

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

[£100m funding for police to tackle violent crime](#) – 13 March 2019

[Spring Statement](#)

Chancellor announces £100m funding to forces to address knife and serious violent crime, which comprises £80m new funding from the Treasury and £20m from Home Office reprioritisation for the financial year 2019/20. The majority of the funding will be provided to PCCs in the seven police forces which account for around 70% of recorded knife crime and serious violence (London, West Midlands, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Wales and Greater Manchester) where it will be used to fund more frontline officers to respond to crime or patrol communities in the areas worst affected. The funding will also be invested in Violence Reduction Units which bring together agencies including health, education, social services and others, to develop a multi-agency approach to preventing knife crime. Final allocations to PCCs are still to be confirmed.

[£24m awarded for rape and sexual abuse support services](#) – 22 March 2019

Ministry of Justice awards £24m over three years to [79 rape and sexual abuse support services](#) across 37 PCC areas. The award represents a 10% increase on funding made available in 2018/19 and will ensure that there are government-funded services in all 42 of the country's PCC areas. The funding will help to provide tailored face-to-face support and counselling for victims, including those who suffered abuse while under the age of 13, and a national helpline and webchat service for male victims of sexual abuse.

[£9.75m awarded to local authorities to spring clean local high streets](#) – 16 March 2019

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awards £9.75m to local authorities for locally-led high street spring cleaning activity. The funding comes ahead of the 'National High Street Perfect Day' in May and will enable councils in partnership with community groups to organise events, buy tools such as litter pickers, gloves and brushes or provide training for residents on how to remove graffiti or tackle fly-tipping.

[£600,000 awarded to Lucy Faithfull Foundation CSE prevention helpline](#) – 15 March 2019

Home Secretary announces £600,000 funding for the Stop It Now! Helpline which offers confidential advice to Child Sexual Exploitation offenders wanting to change their behaviour. The funding follows a 65% rise in callers and visitors to the Stop It Now! helpline and [self-help website](#).

[Communities Secretary speech on Troubled Families](#) – 19 March 2019

Communities Secretary, James Brokenshire considers the impact of the Troubled Families Programme, highlights the need for 'fresh thinking' in response to new challenges such as knife crime and plans rename the programme to reflect its objective of creating stronger families.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 25 March 2019

[College of Policing bursary scheme 2019 launched](#) – 14 March 2019

4th annual College of Policing bursary scheme launched for officers and staff wishing to undertake undergrad and postgrad study in subjects such as criminology, policing, cybercrime, security, leadership and vulnerability. Bursary applicants can apply for up to £2,000 per year for up to two years of study - a maximum of £4,000. The deadline for applications for funding the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 is Monday 15 April 2019

[PCCs Making A Difference: Serious Violence In Focus](#) – 18 March 2019

APCC publication highlighting notable initiatives that have been commissioned by PCC's across England and Wales to tackle knife crime and other serious violence.

[Updated CPS guidance on arranging or facilitating child sex offences](#) – 18 March 2019

New CPS guidance aims to ensure would-be abusers caught in undercover operations are prosecuted for the same offence as those who meet real-life victims under Section 14 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Evidence obtained by police or other activist groups will result in substantive charges of arranging or facilitating a child sex offence - provided it is of sufficient quality to secure a realistic prospect of conviction. Previously, charging such crimes as 'attempts' had been an option available to prosecutors.

[Guidance for prosecutors: Dealing with defendants with mental health issues](#) – updated 12 March 2019

CPS Guidance updated to reflect growing understanding of different conditions

[Guidance and advice: Help for victims and witnesses of crime](#) – 11 March 2019

Victims Commissioner guidance providing advice for the various stages of the victim journey

