

For Information	
Public	Public
Report to:	Strategic Resources and Performance
Date of Meeting:	10th May 2019
Report of:	Knife Crime Strategy Manager
Report Author:	Supt Simon Firth
E-mail:	Simon.firth@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
Other Contacts:	
Agenda Item:	6

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Knife Crime Strategy Update April 2019

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on activity currently being undertaken to deliver the Nottinghamshire Knife Crime Strategy on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Nottinghamshire police and partners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 For the meeting to note the national funding opportunities to draw down finance for local knife crime preventative initiatives.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To provide opportunities for creating additionality of resource and services to meet the challenges presented by knife crime, county lines and the wider youth violence.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 Knife crime in Nottinghamshire has remained fairly static over the last 12 months with figures to the end of 2019 showing a rise of 9.5% (an increase of 77 offences).

Core Cities Forces comparison Ranked by % change	12 months to Dec 17	12 months to Dec 18	Change	% Change
Greater Manchester (Manchester)	1,484	3,614	+2,130	+143.5%
Merseyside (Liverpool)	910	1,231	+321	+35.3%
South Wales (Cardiff)	591	724	+133	+22.5%
West Yorkshire (Leeds)	2,259	2,715	+456	+20.2%
West Midlands (Birmingham)	2,751	3,210	+459	+16.7%
Nottinghamshire (Nottingham)	812	889	+77	+9.5%
Avon & Somerset (Bristol)	550	596	+46	+8.4%
Northumbria (Newcastle)	850	887	+37	+4.4%
Metropolitan Police	14,504	14,660	+156	+1.1%
South Yorkshire (Sheffield)	1,027	994	-33	-3.2%
Core Cities Forces Average	25,738	29,520	+3,782	+14.7%

Local Regional Forces comparison Ranked by % change	12 months to Dec 17	12 months to Dec 18	Change	% Change
Derbyshire	478	581	+103	+21.5%
Leicestershire	697	824	+127	+18.2%
Lincolnshire	225	259	+34	+15.1%
Nottinghamshire	812	889	+77	+9.5%
Northamptonshire	468	487	+19	+4.1%
MSG Cities Forces Average	2,680	3,040	+360	+13.4%

MSG Forces comparison Ranked by % change	12 months to Dec 17	12 months to Dec 18	Change	% Change
Kent	771	925	+154	+20.0%
Leicestershire	697	824	+127	+18.2%
Lancashire	942	1,038	+96	+10.2%
Nottinghamshire	812	889	+77	+9.5%
South Yorkshire	1,027	994	-33	-3.2%
Bedfordshire	479	451	-28	-5.8%
Hertfordshire	564	490	-74	-13.1%
Essex	1,026	677	-349	-34.0%
MSG Cities Forces Average	6,318	6,288	-30	-0.5%

- 4.2 Of particular note are the year to date figures for knife violence within Nottingham city which are now showing a reduction of 0.6% for the year to the end of March 2019 and seven consecutive months of reductions – please see table below.

Cumulative

Knife Crime												
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2016-17	22	57	100	136	177	207	243	276	317	355	398	439
2017-18	49	77	109	147	186	217	256	304	344	389	444	477
2018-19	41	101	141	184	226	254	287	330	366	399	442	474
% Change	-16.3%	31.2%	29.4%	25.2%	21.5%	17.1%	12.1%	8.6%	6.4%	2.6%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Change	-8	24	32	37	40	37	31	26	22	10	-2	-3

Monthly

Knife Crime												
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2016-17	22	35	43	36	41	30	36	33	41	38	43	41
2017-18	49	28	32	38	39	31	39	48	40	45	55	33
2018-19	41	60	40	43	42	28	33	43	36	33	43	32
% Change	16.3%	114.3%	25.0%	13.2%	7.7%	9.7%	15.4%	10.4%	10.0%	26.7%	21.8%	3.0%
Change	-8	32	8	5	3	-3	-6	-5	-4	-12	-12	-1

4.3 The OPCC / Nottinghamshire police have appointed Superintendent Matt McFarlane to replace Superintendent Simon Firth from April 2019 to continue to co-ordinate the partnership response to weapon enabled violence.

4.4 In February 2019, the OPCC hosted a Home Office regional serious violence conference for statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations. Feedback from the event is informing the delivery of future funding opportunities from the recently announced Youth Endowment Fund. The fund (£200m) will be run by Impetus, in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and Social Investment Business.

The fund aims to prevent children and young people from getting caught up in crime and violence by making sure that those most at risk get the best possible support, as early as possible, to get on a positive path and succeed.

The Youth Endowment Fund will do this by:

- Finding, supporting and evaluating programmes working with young people most at risk of involvement in crime and violence — providing funding, capacity building and evaluation support.
- Generating and promoting new knowledge and practice to transform local and national responses to tackling youth offending, and supporting the best evidenced programmes to have an even greater impact.
- Developing an approach to working with local communities to prevent youth offending — driving long term, sustainable change in those communities.
- Impetus plans to launch the first funding round, a general open call round, with the aim of awarding the first round of grants in the autumn.

