from POLKA-registered members (policing professionals) on work that the College is undertaking and views on what the College should focus on in the future.

Open date: 16/08/2016

Close date: TBC

[Misconduct Hearing Outcomes draft guidelines](#)

College of Policing public consultation on draft guidelines which will help to deliver consistency for misconduct hearings across England and Wales.

Open date: 31/08/2016

Close date: 12/10/2016

[Indicative Sanctions Guidance](#)

College of Policing public consultation on the framework for assessing the seriousness of cases and promote consistency in decision-making within the police misconduct process.

Open date: 14/09/2016

Close date: 14/10/2016

[Transforming our courts and tribunals](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on court reform proposals which include the roll out of pre-trial evidence for vulnerable victims and witnesses and improving efficiencies through digitalisation and some online processes.

Open date: 15/09/2016

Close date: 27/10/2016

[Reforming Misconduct in Public Office](#)

Second phase of the Law Commission's consultation explores definitions, scope and prosecution requirements in relation to the offence.

Open date: 05/09/2016

Close date: 28/11/2016

[Parliamentary constituency boundary reform](#)

Boundary Commission consultation on proposals to revise constituency boundaries. Includes a series of local public hearings and two further rounds of consultation in 2017. Final recommendations are due autumn 2018.

Open date: 13/09/2016

Close date: 06/12/2016