[College of Policing Brief February / March 2019](#) – Published 13 March 2019

[Spring Statement 2019: Philip Hammond's speech](#) – 13 March 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Local government funding](#) (21 Mar), [Pre-election period of sensitivity](#) (20 Mar), [Wildlife crime](#) (19 Mar), [Nuisance Calls](#) (15 Mar), [Reforming local government finance](#) (15 Mar), [Spring Statement 2019](#) (14 Mar), [Selective licensing of private landlords](#) (13 Mar), [Firearms](#) (13 Mar), [Local authority financial resilience](#) (11 Mar), [The Public Sector Equality Duty and Equality Impact Assessments](#) (11 Mar)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Wildlife Crime](#) (20 Mar), [Places of Worship: Protective Security](#) (19 Mar), [Knife Crime: First Aid in Schools](#) (13 Mar), [Victims Giving Evidence](#) (12 Mar)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Future technology trends in security](#) – 14 March 2019

Home Office publication highlights emerging trends and potential threats which the government and private sector should consider in reviewing future policy. These include the accelerating pace of innovation, the exponential growth in data and communications technologies, growing complexity as different technologies converge and enable each other, more automation of processes and roles and more empowerment of ordinary people to use technology in extraordinary ways. The paper considers advanced data analytics, advances in facial recognition software, and the challenge of ensuring systems are integrated to give holistic detection and identification capability and better enable terrorism and serious and organised crime may be tackled.

[Public Confidence in Official Statistics 2018](#) – 11 March 2019

ONS report finds rising levels of trust in official statistics. 73% of those consulted agree that statistics produced by ONS are free from political interference compared to 70% in 2016 and 66% in 2014. The proportion feeling that the government presents official figures honestly has increased from 26% in 2016 to 31% in 2018, while proportion feeling that newspapers present official figures honestly has increased from 18% to 23%.

[Knife crime: safeguarding children and young people in education](#) – 12 March 2019

Ofsted-led research project explores how schools, colleges, and pupil referral units in London protect children from knife violence in school. The report concludes that stronger partnerships needed and recommends that:-

- local CSPs to involve schools in developing and implementing strategies to address serious youth violence
- the Department for Education should collect data about the managed moves of children between schools
- safeguarding partners should involve schools in assessing and responding to local needs
- schools should share full information with one another when children move between education settings
- schools should consider how their PSHE curriculum reflects local issues, including knife crime.

[Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics: 2018](#) – Published 14 March 2019

Ministry of Justice statistics for 2018 highlight the highest number of knife and offensive weapon offences (21,484) dealt with by the CJS since 2009 (25,103). The proportion of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence has risen from 20% in 2008 to 37%. The average custodial sentence, meanwhile, has risen from 7.1 months in 2016 to 7.8 months in 2018. For 80% of offences in 2008, the knife or offensive weapon possession was their first such offence. This has fallen to 72% in 2018. [Data available at police force level](#)

[Modern Slavery National Referral Mechanism Statistics Annual Report 2018](#) – 20 March 2019

National Crime Agency annual report highlights a 37% increase in referrals into the NRM in 2018 (6,993) when compared to the 2017 calendar year (5,142), with potential victims of trafficking from 130 different nationalities. UK, Albanian and Vietnamese nationals remain the most commonly reported potential victims, with UK referrals almost doubling in 2018 to 820. Labour exploitation (including criminal exploitation) remains the most common referral type. Referrals involving the potential exploitation of minors (3,137) have increased by 48%, due in part to the increased focus on county lines offending. Data available at force level.

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[A new and robust inspection regime for secure training centres](#) – 13 March 2019

Ofsted, HMIP and the Care Quality Commission publish a new joint inspection framework for secure training centres which will take effect from 1 April 2019. The framework will focus more closely on STCs judged to be inadequate and introduce a 'point-in-time' survey of children's views to replace the HMIP-led on-site survey.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#) Ongoing
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements Ongoing
- HMICFRS: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) examining police effectiveness in their interactions with children, from initial contact and early identification of children who are at risk, through to investigation Ongoing
- HMICFRS: Counter Terrorism thematic inspection 2017/18
- HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic)
- Domestic abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions: Focus on effectiveness of non-victim-led prosecutions
- Crimes against older people: Police and CPS responses - Findings due to be published in July 2019
- Released under investigation: Investigate impact of changes to police bail procedures following PCA 2017
- Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore how IOM operates in the new TR environment

