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Police & Crime
Commissioner
for Cheshire

Police and Crime Measures Quarterly Statement – Q1 **2023/24**

Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide	
Recorded crime levels	For the 12 months to the end of June 2023 the Constabulary has recorded 0 homicides, lower than the same period for 2021/22 (2) and than for 2020/21 (9).
Force Response	<p>Major Investigation Team (MIT) resourcing is actively managed to balance the maintenance of an effective response to homicide that does not impact on area based detective resources. With the recent low level of reported homicides, MIT specialist investigative resources are routinely providing support to area investigation resources including supporting throughput of detainees in custody and progressing other lines of enquiry on area owned investigations. This initiative ensures the specialist MIT skills can influence investigations locally, relieves some pressure on area based investigative teams and ensures MIT investigators retain knowledge and experience of non-homicide investigations.</p> <p>A proactive approach to Tackling Domestic Abuse and VAWG across the force is believed to contribute to reductions in homicide.</p>
Ongoing Focus	
	Delivering a comprehensive Homicide Reduction Strategy through our Homicide Prevention work, and how this relates to Domestic Abuse and Violence and Intimidation Against Women and Girls is a big part of the ongoing focus of MIT. In addition, development of specialist skills in MIT and the distillation of these specialist skills into area investigation teams will continue. Suspect interviewing and court presentation of complex, multi-media evidence are just two areas of focus.

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines	
Recorded crime levels	For the 12 months ending June 2023 the Constabulary recorded 18 offences involving a serious firearm (handgun, rifle or shotgun) and in 4 of these the firearm was discharged. This is a decrease on the 20 offences recorded with 2 discharges in 2021/22 and on the 30 recorded offences with 12 discharges in 2020/21.

	<p>For the 12 months ending June 2023 the Constabulary recorded 586 knife crime offences, a 12% increase on the 523 recorded in 2021/22. There has been an increase in possession offences associated with increased use of stop and search powers</p>
Force Response	<p>Clear direction across all departments from Strategic and Tactical leads for Firearms, Knife Crime and in particular Serious & Organised Crime (SOC) – including County Lines Drug dealing encapsulates the force response to serious violence. Firearm and Knife enabled offending is often associated with SOC, with extreme violence being used to further advance criminal enterprises such as drug dealing. Enhanced understanding and threat scoring of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and County Lines drug dealers have enabled greater focus of Level 2 proactive departments on the highest harm offenders. In addition, focusing on the vulnerability associated with County Lines through Operation Apollo, has enabled early interventions in relation to new teams operating in Cheshire – thus reducing disputes between rival dealers. Enhanced governance is also now in place at Area and at a Force level regarding our identification, assessment of the harm caused and operational tasking in relation to OCGs and County Lines drug dealers. The management of this serious criminality has tangible governance from the local neighbourhood level, through area, force and regional level to ensure appropriate dedicated and specialist resources address the Organised Criminals causing the most harm to communities.</p> <p>Whilst any offence involving the use of a firearm or knife is concerning, our volumes given our geographical location and activity in neighbouring forces over the previous 12 months offer some reassurance.</p>
Ongoing Focus	
	<p>Focus will continue as described above with further investment into additional analytical and research resources focusing on OCGs and County Lines drug markets. In addition, the further development of our alignment with regional and national best practice in relation to the management of OCGs across the 4 P's (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare) continues with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU). To develop early intervention opportunities, we are developing our scoring of Urban Street Gangs (USGs) for the first time in Cheshire which it is intended will promote diversionary activities to safeguard these young people and prevent their being drawn in to more serious criminality.</p>

Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime

Recorded crime levels	<p>For the 12 months ending June 2023 the force recorded 5779 overall 'neighbourhood' crimes, a 4.7% reduction on the 6067 recorded in the same period ending 2022. Overall recorded burglary (-5.4%), vehicle offences (-6.9%) and Robbery offences (-2.2%) are all showing</p>
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	reductions while theft from the person offences (+9.5%) have seen an increase.
Force Response	<p>Neighbourhood Crime is a priority in local policing areas, with particular focus on burglary residential which has been subject to our preventative Operation Shield approach which sees officers attend all burglaries of a home and in addition conduct “super-cocooning” visits to adjacent homes as well as ensuring a Crime Scene Investigator attends in all appropriate cases.</p> <p>The force uses SARA problem solving methodology and Hotspot “Koper curve” patrolling to prevent neighbourhood crime. There is a weekly Neighbourhood crime meeting chaired by a C/Supt and Neighbourhood crime is covered on the Friday SCT meeting through the SCT “dashboards”. The Power BI “crime” App, introduced in April 2023 gives live time information to supervisors, managers and command teams, allowing them to make quick and informed operational decisions . From April 2023 the designing out crime officers and the crim prevention officers will be moved into the problem-solving teams to increase capacity and capability in each policing area.</p>
Ongoing Focus	
	<p>Operation Shield continues to be the Constabulary’s operational approach in response to residential burglary to prevent near repeats. Hotspot patrolling and quick and effective problem solving to combat any repeats locations, offenders or victims. The Power BI “crime” App, introduced April 2023, gives supervisors and managers live time information around neighbourhood crime patterns.</p>

Measure: Improve satisfaction among victims, with a particular focus on victims of DA

Recorded crime levels	<p>Over the last 12 months 75% of DA victims surveyed were satisfied however this is based on a total of 56 completed surveys for the year. The Constabulary is now submitting a larger sample of victims to the survey provider and is monitoring completion rates.</p>
Force Response	<p>Work is ongoing across the organisation to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and improve compliance with the 12 rights of the victim’s code • Maximise the force’s understanding of what victims think of the services provided • Develop, test and implement new ways of working to maximise victim satisfaction

	The work is intended to provide outstanding services to all victims but also to prioritise and focus on victims of domestic abuse.
Ongoing Focus	
	Ongoing development of Area Investigation teams coupled with additional capability regarding suspect management and prosecution file progression are all intended to improve quality and timeliness of investigative response and therefore satisfaction.

Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime	
Recorded crime levels	Not applicable. The national measures in this are relate to confidence in the law enforcement response to cyber-crime (cyber aware tracker) and the percentage of businesses experiencing a cyber-breach or attack (Dept for DCMS survey)
Force Response	<p>The alignment of Online Child Abuse Investigation Teams (OCAIT), Digital Forensics and the Cyber Investigation Team under the management of a single Detective Chief Inspector, creating a Digital Media Investigation Unit (DMIU) has enabled the Constabulary to realise efficiencies and improve the effectiveness and timeliness of investigations in this area. This approach has resulted in Digital Forensics being ISO accredited by UKAS in recent weeks.</p> <p>The DMIU, as part of the Serious Organised Crime Command, also work closely with the Serious Organised Economic Crime (SOEC) Team, who, amongst other responsibilities, investigate online fraud. A proactive approach is taken in relation to these crime types, particularly regarding an asset recovery approach to the proceeds of crime.</p> <p>Cyber breach or attacks have not been prevalent in Cheshire.</p>
Ongoing Focus	
	There will remain a continued focus on improving efficiency and effectiveness with options being explored to increase the technical capability of the teams to ensure their capability matches that of offenders. Work in collaboration with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU) also offers opportunity for greater proactivity via proactive covert assets and continual development of understanding and tactics in this ever changing area.