



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Violence against women and girls service transformation funding awarded](#) – 5th July 2017

Home Secretary announces the [41 projects](#) that will collectively receive around £17m from the VAWG Service Transformation Fund to help prevent violence against women and girls. Seventeen of the successful projects include working with perpetrators, including programmes with teenage boys to intervene early if they are exhibiting aggressive or worrying behaviour before it escalates into abuse. [Home Secretary's full speech](#)

[£30m Children's Social Care Innovation Programme funding awarded](#) – 6th July 2017

Children's Minister announced the 24 projects that will receive a share of £30m to improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people. The programme has supported 95 projects to date

[New tailored approach to managing registered sex offenders introduced](#) – 29th June 2017

A new risk-based approach to managing the growing number of registered sex offenders is being introduced which sees officers determining the frequency of home visits as part of a holistic plan informed by personalised risk management plans - instead of all offenders receiving a set number of visits based on their risk category. The quality of risk management plans, progress in completing actions and re-evaluation of risk will be taken into account as indicators of performance. Those who have not reoffended and are consistently assessed as low risk for at least three years will be considered for reactive management meaning that they will no longer receive home visits, but still be monitored and subject to annual notification requirements at a local police station. Academic research is being commissioned to evaluate these changes and ensure they are working as intended

[Prime Minister calls on G20 to tackle modern slavery supply chains](#) – 8th July 2017

Theresa May calls on the G20 to set a clear direction for the rest of the world in tackling modern slavery, commenting that the international response is currently fragmented and concerted action is not prioritised

[Fire Minister's speech reflecting on Grenfell Tower tragedy](#) (Fire Safety Conference 2017) – 4th July 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Statutory Homelessness](#) (7th Jul), [Households in temporary accommodation](#) (7th Jul), [Mental health policy in England](#) (7th Jul), [Missing persons, guardianship and the presumption of death](#) (5th Jul), [Combined authorities](#) (4th Jul), [Review of unduly lenient sentences](#) (30th Jun), [Safety in prisons in England and Wales](#) (30th Jun), [Apprenticeships policy in England](#) (29th Jun), [Money laundering law](#) (27th Jun), [Corporate Economic Crime](#) (27th Jun), [Safeguarding in English schools](#) (27th Jun)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Impact evaluation of the prison-based Core Sex Offender Treatment Programme - 30th June 2017](#)

Ministry of Justice impact evaluation found that while Core SOTP in prisons is generally associated with little or no changes in sexual and non-sexual reoffending, suggesting that either Core SOTP does not reduce sexual reoffending as it intends to do, or that the true impact of the Programme was not detected. The evaluation notes, however, that it is impossible to conclusively rule out the absence of variables that could possibly influence the results of this study, such as motivation to address offending behaviour, and recommends a randomised control trial to more robustly estimate the impact of any subsequent programme

[No respect: Young BAME men, the police and stop and search – 27th June 2017](#)

Criminal Justice Alliance briefing summarises the current evidence, statistics and policy approach in relation to stop and search. The report includes new qualitative findings based on in-depth focus groups of young black, Asian and minority ethnic young people aged 15 to 26 in Birmingham, Manchester, London and Slough which show how many feel that they and their communities are targeted unfairly by stop and search. The report also includes comparative data at police force level on disproportionality and cases with no further action

[Scale and nature of child sexual abuse and exploitation – 5th July 2017](#)

Report published by the Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse estimates that 15% of girls/young women and 5% of boys/young men are likely to experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 16, however it is not currently possible to determine whether prevalence is increasing or decreasing. CSE has yet to be effectively included in prevalence studies and data on online abuse is largely missing. There are strong regional variations in the proportions of the child population registered as in need or at risk in relation to CSA and CSE and in police recorded crime, prosecution and court data. Recommendations include:-

- Government to commit to commissioning a regular CSA prevalence study via Office for National Statistics
- Organisations carrying out longitudinal studies on linked issues should consider including a module on CSA
- The Centre to work with relevant agencies to improve the consistent recording of core administrative data about CSA and better understand the reasons for local/regional variation in the recording of CSA

[The impacts of child sexual abuse: Rapid evidence assessment – 24th June 2017](#)

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) publishes summary of the existing evidence base for the impacts of CSA on victims and survivors throughout their life course, the families of victims and survivors and wider society. Review also identifies gaps in the evidence base which could be filled by further primary research

[Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation – 28th June 2017](#)

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse updates 'key messages' with new papers from current research on health and education services, and multi-agency working

[Measuring the number of vulnerable children in England – 4th July 2017](#)

Children's Commissioner report bringing together information from a range of agencies highlights that over half a million children in England are so vulnerable that the state has to step in and around 670,000 children in England are growing up in 'high risk' family situations. The report estimates that around 800,000 children are suffering from mental health difficulties, tens of thousands of children are involved with gangs and there are over a thousand new child victims of slavery each year

[What the Prevent duty means for schools and colleges - 3rd July 2017](#)

