

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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To be included on our mailing list, please contact [Dan Howitt](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Apply for funding: £26m for vulnerable rough sleepers funding announced](#) – 1 March 2019

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announces additional funding for Councils for schemes to provide wrap-around support for people sleeping rough and struggling with mental health problems or substance misuse issues. This includes funding to create teams of specialist support workers (Navigators), establishing dedicated lettings agencies for rough sleepers, setting up specialist Somewhere Safe to Stay 'hubs' and introducing Supported Lettings schemes to help vulnerable people sleeping rough to sustain tenancies. Bids for funding must be submitted by 29 March 2019.

[Refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy published](#) – 6 March 2019

Refresh of the cross-government strategy first published in 2016 sets out new commitments to:-

- Undertake a cross-sector, end-to-end review into how rape and sexual violence cases are handled across the criminal justice system - from police report to conviction or acquittal in court
- Commission research into the connection between pornography and violence against women
- Develop further measures to support LGBT victims
- Explore issues of 'online flashing' and consider options for next steps
- Consider the impact of alcohol on violence against women and girls

[Position statement on male victims of crimes](#) – 7 March 2019

Home Office publishes first cross-government position statement on male victims of crime, setting out 12 specific commitments to better enable male victims and survivors to come forward and receive the support they need and bring perpetrators to justice. These include:

- £500,000 investment in specialist support for male victims and survivors of domestic abuse
- £500,000 awarded to a specialist LGBT domestic abuse organisation to support LGBT survivors
- £24m over three years for services providing advice and counselling to all victims of sexual violence
- Working with CPS and police to improve capture and analysis of the gender and relationship data
- Ensure communication campaigns are inclusive of men and boys to raise awareness of male victims
- Review National Statement of Expectations and consider impact on commissioning male support services
- Explore benefits of giving full commissioning responsibility for rape and sexual abuse services to five PCCs,
- Commit to develop a new delivery model for victim and survivor support services, including sexual violence
- Work across government and with NHS to implement the Strategy Direction for Sexual Abuse Services

The position statement highlights research by the Male Survivors Partnership which indicates that men can take over 31 years to disclose experience of abuse.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 11 March 2019

[£900,000 awarded to strengthen in-court support for victims of domestic abuse](#) – 28 February 2019

Ministry of Justice awards grants to the Personal Support Unit (PSU) and the Citizens Advice Witness Service for 2019/20 to improve support for vulnerable victims and witnesses of domestic abuse in the family courts.

[Government pilot to help parents and carers return to policing](#) – 5 March 2019

College of Policing / Government Equalities Office Return to Investigative Practice (RTIP) pilot encouraging people who have left policing for care-giving reasons to come back to work in detective or police staff investigator roles. Those interested in taking part in the 1019/20 pilot can register their interest [here](#)

['Krowd' Crowd safety app to be made available to the public](#) – 1 March 2019

App to due for release in the coming weeks following £250,000 Home Office investment from the Improving Crowd Resilience competition launched in 2017. The app allows people in crowded places to speak directly with on-site security teams and report suspicious activity or potential threats in real-time.

[Police pay award 2018 to 2019](#) – 28 February 2019

Home Secretary's ministerial statement sets out the police pay award of +2% consolidated from 1 September 2018 in addition to 2% increase in London weighting and 2% increase in Dog Handlers' Allowance.

[Statutory instrument – Amendment to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme](#) – 28 February 2019

Amends the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in order to remove the pre-1979 'same roof' rule which denied victims of violent crimes from receiving compensation if the attacker was someone they were living with at the time of the incident

[New platform to share counter-terrorism information with private sector announced](#) – 6 March 2019

[Hizballah added to list of organisations proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000](#) – 1 March 2019

[Breaking the cycle of youth violence](#) – 4 March 2019

LGA report considers the next steps for councils in working in partnership to tackle rising violent crime, with a focus on the public health approach. This includes encouraging a multi-agency approach to addressing the root causes (childhood trauma, social inequality, poverty, mental health problems and education and training), helping young offenders into employment and training, engaging the community, working with schools to identify people at risk, collecting and analysing data and engaging parents and other relevant groups in spotting the signs of exploitation and criminality.

