**Thematic Reports: PREVENT: A4: Improving Our Approach to Reducing Reoffending**

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| **Diversion and use of conditional cautions** |
| **Conditional Cautions** will be renamed as a ‘Diversionary Caution’ under the new legislation due to commence on 1st April 2023. The term ‘diversionary’ refers to pre-court diversion.The Conditional caution is a statutory disposal which enables police to set enforceable conditions to be met within a specified period of time. The offender is required to make a **full admission** to the offence and accept the caution. Conditions attached to a Caution are either, Rehabilitative, Reparative and/or Financial (to be paid within 28 days). Breach of a Conditional Caution may result in prosecution for the original offence. Power of Arrest may be used for failure to comply.A variety of conditions can be made out therefore, the offender could receive a condition with conditions to attend a victim awareness course as well as paying compensation to the victim.The table below demonstrates that as a Force we have made positive steps towards the behavioural / cultural changes required for the new framework, decreasing our use of simple caution and increasing the use of conditional caution.

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|   | **01/08/2020 to 31/07/2021** | **01/08/2021 to 31/07/2022** | **Change** | **Percentage Change** |
| **Adult Caution** | 1296 | 1082 | -214 | -16.5% |
| **Adult Conditional Caution** | 34 | 298 | +264 | 776.5% |

Conditional Cautions are currently administered by a small team of 1 Sgt and 3 Constables based within the city PHT. The work includes reviewing and ensuring the appropriateness of the CC use, arranging rehabilitative services, driving offender compliance and where non-compliance ensuring OICs complete subsequent files. The team ensure PNC records are appropriately updated. In support of delivering Conditional Cautions Nottinghamshire Police currently work with the below partners to deliver diversionary provisions:* **Change Grow Live** (County only) to deliver alcohol and drugs diversionary programmes. Commissioned by the OPCC it is believed they will have capacity to deal with the additional demand when the changes take place however, further discussions around this need to take place to ensure the current capacity can meet the anticipated increase in demand.
* **Clean Slate** (City only) to deliver alcohol and drugs diversionary programmes. Commissioned by the OPCC it is believed they will have capacity to deal with the additional demand when the changes take place however, further discussions around this need to take place to ensure the current capacity can meet the anticipated increase in demand.
* **Victim Awareness course**. Available force wide at a cost of £75 for cautions. There is no cost to the police.
* **Project Nova**. A national scheme supporting armed forces veterans for wider support and engagement. This scheme is commissioned at a national level at no cost to the police.
* **Changing Lives**. Commissioned by the OPCC and funded through until April 2023, this scheme aims to support female offenders from a holistic perspective. 2021 saw just 2 referrals however, so far in 2022 the force has made 25 referrals to date.
* **Mental Health CC**. Funded by Notts Police until November 2022. This diversion aims to tackle offenders suffering from mental health.

Proposed other areas for consideration of commissioning:* **Break the cycle (hate crime)**. The National Holocaust centre previously provided an educational programme for offenders committing low level hate crime. This was police funded however, funding has now ceased. Consideration should be given to further commissioning of this service or a similar agency.
* **Domestic violence (standard risk DV)**. Work is being undertaken at a national level in respect of diversionary courses for DV offenders. The service provider being CARA, whom, are already working with a handful of forces with a view to this being agreed by the MoJ to be the national provider to all forces. As of April 2023, when the 2-tier framework commences all forces will be given dispensation to deal with standard risk, non-intimate DV related cases by means of a Conditional Caution
* **Anger management**- Consideration to be given for adult males aged between 18 and 24 for low level offences that are driven by anger issues. Although the force are currently using the victim awareness course, not all offences involve a victim of crime therefore, anger management intervention would fulfil this gap.
* **Gambling addiction**. Consideration should be given in commissioning diversionary services to those offenders who commit crime driven through gambling addictions.
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| **Hot Spot Patrols** |
| **Nottinghamshire Overview**Nottinghamshire Police acknowledge the legitimacy of Hot Spot Patrolling attributed through academic research (Weisburd, D, Koper, C.S & Braga, A.A being the most prevalent academic authorities), and identifiable results through application.The College of Policing identify that the impact of Hot Spot Policing has a high impact on crime and is most effective in reducing drug offending and Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) offending. The implementation of hot spot patrols is graded as “low” in regard to organisational impact and economic impact. In Nottinghamshire Police, Hot Spot Patrols are managed in 2 ways:* Local Area Managed
* Grip Funded Patrols

