

For Information	
Public	Public
Report to:	Strategic Resources and Performance Meeting
Date of Meeting:	21st July 2021
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Agenda Item:	6

Transforming Forensics

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Strategic Resources and Performance meeting about progress in relation to updates from the forensics portfolio.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the contents of the report are noted.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The report contains a summary of updates relating to the regional forensic portfolio which are considered worthy of reference to the Strategic Resources and Performance Meeting

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 The Transforming Forensics Programme (TFP) has begun a new £5m project designed to help police forces in England and Wales improve how they respond to rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) and other serious crimes.

Working closely with Forensic Capability Network (FCN), the project will offer forces three types of digital forensic capability:

- Mobile digital forensic units, unmarked and equipped with state-of-the-art tools
- Portable ruggedised kit including digital forensic laptops, mobiles and specialist software
- Kiosks which upgrade and improve existing digital forensic kiosk technology

- 4.2 Nottinghamshire has applied to access the technology and are awaiting the outcome of the assessment of our bid, which, if successful would provide over £235k of digital investment.

The new kit will be underpinned by three supporting activities for forces:

- Improved digital infrastructure (for example boosted broadband)
 - Quality assurance meaning tools and kit are centrally validated
 - Implementation, co-ordination and management support
- 4.3 **PNC** - It was discovered in early January that records had been deleted from PNC, which also resulted in the deletion of the associated fingerprints and DNA. Nottinghamshire's risk exposure through this deletion has been considered Low. Our PNC teams and the biometric lead have worked with and supported the national lead in the mitigation of this matter.
- 4.4 **FCN Xchange** – EMSOU-FS are the first forensic provider to test the FCN Xchange that is a digital workflow from scene or Fingerprint Enhancement Laboratory to Fingerprint Bureau. It also provides an online comparison tool, which could replace our current system.
- 4.5 **Op Talla** – Work continues through Op Talla with NPCC Lead DCC Gibson to manage submissions as national caps still remain. EMSOU-FS are well placed to ensure a resolution is achieved as soon as possible.
- 4.6 **Drugs** – Nationally the FCN are working to improve the effectiveness of EDIT as well as submissions and triage with the support of forces including EMSOU-FS.

As well as the above, we continue to support at a national level on Sexual Offences Referral Centres (SARC), the Home Office Biometrics (HOB) and the Forensic Information Database Service (FINDS).

- 4.7 **UKAS Accreditation** – During 2020 and despite COVID we have maintained accreditation for central services including FASLab, Drugs Laboratory, Fingerprint Bureau and DNA Laboratory. COVID, however, has had an impact on the UKAS inspections for CSI with this now delayed until autumn 2021. We have now commissioned a bespoke quality and accreditation roadmap for the East Midlands Region with Dr Gillian Tully acting in an advisory role. This will identify opportunities for greater efficiencies and help ensure appropriate resourcing for future demand.
- 4.8 **Forensic User Group (FUG)** – Work continues with senior officers to ensure that our regional forces have a mutual understanding of the forensic investigative need.
- 4.9 **Equipment Replacement Plan** – We are currently working to an equipment replacement plan in the Regional Fingerprint Bureau as some of our current equipment pre-dates the collaboration. Likewise, in the FASLab, the following equipment has been purchased and new processes will be validated for:
- High Capacity Recover Development Chamber – to retrieve problematic marks where attempts have been made to destroy print evidence through washing or burning on metals such as knives and

bullet cases.

- Crime-Lite MLD – to streamline our processes using UV and IR for rapid detection of fingerprints.
- CSU Rotating Image System – to capture prints on cylindrical items in a single image.
- NINcha Humidity Ovens – to develop latent fingerprints.

A review of the IT capabilities is also underway to ensure our IT capabilities meet future requirements.

4.10 COVID-19 - The pandemic has allowed us to evaluate our working practices and procedures and we have recommendations in the following areas: - agile working, IT, communications, HR and the management of staff. Work from this will be on going throughout the pandemic recovery phase, looking at a more flexible approach and developing a re-imagined way of working to ensure we can make better use of our accommodation and staff and safeguard our ability to meet the expected demand.

4.11 Barcode Scanners and Printers – Work is underway to streamline the movement of exhibits from and to our forces as well as through our internal units.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 Each of the above updates have discreet reporting arrangements with regard any financial implications and budget requirements. The TFP bid requires an element of match funding which has already been accounted for through officer uplift and ADA determinations being delivered in this financial year. There is nothing else by exception to raise at this meeting.

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1 There are no anticipated human resource implications.

7. Equality Implications

7.1 Nottinghamshire Police is working hard to become even more representative of the communities we serve and with our staff to ensure they have the opportunity to progress and develop to make sure that this representation is reflected at all levels within the organisation.

7.2 Our equality objectives are engrained throughout all areas of our policing whether that be operational policing, engaging with local and diverse communities, and working closely with our partners.

8. Risk Management

8.1 None at this time.

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

9.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

10.1 There are no legal considerations relating to this report.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 There has been no consultation on this report as it is for information only.

12. Appendices

12.1 None