[Suspicious Activity Reports \(SARs\) In Action Magazine – March 2019](#) – Published

New National Crime Agency publication comprising news, information and case studies

[Revised Home Office 'Indecent images of children' campaign pack](#) – 28 February 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Cost and effectiveness of short term prison sentences](#) (6 Mar), [Relationships and Sex Education in Schools](#) (28 Feb), [Proscribed Terrorist Organisations](#) (26 Feb)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [CPS: Serious and Organised Crime](#) (7 Mar), [Knife crime](#) (7 Mar), [Police force funding](#) (5 Mar), [Offensive Weapons Bill](#) (4 Mar), [Knife Crime](#) (4 Mar), [Police Equipment](#) (28 Feb), [Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults: Care Homes](#) (26 Feb)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Keeping kids safe: Improving safeguarding responses to gang violence](#) – 28th February 2019

Children's Commissioner's publishes a technical report on the [characteristics of gang-associated children and young people](#) alongside estimates of the number of children and young people who identify as a gang member, are being groomed and exploited by gangs or know someone they would define as a street gang member. It is estimated that around 34,000 children in England are associated with a gang and have experienced violence in the past year. Only around 6,560 are known to children's services or youth offending teams. The accompanying policy paper recommends that:-

- Government makes child criminal exploitation a clear national priority and makes clear expectations for all the organisations working with children as to their role
- DfE should be much more explicit about the role of LCSBs, put more resources into improving knowledge of best practice and respond to the forthcoming Exclusions Review
- Joint inspectorates roll out inspection programmes, starting with high-risk areas
- The Serious Violence Strategy has a greater focus on the early years
- NHS and PHE recognise the importance of health-delivered interventions for combatting youth violence
- Government urgently commits to the Troubled Families programme for 2020/21 to stop closure processes
- DfE review level of youth services are required to meet the needs of adolescents at risk of gang violence

[Police use of live facial recognition technology: ethical issues](#) – 26 February 2019

Briefing from the Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group outlines some of the ethical issues raised by the use of live (real-time) face recognition technology for policing. Focusing on its use in public spaces where people are gathered and relatively static - or where people are 'channelled' past the cameras, the briefing highlights questions with regard to the accuracy of live facial recognition (LFR) technology; the potential for biased decision-making; and ambiguity about the nature of current deployments. The briefing also highlights the lack of independent oversight and governance of its use.

[Victim Advocates: A Rapid Evidence Assessment](#) – 27 February 2019

Victims' Commissioner Rapid Evidence Assessment finds that victim advocates play a crucial role in providing practical and emotional support to help victims cope and recover from the impact of crime, and make informed choices during their criminal justice journey. Consistent, proactive and frequent contact were identified as important across a range of studies. A small variety of positive outcomes relating to communication have been identified in the literature so far including facilitating trust with victims; updating assessments of victim risk and safety; cessation of abuse; and improvements in victims' perceptions of safety. There is some evidence to suggest that victims perceive an improvement in their safety following participation in an advocacy support intervention. There is less evidence regarding the effect of advocate interventions on criminal justice outcomes such as likelihood and rates of perpetrator prosecution, and there is limited existing evidence concerning how advocates themselves experience their roles and responsibilities.

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000](#) – Published 7 March 2019

Home Office data on arrests, outcomes, and stop and search in the year to December 2018 highlights:-

- A 41% decrease in arrests for terrorism-related activity (273) compared to the previous year (465), due in part to the increase in terrorism arrests in the wake of London and Manchester terrorist attacks in 2017
- Of the 273 arrests, 102 (37%) resulted in a charge, of which 81 were charged with terrorism-related offences
- 99 people arrested (36%) were released without charge, with 23 (8%) released on bail pending investigation
- Of the 81 charged with a terrorism-related offence, 38 were prosecuted, all of which were convicted
- A total of 84 persons were tried following charges brought by the CPS Counter Terrorism Division for terrorism-related offences, which was similar to the level in 2017. Of these, 76 were convicted.

[Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: September 2018](#) – Published 21 February 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[The police response to domestic abuse: An update report – 26 February 2019](#)

Further HMICFRS follow up to the March 2014 inspection report 'Everyone's Business: Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse' highlights ongoing improvement in the service the police give to victims of domestic abuse, with victims being better supported and better protected. The report recognises the good work being carried out by the majority of police forces including continued investment in training, developing multi-agency safeguarding hubs, the increase in use of body worn video to capture evidence at the scene of an incident and the increased roll-out of schemes such as Operation Encompass where police and schools work together to support children present at domestic abuse incidents.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Transforming Rehabilitation: Progress review – 1 March 2019](#)

National Audit Office report concludes that the Transforming Rehabilitation has achieved poor value for money for the taxpayer. Ministry of Justice set itself up to fail in how it approached the reforms having rushed implementation and introduced significant risks via its chosen commercial approach. CRCs have underinvested in probation services, which have suffered as a result. There is little evidence of innovation and many operational issues, such as friction between the NPS and CRCs, persist. Although the number of reoffenders has reduced, the average number of reoffences they commit has increased significantly. The Ministry has chosen to end the CRC contracts in 2020, 14 months early, but this comes at a cost of up to £2.3bn under the contracts, exceeding that which was required under the original contracts by at least £467m. While this is less than the £3.7bn expected at the outset of the reforms, little progress has been made on transforming probation services. The Ministry now has limited time to procure the new contracts, and in persisting with the split between the NPS and CRCs, it will still need to manage risks posed by the interfaces between these organisations and the wider system. It also needs to make sure that the quality of probation services is improved and maintained during the transition from the existing contracts to the new ones.

Inquiries

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 6 March 2019

[Economic crime inquiry](#) – Treasury Committee – Oral evidence session 13 February 2019

[The role of the magistracy \(follow up\)](#) – Justice Committee – latest evidence 12 February 2019

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 5 February 2019

[Forensic Science](#) – Science and technology Committee – latest evidence 29 January 2019

[Modern Slavery](#) – Home Affairs Committee - latest evidence 15 January 2019

[Court and Tribunal Reforms](#) – Launched 10 January 2019

[Detention of children with learning disabilities](#) - JC on Human Rights - latest evidence 9 January 2018

[Islamophobia](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Launched 12 December 2018

[Serious Fraud Office](#) – Justice Committee Inquiry – Oral Evidence Session - 18 December 2018

[Driving value in public spending inquiry](#) - Public Accounts Committee – Oral Evidence 12 Dec 2018

[Youth Detention](#) – JC on Human Rights - latest evidence 13 December 2018

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future](#) – Justice Committee - latest evidence 11 Dec 2018

5. LEGISLATION

[Voyeurism \(Offences\) Act](#) – Receives [Royal Assent](#) - 12 February 2019

[Briefing](#)

Government Act to introduce a new offence under Section 67 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to include instances of 'upskirting' where the purpose is to obtain sexual gratification or cause humiliation, distress or alarm. A summary conviction would carry a sentence of up to one year in prison and/or a fine. And a more serious offence, tried in the Crown Court, would carry a sentence of up to 2 years in prison, with those convicted being placed on the sex offenders register. The Act comes into effect on 13th April 2019.