**Local Area Managed**Hot Spot Patrols are most commonly identified as being required by local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff and supervisors. This is done through monitoring crime trends either by:* Police system interrogation and self-analysis
* Identification of recurring themes/offenders through daily activity
* Fortnightly Local Operations Meetings (LOM)
* Community/Partner reporting
* Strategic analytical documents
* Commissioning of analytical products

As a result of the above activities the local areas implement a patrol strategy for NPT staff and a task is placed on the Briefing and Tasking System (BATS), the use of BATS ensures that the identified patrol area is distributed to a wider audience. Traditionally additional patrols are conducted by Response and these patrols logged on the BATS task. **Grip Funded Patrols**In 2021 Op Grip replaced funding streams such as SURGE and SCORPION for Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) supported areas and was previously an annual funding process; but is now a multiyear process with Nottinghamshire receiving funding through to 2025. The funding consists of 24 hours per week per Grip area (15 total) of High Visibility Patrols and 390 hours per month for the force to support Problem Orientated Policing initiatives.Op Grip is a tailored response to areas effected by serious violence, with increased high visibility patrol, greater problem-solving activity and the production of analytical products to support this. OP Grip is rooted in Evidence Based Policing (EBP) and supports initiatives around Problem Orientated Policing (POP), by utilising current and specific data the force is able to produce analytical data that highlights areas where there is the highest likelihood of harm both in city and county divisions. Our analytical expert considers data from the last 12 months factoring in serious violence crime data and the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI). This is used to identify the 30 beat areas most effected by serious violence. Of these 30 beat areas 15 are selected to receive the higher levels of high visibility patrols (Op Grip dedicated protected patrols) while the de-selected 15 beat areas are monitored as a control group (Business As Usual Patrols). This process takes place quarterly and the areas may change each quarter or remain in place dependent on the analytics. Through Home Office, College of Policing and Academic Study the hotspot policing plan for OP Grip should consist of the following:* 24hours (total staffing hours) of patrols per week per Grip area
* Over 3 consecutive days
* No increase in patrols over the subsequent 4 days
* The 3 days of patrolling should not be repeated weekly

The evidence behind this shows that 3 consecutive days of intensive high visibility patrolling in an area casts a “Policing Shadow” over the subsequent days where there is a standard Policing presence. This is shown to have the effect of deterring crime by providing a perception that the area has a heavy Police presence or could have at any point.Op Grip in Practice PatrolsThe process for Op Grip is as follows:* 15 Grip areas identified and communicated to NPIs
* A BATS slide with analytical data for each Grip area is produced alongside a BATS task for update by officers conducting Grip Patrols
* Grip areas identify a patrol strategy in line with Home Office patrol guidance (above)
* Patrol Data to be recorded by supervisors using the master document – This data includes, times, dates, collar numbers and hours patrolled in Overtime or Duty Time. This **must** be updated weekly
* For Grip areas that have been selected for a period exceeding 3 months a Problem Solving Plan is required to be produced on E-Cins and Quality Assured by the Neighbourhood Hub
* Newly identified Grip areas will be provided assistance from a DOCO (Designing Out Crime Officer) for a Environmental Visual Assessments in line with hotspots identified

Problem Solving ActivityThe bids for problem solving activity will run in line with the local area taskings/LOM. NPIs will be required to put a bid to the local area Chief Inspectors. These will be agreed monthly by the Grip Panel consisting of the local area Chief Inspectors and Inspector Vale. At the end of this period the local areas will be required to provide an update in regard to the activity undertaken and the results.Bids cannot consist of only high visibility patrol, there must be a specific response to an issue identified and a link to POP and EBP identified in how this will be approached.Op Grip PerformanceOp Grip has been in place since April 2021 in Nottinghamshire and performance has been positive. In April 2022 Nottinghamshire were inspected by the Cambridge Centre for Evidence Based Policing who looked at:* Targeting
* Tasking
* Tracking
* Testing
* Technology
* Training

Nottinghamshire receive positive feedback in all areas with limited recommendations.End of year analytical data has shown that in areas where Op Grip is utilised there is a significantly lower increase in occurrences of serious violence and crime harm when compared to the control areas that received no additional patrols (See Fig.a). This clearly shows the benefit of having the additional patrols in these areas. This supports the theory that hot spot policing reduces offending/ re-offending.When looking at proactive Policing in the patrol and control areas, a significantly higher proportion (46%) of weapons possession offences were identified in patrol areas compared to control areas highlighting the proactive identification of offenders in these areas. The identification of drug possession offences decreased in both areas the patrol areas saw a far lower decrease of 7% as opposed to the control areas decrease of 34% (see Fig.b).Fig.aFig.b |