Report published by The Centre for Peace, Trust and Social Relations at Coventry University, together with Durham University and the University of Huddersfield examines the impact of the Prevent duty on schools and colleges. Findings include discomfort and uncertainty around the focus on fundamental 'British values' and concerns about increased stigmatisation of Muslim students in the context of the Prevent duty

[Criminal Court statistics to March 2017](#) – published 29th June 2017

Outstanding cases in the magistrates (-11%) and Crown Courts continued to fall throughout 2016 as a result of disposals exceeding receipts. Guilty plea rates in the Crown Court fell to 67%, the lowest rate in 10 years. Average waiting times fell slightly for both guilty and not guilty plea trials, while the average number of days from first listing to completion in the Crown Court fell marginally from 196 days to 194 in 2016

[Female genital mutilation Annual Report 2016/17](#) – published 4th July 2017

NHS Digital annual report on the enhanced FGM dataset identifies 9,179 attendances at NHS trusts and GP practices in 2016/17 where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. 87% were in midwifery or obstetrics services. The average age at attendance was 31 years, however, 95% of those presenting had undergone FGM before they were 18 years old – most commonly between the ages of 5 and 9. In 57 cases, the FGM was known to have been undertaken in the UK. Data available at [CCG](#) and [local authority](#) level

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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|---|-----|
| • Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries | TBC |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | TBC |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | TBC |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | TBC |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | TBC |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | TBC |
| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | TBC |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review | TBC |

3. Audits and Inspections

[Mental Health in Prisons](#) – 29th June 2017

National Audit Office report concludes that it is not possible to determine how well the Government is achieving value for money in efforts to improve the mental health and wellbeing of those in prison, due to a lack of robust information on need, spending and achievement of objectives. The report highlights challenges in identifying mental health needs, delays in making referrals to hospital and limited collection of robust data. The NAO recommend that the MOJ, HMPPS, Department of Health and NHS England should work together to:-

- Improve understanding of mental health needs in prison
- Set measurable and achievable joint objectives underpinned by an understanding of cost
- Ensure effective information sharing between health, prison and probation staff
- Review the process for transferring prisoners to hospital to reduce unnecessary delays
- Address the rising rates of suicide and self-harm in prisons as a matter of urgency

[Online fraud](#) – 30th June 2017

National Audit Office report highlighting that the Home Office's response to online fraud is not proportionate to the threat – with fraud being identified as the most commonly experienced crime in England and Wales. While the introduction of a Joint Fraud Taskforce is a positive step, a lack of accurate and robust data is limiting our ability to assess its impact. The Department also faces a challenge in influencing other partners such as banks and law enforcement bodies to take on responsibility for preventing and reducing fraud.

The report recommends that the Home Office:-

- Improves transparency and accountability in this area by publishing more information and clarifying roles
- Establish arrangements for identifying, measuring and tracking the benefits of initiatives
- Work with PCCs and Chief Constables to identify and share good practice and support forces in making fraud a strategic priority - only 27 out of 41 PCCs refer to online fraud in their police and crime plans
- Commission HMIC to undertake a national thematic inspection of police performance in tackling fraud
- Work with the MOJ to improve data on fraud prosecutions and examine sentencing guidelines

[Living in fear - the police and CPS response to harassment and stalking – 5th July](#)

HMIC-led inspection into the Police and CPS response to harassment and stalking found that:-

- Police and CPS frequently struggle to separate the two offences resulting in stalking often going unrecognised and inaccurately recorded. This is compounded by the absence of a single statutory definition
- When treated as single events, the severity, continuity and escalation of offending is sometimes overlooked
- Victims do not always receive a risk assessment, particularly when crimes are not categorised as 'domestic'
- Structured risk management plans were often not completed for these victims or were inadequate
- The use of Police Information Notices (PINs) has been inconsistent and lacked monitoring or analysis
- The police have failed to take robust action to protect victims on too many occasions, for example, asking perpetrators to attend voluntary interviews or failing to request restraining orders on conviction or acquittal
- None of the 112 cases assessed by inspectors across 6 forces and CPS areas had been dealt with well
- The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice is out of date although an update is pending

The report includes recommendations for:-

- The Home Office to review the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 to update provisions and more clearly define stalking. The Home Office should also ensure better recording of harassment and stalking crimes and introduce protection orders for harassment crimes in line with Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs)
- Chief Constables to stop the use of PINs to ensure all victims of harassment and stalking are protected and all crimes are investigated. Chief Constables should also ensure stalking investigations are improved and work with CJ partners to identify what programmes are available to manage convicted offenders
- The College of Policing to publish the new harassment and stalking Authorised Professional practice and consider how to raise awareness of the differences between harassment and stalking
- The CPS to ensure improvements are made to the prosecution of harassment and stalking offences monitoring compliance with the national stalking protocol and ensuring all prosecutors are sufficiently trained

[Business as usual? Transforming Summary Justice – 27th June 2017](#)