[Counter-Terrorism & Border Security Act](#) – Receives [Royal Assent](#) - 12 February 2019

[Briefing](#)

Act to close gaps in existing counter-terrorism legislation. Main provisions include:-

- [New power](#) to stop, question, search and detain an individual at a port or border area to determine whether they are, or have been, involved in hostile state activity
- Create an offence of entering or remaining in an area outside the United Kingdom that has been designated by the Home Secretary if it is necessary for protecting the public from terrorism
- Update the offence of [obtaining information likely to be useful to a terrorist](#) to cover material that is only viewed or streamed, rather than downloaded to form a permanent record
- Increase to the [maximum penalty](#) for certain preparatory terrorism offences to 15 years' imprisonment
- Extend the offence of [inviting support for a proscribed organisation](#)
- Require terrorist offenders to [provide additional information](#) to the police in line with registered sex offenders
- Establish an [independent review](#) of the government's Prevent strategy

[Crime \(Overseas Production Orders\) Act](#) – Receives [Royal Assent](#) - 12 February 2019

[Briefing](#)

Act to create a framework to enable law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to apply to a UK court for an 'overseas production order' requiring a person in a foreign jurisdiction to produce or grant access to electronic data for the purposes of investigating and prosecuting serious crime.

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) – Royal Assent - TBA

[APCC response](#)

Private Members' Bill (with Government support) to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking, including the introduction of new civil Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs)

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Lords 3rd reading – 19 March 2019

[Overarching documents](#) [Briefing](#)

Government Bill to ban the sale of the most dangerous corrosive products to under-18s, make it a criminal offence to possess corrosive substances in a public place without good reason, introduce restrictions on online sales of knives and make it illegal to possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives and knuckle-dusters in private.

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Commons report stage – 11 March 2019

[Briefing](#)

Private Members' Bill to state that proceedings under Section 5A of, and Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 are family proceedings

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Briefing](#)

Private Members' Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 3rd Reading – TBA

[Briefing](#)

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

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBA

[Lords Briefing](#)

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

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 15 March 2019

Private Members' Bill to protect drivers of emergency vehicles responding to emergencies from civil liability and criminal prosecution in specified circumstances and related provision about criminal proceedings

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 22 March 2019

Private Members' Bill to extend Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of public authorities and extend powers of the Information Commissioner

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the removal of foreign national criminal offenders from UK

[Violent Crime \(Sentences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to increase the minimum custodial sentence on conviction for possession of a knife or other offensive weapon for an offender aged 18 or over and to increase the minimum period of detention and training order for a person aged 16 or 17; set a minimum custodial sentence on conviction for an offender in possession of a knife and intending to commit an offence or having a weapon to use in committing murder

[Youth \(Services and Provisions\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to require the Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services and provision of a requisite standard; to impose a duty on local authorities to provide youth services and establish local youth service partnerships with youth participation

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the exercise of taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions in relation to persons about whom there are safeguarding or road safety concerns

[LGA article](#)

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to make provision about private prosecutions in cases of suspected criminal fraud

[Foreign Nationals \(Criminal Offender & Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to make provision for creation of secure safe houses for children subject to trafficking

[Service Animals \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

Private Members' Bill to make it an offence to attack service animals, including police dogs and horses; to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against such animals.

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBA

Private Members' Bill to make provision for ensuring that police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources to deliver police services.

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBA

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

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – TBA

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

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBA

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Guidelines for conflict management](#)

College of Policing consultation on new guidelines to ensure officers and staff are trained to confidently use de-escalation, communication and negotiation tactics when appropriate and before force becomes necessary.

Open date: 27/02/2019

Close date: 27/03/2019

[Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing: protecting users](#)

Department for Transport consultation seeking views on proposed statutory guidance to taxi and private hire vehicle licensing authorities on how to use their licensing powers to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Open date: 12/02/2019

Close date: 22/04/2019

[Tackling homelessness together](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation seeking views on the effectiveness of existing non-statutory and statutory local accountability and partnership structures in homelessness services and whether the government should introduce Homelessness Reduction Boards. Also seeking views on how else local accountability and partnership working could be improved.

Open date: 21/02/2019

Close date: 16/05/2019

[Expanded explanations in offence specific guidelines](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on plans to provide expanded explanations in digital guidelines to reflect and encourage current best practice rather than to alter sentencing practice. The new explanations will provide judges, magistrates and other court users with useful information relating to commonly used factors in guidelines and improve transparency for victims, defendants and the wider public.

Open date: 28/02/2019

Close date: 23/05/2019