- 4.5 Work is taking place to develop a delivery model for a multi-agency approach to identify and manage risk in relation to knife crime. This will include individuals currently involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in knife crime, whether as victims or offenders, and also those locations most vulnerable to this type of criminality, whether this is public spaces or licensed premises. In addition they are working toward a common set of risk factors and a process for identifying, on a regular basis, those people and places potentially at risk. Finally, they are seeking to agree to a method for the effective coordination, analysis and dissemination of the data to the relevant stakeholders and operational teams. Currently working with Nottingham Trent University to ensure the methodology for identifying young persons at risk is robust and fit for purpose. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by July 2019 to allow targeted interventions through the Nottingham city Troubled families program.
- 4.6 Together with Nottingham Trent University we are carrying out research with young people subject to serious youth violence to better understand the critical success factors required to better engage with victims of knife violence. Currently 25% of knife violence victims refuse to cooperate with a police investigation. It is anticipated that this work stream will report by September 2019.
- 4.7 Work is on-going to expand our Integrated Offender Management offer to enable the management of an increased number of knife crime adult non-statutory offenders within the community. Recruitment is currently ongoing to identify two probation officers to take on this work and it is anticipated that they will be in post by July 2019. Work is currently taking place to identify an initial cohort of 70 offenders for them to engage with on taking up their posts.
- 4.8 We are developing a new robbery team which will use detectives to better focus on investigating knife crime robberies. This team will be in place in the summer 2019.

- 4.9 We have engaged the charity Street Doctors in conjunction with Nottingham University to utilise medical students to deliver lessons in schools and alternative education providers around challenging attitudes to violence as well as equipping young people with the practical skills required to provide a first aid response to a victim of a knife injury whilst they await an ambulance to attend. This project was funded via the Cascade fund, Nottingham University for the 2018/2019 financial year. A new stream of funding for the £6,000 is required to continue with this project for the current financial year.
- 4.10 The new knife crime learning zone at the National Justice Museum will launch in June 2019. This is a partnership with the National Justice Museum and the Ben Kinsella Trust. The zone will be a permanent facility which is anticipated to host over 2500 children over the next 12 months. This project has been supported by a £10K donation from the Force's Proceeds of Crime fund. Consideration needs to be given to supporting on going operational costs which are projected at £45K per annum.
- 4.11 We are collaborating with the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to bring their successful Mentors in Violence Project to secondary schools across Nottinghamshire. The project aims to get young people to champion with their peers healthy relationships and tackle all forms of violence with a specific focus on knife crime. This project has been a central plank of the VRU's work in combatting knife crime in Scotland. Schools and alternative Providers are currently being identified and the project launches in April 2019.
- 4.12 £30K of Home Office funding was secured from the Early Intervention Fund to establish and deploy violence interrupters to key hot spots within the city centre. To this end Nottingham Forest community Trust and Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges have been engaged. These are individuals with community credibility who are deemed capable of relating to young people at risk of committing knife crime who would deescalate conflicts and provide non-violent alternative ways of dealing with confrontation including referrals to positive activities. Further funding has been pledged by the OPCC which will see the project continue through to September 2019.

Initial outcomes and impact March 1st – April 5th 2019

- Number of young people engaged (around 500 in total an average of 40 per day engaged in conversation)
- Number of violence de-escalation incidents (5 recorded interventions)
- Number of retailers engaged and informed of the violence interrupter programme (15 to-date)
- Number of positive engagements with the Police (10 occasions)
- Number of young people engaged with suspected of carrying knives (26)

Consideration is currently being given to how this intervention could be funded moving forward.

- 4.13 We are trialling the replacement of domestic carving knives with specialist 'no point' knives to victims of knife violence within a domestic setting. These 'No Point' knives do not have a sharp point and have been specially designed to prevent stab / puncture type injuries. They are currently being utilised as part of safety planning for victims of knife violence within a domestic setting.
- 4.14 Together with Nottingham Business Improvement District and the Trauma Unit at QMC we are developing the issuing of specialist medical packs to business / retail and night time economy venues across Nottingham City centre to enhance the first aid provision available. We are also delivering enhanced first aid training to workers within these identified premises. It is anticipated that the training and packs will have been delivered by July 2019.
- 4.15 Together with EMSOU homicide Investigation unit we are developing a project involving families of knife crime homicide victims families to better understand how we can use their voice to influence the decisions young people are making around knife carrying. An initial meeting with families is taking place on the 17th May 2019.
- 4.16 Initial planning is under way within the OPCC to hold a further youth violence / knife crime conference in June 2019 targeting young people and their families to better engage and understand the challenges they face and to help shape future provision. Statutory agencies, schools, alternative providers and the third sector have been reached out to help shape the proposals.
- 4.17 The Home Office have launched a consultation on a new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to tackling and preventing serious violence. This is a three month consultation launched in April 2019, which ends on 28th May. ACC Meynell is coordinating the Police response to the consultation with Superintendent Simon Firth who is working with the Crime and Drugs Partnership and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to ensure there is a joined up response with our partners.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 New national funding streams to tackle serious violence are being made available. Firstly there is the £100M announced for police forces to bid into as part of the Spring Treasury statement. Details of eligibility are yet to be circulated. Secondly the £200m Youth endowment Fund will be opened up for bids in the summer of 2019 again final details of the bidding process are yet to be finalised.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 Not identified at the present time other than noting the retirement of superintendent Firth and his replacement but Superintendent McFarlane.

7. Equality Implications

7.1 None identified at this time.

8. Risk Management

8.1 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 receive Royal Assent in April 2019 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
- Creating new knife crime prevention orders for both juvenile and adult offenders.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 Consultation opportunities continue to be maintained through the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Forum as well as OPCC sponsored events.

12. Appendices

12.1 There are no appendices attached to this report.