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

National evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020 – 19 March 2019

Department for Housing, Communities & Local Government publishes findings from an evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020. The reports indicate that the programme has delivered:-

- Reductions in the proportion of Looked After Children (32% lower than the comparative 19-24 month cohort), which is supported by survey findings from staff and keyworkers
- Reductions the proportion of adults receiving custodial sentences (25% lower than comparison group), juveniles receiving custodial sentences (38% lower) and juvenile convictions (15% lower). There was, however, no statistically significant impact on adult cautions or convictions and juvenile cautions
- Reductions the proportion of adults claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (down 11% compared to the comparison group), although there was no statistically significant difference for adults claiming E&S Allowance. Staff dealt with many other barriers before they felt worklessness barriers could be addressed
- Increases in the proportion of children on Child Protection Plans at 7-18 months, partly due to uncovering unmet need in the early stages of intervention. There was no significant difference at 19-24 months
- A total net public benefit for the 2017/18 cohort of around £366m, suggesting that every £1 spent on the programme delivers £2.28 of economic, social and fiscal benefits
- More modest pure fiscal benefits of around £147m for the 2017/18 cohort, whereby every £1 spent on the programme delivers £1.51 of fiscal benefits - although not all of these will be cashable
- Survey and case study research indicates that the programme has been successful in driving transformation, proactive early intervention, data sharing and whole family multiagency working, however further work is required. There remains a sense that services were still seeing too many families in crisis
- Relationships with schools, health and police are all improving, often supported by physical colocation, locality team meetings and harmonising computer and data management systems.

Evaluation of change in corporate behaviour following Criminal Finances Act 2017 – 13 March 2019

HM Revenue and Customs publishes independent (Ipsos MORI) report examining the impact of corporate criminal offences introduced in the Criminal Finances Act 2017. The paper finds that:-

- 25% of businesses surveyed reported that they were aware of the Criminal Finances Act 2017, rising to 34% when prompted on criminally liability for failing to prevent the facilitation of tax evasion
- 32% believed the Act was relevant to their business to 'at least some extent' (9% 'to a great extent')
- 55% of businesses stated they had at least one of the five procedures in place (55%) to prevent the risk of representatives criminally facilitating tax evasion - most commonly due diligence procedures (34%)
- The research suggests that while awareness of the corporate criminal offences is currently relatively low across UK companies, over time firms are likely to be encouraged to put policies and procedures in place
- The extent to which the Act will be an effective measure going forwards remains to be seen

Investigation launched into potential bias in algorithmic decision-making – 20 March 2019

Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation and the Cabinet Office's Race Disparity Unit will explore the risk of bias in recommendations made by algorithms in crime and justice. As professionals are increasingly using algorithms built from data to help inform decisions around re-offending, probation and parole, the CDEI is keen to ensure those using such technology understand the potential for bias as a result of human bias within the data being used, and have measures in place to address safeguard against erroneous conclusions.

Government response: The impact of social media on criminal trials – 5 March 2019

Government's response to its Call for Evidence from criminal justice leads, the public, media organisations and academics has concluded that although the risk has increased in recent years, social media does not yet pose a serious threat to the criminal justice system.

[Forensic Science Regulator annual report 2018 – 15 March 2019](#)

Fourth annual report from Forensic Science Regulator highlights the progress that has been made by fingerprint bureaux towards achieving the necessary standards. The FSR also, however, highlights risks presented by the financial strain police forces are under and calls for the Home Office to bring forward statutory enforcement powers that it committed to introducing in 2016. The report sets out the FSR's priorities to:-