HMCPST follow-up inspection of the effectiveness of the CPS's contribution to the Transforming Summary Justice (TSJ) initiative found clear improvement in time taken from first hearing to completion of the case and in the quality of the CPS initial review. Good working relationships were also observed between the court, defence and prosecution in almost all cases. The report notes, however, that the CPS's ability to manage and progress cases effectively is still hampered by the quality of the police file, often due to factors such as the lack of a Victim Personal Statement or a failure to comply with disclosure obligations. The inspection also found that there is still no reliable method for sharing digitally hard copy media such as CCTV evidence, body-worn video footage, 999 tapes and video interviews. The report also notes that more still needs to be done to improve the way the criminal justice agencies work to put the right number of cases in the right court

[Progress in setting up combined authorities – 6th July 2017](#)

National Audit Office report concludes that evidence of the impact of combined authorities on local economic outcomes is currently mixed and inconclusive. The report also notes that the capacity of most combined authorities is currently limited and compounded by a lack of geographical coherence with other providers of public services. The report also warns that the economic regeneration role of combined authorities is likely to become more pressing following the UK's departure from the EU

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- [JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse](#)
- [HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report](#)
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#)
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements

4. Reviews and Inquiries

- **Evidence in progress:**
 - [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) – preliminary hearings held for [protection of children outside the UK](#) (9th May), [Cambridge House, Knol View and Rochdale](#) (10th May) and [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (11th May)
 - [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing),
 - [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#)
- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#)
- **Reports awaiting government response:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Report published 25th August 2016), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (Report published 17th Mar 2017), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (Report published 30th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (Report published 1st May 2017)

5. Legislation

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 8th September 2017 Introduced 26th June
Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – 8th September 2017 Introduced 26th June
Private Members' Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 26th June
Private Members' 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

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 29th June
Private Members' Bill to amend the length of time for which an individual may have a criminal record under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 3rd July
Private Members' Bill to state that proceedings under Section 5A of, and Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 are family proceedings

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 4th July
Private Members' Bill to prohibit the publication of certain personal information until an arrested person has been charged with an offence / set out circumstances where such information can be published

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 6th July
Private Members' Bill to make provision for ensuring that police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources to deliver police services. Proposes appointment of an independent body to report annually on adequacy of police grant funding. Place duty on Secretary of State to ensure grant recipients have sufficient resources to prevent crime, bring offenders to justice, keep the Queen's Peace and protect, help and reassure the community. Also places duty on Secretary of State to consider PCC police and crime plans, latest adequacy of funding report and the need for contingency funding for police forces to deal with exceptional major incidents

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 6th July
Private Members' Bill to make provision for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime under the Victims Code of Practice; require PCCs to assess victims services; increase duties of the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner; grant victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute; establish reviews in homicides where no criminal charge has been made; create an obligation on professions to notify cases of possible victims of child sexual abuse

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 11th July
Private Members' Bill to make provision about the provision and surrender of driving licences or certificates in relation to certain offences; make provision in relation to identifying persons in connection with FPNs etc.

[Bills announced in the Queen's Speech](#) – 21st July 2017

- **Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill** to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences. The Bill includes proposals to establish a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner to hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse, define domestic abuse in law, create new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime, ensure that sentencing of abusive behaviour involving children reflects the life-long impact that this abuse can have and [measures to ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts
- **Courts Bill** to modernise and improve the efficiency and accessibility of the courts system. The Bill will include provisions to end the direct cross examination of domestic abuse victims by alleged perpetrators in the family courts, enable more victims to participate in trials through virtual hearings and enable those charged with some less serious criminal offences to opt to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online in order to free up court time for more serious cases
- **Data Protection Bill** will aim to ensure that UK data protection is suitable for the “new digital age”, whilst also modernising and updating regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, proposals for a new Digital Charter will be developed alongside technology companies, charities, communities and international partners to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”. This will be underpinned by an effective regulatory framework

6. Consultations

[Draft guidance for the appointment of chief officers](#)

College of Policing are seeking views of PCCs on the clarity, content and usefulness of their draft guidance on chief officer appointments. Commissioners are invited to provide feedback via the APCC

Open date: 16/06/2017

Close date: 19/07/2017

[Changes to the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\)](#)

ONS consultation on proposals to reduce the cost of the CSEW from 2017/18 onwards which, in addition to removing questions relating to criminal justice system, include proposals to either remove questions relating to ASB, attitudes towards the police, drug use and perceptions of the risk of crime; reduce the response rate from around 73% to 69% or reduce the current 35,000 sample size by around 1,800

Open date: 26/06/2017

Close date: 23/07/2017

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Child Cruelty](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on sentencing guidelines for the offences including cruelty to child (Children and Young Persons Act 1933), causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) and failing to protect a girl from the risk of female genital mutilation (Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003)

Open date: 13/06/2017

Close date: 13/09/2017

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Manslaughter](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on new sentencing guidelines for four types of manslaughter which comprise unlawful manslaughter, gross negligence, manslaughter by reason of loss of control and manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility

Open date: 04/07/2017

Close date: 10/10/2017