

For Information	
Public	Public
Report to:	Strategic Resources and Performance
Date of Meeting:	19th July 2018
Report of:	Chief Constable
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Agenda Item:	4

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Knife Crime Strategy Update July 2018

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activity currently being undertaken to draft a Nottinghamshire Knife Crime Strategy on behalf of the OPCC and to outline the strategic governance arrangements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the meeting notes the creation of a Strategy Group, a City and County Tactical Group, a Joint Commissioning Group and a Data Sharing Group to manage knife crime.

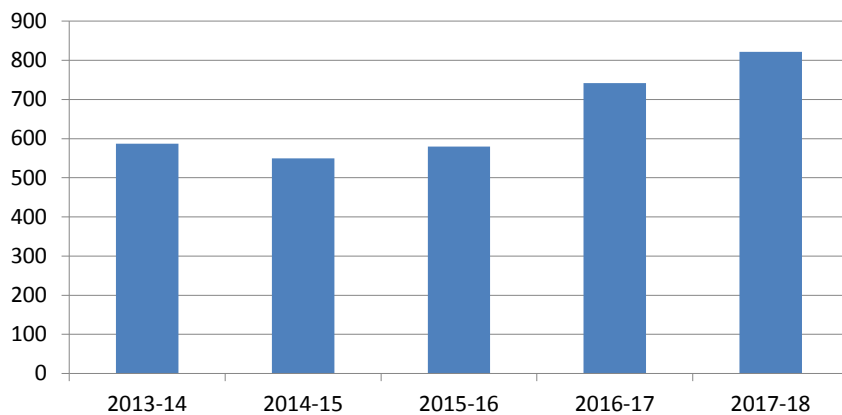
3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To oversee the delivery of the strategy, deal with risks and issues by exception, receiving strategic performance updates and ensure effective working.

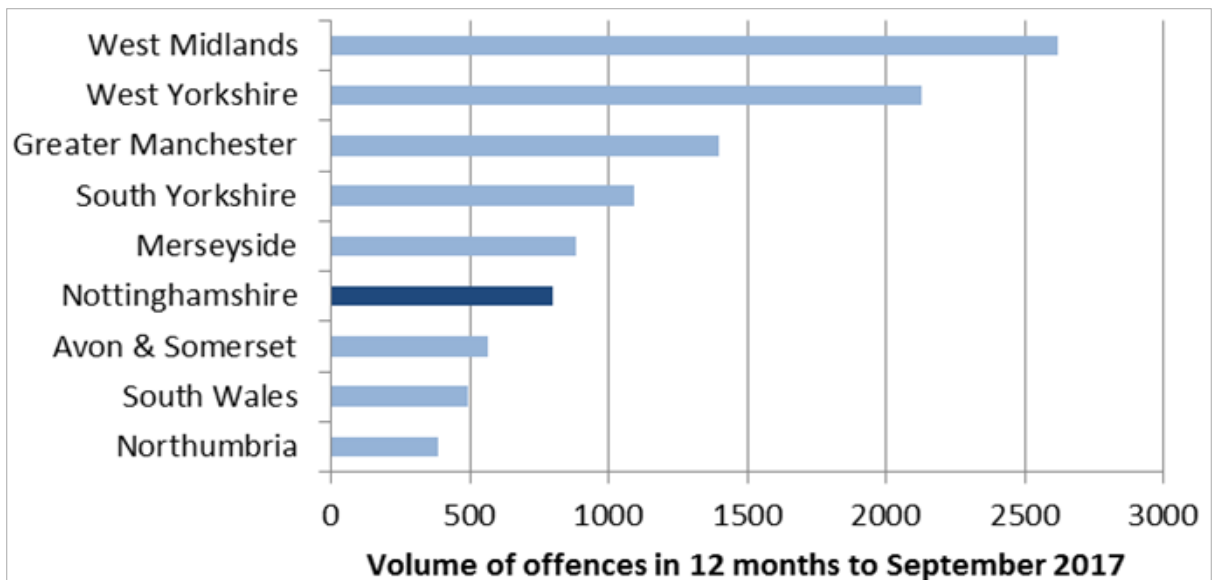
4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 During the past 12 months, most areas across the country have experienced an increase in knife crime, with the national average at around 20%. This has led to knife crime being under the media spotlight and a greater prevalence of knife crime related issues and incidents being shared on social media.
- 4.2 Locally, across Nottinghamshire, the number of violent knife crime offences has risen by 10.8% to 822 offences in the year to March 2018, compared to 742 offences in the previous year. The geographic split is 58% City and 43% County. Half of all the offences occurred in a public /open space.

Knife crime in Nottinghamshire 2013-2018



- 4.3 There were a total of 487 knife possession offences in the same period with a geographic split of 58% City and 42% County.
- 4.4 A breakdown of the CRIMINAL INTENTION behind the 822 Violent Knife offences reveals that 40% is robbery and that 48% led to a physical injury. Only 1% were sexually motivated.
- 4.5 In the 12 months to September 2017, Nottinghamshire had a lower volume of knife crime than most other forces containing a Core City across England and Wales. It was more than three times lower than in the West Midlands force area and more than two-and-a-half times lower than in West Yorkshire.



- 4.6 The OPCC have appointed Detective Superintendent Simon Firth to co-ordinate a partnership response to weapon enabled violence including the creation of a new strategy to complement the new Home Office Serious Violence strategy.

4.7 In May 2018, the OPCC hosted a '# lives not knives' conference for statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations and individuals interested in the weapon enabled violence agenda. Approximately 160 delegates attended and took part in a series of presentations and workshops. Feedback from the event is informing the new strategy which will have four strands:

- Identification and management of Risk
- Developing Resilient spaces
- Communications and Behaviour Change
- Communities and the third sector

4.8 The OPCC has asked Detective Superintendent Firth to bring together a strategy group to manage the knife crime strategy supported by tactical groups in the city and county to drive the required activity. Conversations are taking place to bring the strategy group together in including reporting lines and governance.

4.9 The tactical group will need representatives from Probation, CRC, YOT, Police, CP, Education and others. The support of these agencies are currently being sought to allow these groups to come into existence during the summer of 2018.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 Not identified at the present time. However, we are aware of a funding stream that will come available under the National Serious Violence Strategy. Work is in progress to construct a bid.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1 Not identified at the present time other than the continued secondment of Detective Superintendent Firth to the OPCC.

7. Equality Implications

7.1 None identified at this time.

8. Risk Management

8.1 The draft strategy remains under constant review to ensure any risks associated with the project are identified at an early stage.

8.2 To date no significant risks have been identified.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

9.1 Tackling knife crime is a key priority in the OPCC Police and crime plan.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

10.1 The new Offensive Weapons Bill, scheduled to be before Parliament in the autumn of 2018 will make it illegal to possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives and knuckle-dusters in private.

Other measures include:

- Stopping knives being sent to residential addresses after they are bought online
- changing the legal definition for threatening with an offensive weapon to make prosecutions easier
- banning the possession of a knife on a further education premises
- banning rapid firing rifles, and certain powerful firearms and bump stocks, which increase a rifle's rate of fire
- updating the definition of a flick knife to reflect changing weapon designs

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 The strategy is still in the consultation stage. Feedback from the Commissioners Knife crime conference, which resulted in over 150 suggestions, are being considered for inclusion within the final strategy.

12. Appendices

12.1 There are no appendices attached to this report.