- Engage with policy makers (including the Home Office, NPCC and APCC and senior judiciary) to highlight ways in which the quality of forensic science is at risk and could be improved
- Ensure forensic teams of police forces are insufficiently resourced to deliver operationally and achieve quality standards, particularly with regard to digital forensics
- Publish a draft quality standard for taking forensic samples from complainants in sex offence cases
- Review responses to consultation and commence work on standards for custody suites
- Complete the drug driving standard and a report on the interpretation model produced
- Complete and evaluate the pilot for accreditation of fire scene investigation

[Third interim Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Published 21 March 2019](#)

Third Home Office interim review reports on the independent child trafficking advocates (ICTA) model currently being rolled out in the West and East Midlands and early adopter sites, recommending that:-

- Government continues roll out the revised model of support providing a 1:1 ICTA service to children without effective parental responsibility and consultative service for those with effective parental responsibility
- Allocation of a 1:1 ICTA should be tailored to assess the risk, vulnerability and need for each child
- Government should extend the ICTA service to young people in need over the age of 18 and up to 21 or 25 and remove the 18-month time limit for ICTA provision for children that require a longer duration of support
- Government should provide more effective support for young people transitioning from to adult services
- Cases of children that go missing should be kept open and continue to be discussed until the child is found
- Caseloads for ICTAs should be capped at a modest number to ensure regular contact and quality provision
- Establish a National Protocol for the ICTA service detailing how public authorities should collaborate and stipulating that each region undertakes a preliminary audit of existing child trafficking services available
- Although immediate statutory change is not required, ICTAs should be renamed "Independent Guardians"

Inquiries

[Apprenticeships programme: progress review](#) - Public Accounts – Evidence session 25 March 2019

[Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – Next hearing 25 March 2019

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session 26 March 2019

[Local government governance & accountability](#) – Public Accounts – Evidence session 27 March 2019

[Detention of children with learning disabilities](#) - JC on Human Rights - Evidence session 27 March 2019

[Forensic Science](#) – Science and technology Committee – Report in preparation

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 12 March 2019

[Disclosure and Barring Service: progress review](#) - Public Accounts Committee – Launched 5 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

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\)](#) – Open

- [Mandatory Reporting Seminar](#) – 29 to 30 April 2019
- [Bids for research into victims and survivors' experiences of support services](#) – 19 March 2019
- [Applications for core participants in CSE by organised networks investigation](#) – 6 March 2019

5. LEGISLATION

[Stalking Protection Act](#) – Royal Assent – 15 March 2019

Act introduces Stalking Protection Orders - a new civil order that police can apply for which enables so called 'stranger stalking' to be tackled sooner and more effectively. The orders will have the flexibility to impose both restrictions and requirements on perpetrators and will carry a criminal penalty for those that breach them. The bill was brought forward by Dr Sarah Wollaston MP as a Private Members' Bill backed by the government.

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Act](#) – Royal Assent – 15 March 2019

[Briefing](#)

Act to amend the Children Act 1989 to state that proceedings under Section 5A of, and Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 are family proceedings

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Ping Pong – TBA

[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.

[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

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage – 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

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 22 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

[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

[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

[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

[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. Proposes the appointment of an independent body to report annually on adequacy of police grant funding.

[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; 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

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

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.

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

Private Members' Bill to make further provision for transparency in supply chains in respect of slavery and human trafficking.

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- **[Draft Drones Bill](#)** introducing new police powers to issue fixed penalty notices for minor drone offences, request evidence from drone users where there is reasonable suspicion of an offence being committed and to land, seize and search drones. Require registration and competency testing for drone use
 - **[Draft Mental Health Bill](#)** to transform mental health care, allow those detained under the MH Act to be allowed to nominate a person of their choice to be involved in decisions about their care. Enable people to express preference for care and treatment and have these listed in statutory 'advance choice' documents

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

[Mental Health Conditions and Disorders: Draft Legal Guidance](#)

CPS consultation on proposed amendments to Legal Guidance on prosecuting defendants with mental health issues which includes signposting to key policy documents, addressing issues across a case life, providing additional information about a variety of mental health conditions and setting out types of disposal available

Open date: 12/03/2019

Close date: 04/06/2019