

Report to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Governance Board

Date: 2 August 2016

Title: Emerging Risks & Cross Border Crime

From: Chief Constable

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper has been prepared to provide an overview of how the Force tackles cross border criminality, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking and to highlight how the Force is addressing other emerging risks and elements of Control Strategy.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TEAM

2. The Child Sexual Exploitation Team (CSET) formed in response to the designation of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as both a national and local strategic policing priority has been operational since December 2015.
3. The CSET operational framework has been developed with partners. This has made sure that a robust structure with clear processes exists with clarity of roles and responsibilities. The significant funding invested by both the PCC and the Chief Constable has meant the foundations of the team and their work are already successfully embedded in an operational framework.

CSET RECRUITMENT – PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

4. The team is now almost fully populated in terms of police and partnership investment:
 - 1 x Detective Inspector, 1 x Detective Sergeant (1 pending), 3 x Detective Constables, 2 x Police Staff Investigators, 3 x Intelligence Officers, 1 x Trainer, 2 x Analysts, 1 x Admin Support.
 - 1 x KCC Early Years Help Co-ordinator, 2 x Social Workers from Medway, 2 x KCC Social Care Manager (1 is currently in the process of being recruited) and 1 x Health worker.

CSE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

5. The development of the systems and processes support the overarching aim of the CSET to improve our response and services around CSE. The determination of the operational remit of the CSET arises from that framework and is to:
 - Develop the intelligence picture on CSE across Kent and Medway.
 - Identify early those at risk or suffering CSE making early interventions to safeguard.
 - Bring CSE perpetrators to justice.
 - Promote awareness and understanding of CSE.
 - Reduce the number of children and young people reported missing who are at risk of CSE.
 - Develop robust processes to share information and intelligence on CSE.

CSE OPERATIONAL SNAPSHOT

6. Since December 2015 the team has assessed over 1280 pieces of CSE intelligence and there are a number of live investigations running which have resulted in safeguarding interventions such as Child Protection referrals, joint visits and briefings to Local District Policing Teams (LDPT). In addition a number of perpetrators have been arrested.
7. On the 27 June the CSET saw its' first CSE investigation secure a positive outcome at Maidstone Crown Court. The case involved three men who targeted a young, vulnerable teenage girl who was groomed, trafficked, drugged and sexually exploited. Three men from Gravesend were jailed for a total of 14 years, one of whom had sex with the underage girl. He was given a sexual harm prevention order for 15 years and has been put on the sex offenders' register for life. This case clearly evidences not just the true

courage and bravery shown by the victim in bringing these men to justice but also how joint working with partner agencies has ensured her protection and the protection of others from future harm.

8. The volume of live investigations and the associated high levels of risk versus capacity within CSET has been carefully monitored. As a consequence divisions have provided the CSET with a further three Detectives, which will continue until the full establishment is realised. The volume of intelligence being submitted continues to increase and the addition of a further Research and Development Officer in January 2016 has still failed to meet the demands of the volume of work requiring assessment. A paper was submitted to both the Kent and Medway Child Safeguarding Boards to request uplift in financial support to increase the establishment of the CSET in the form of two additional administration support posts. This is on hold pending the outcome of the Post Implementation Review (PIR) which has now taken place. The findings are currently with the Chief Officer Team.
9. The workforce are made aware of CSE developments both operationally via Intelligence briefings and more general communications through inSite, the development of the Kent Police website page and the mobile app. The Protecting Vulnerable People Programme which incorporates CSE training commenced on the 1 March 2016. Bespoke training packages for Crime Investigation, Community Support Units (CSU), managers and Senior Investigating Officers are also now underway. The CSE DVD commissioned by the PCC has been rolled out as a mandated briefing across the Force.
10. CSE Champions are now in place, their purpose being:
 - To implement good practice on the issue of CSE.
 - To encourage intelligence submissions from colleagues and partners under Operation WILLOW to support the work of the CSE team.
 - To support the development of a safe, responsive and effective service for children & young people who experience or are at risk of sexual exploitation within their agency and with multi-agency partners.
11. The first CSE Champions forum for partner agency staff took place in May 2016. This was attended by 50 CSE Champions, who received awareness training from Kent Police. The first Kent Police CSE Champions training day took place on the 14 July and involved 50 officers and staff from across the Force.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE

12. A number of the victims that are engaged with the CSET are from a vulnerable background, this has included looked after children. The co-location of the team has proved pivotal. Access to partner agency systems and prompt strategy meetings with respective partners have ensured that victims have been safeguarded. Where necessary new placements have been found which has further protected them. The therapeutic and longer term support is subject of debate at the Multiagency Sexual Exploitation meetings (MASE) of both Kent and Medway; so far there is not the immediate demand for such a service.
13. Kent County Council (KCC) has ownership of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) all of whom are accommodated within Kent. It is the role of police to ensure that they are safeguarded and that organised criminality that can facilitate their entry into the UK is tackled. The Force continues to see a steady rise in the number of UASC and is awaiting the implementation of the National Dispersal Scheme, this will allow us to safeguard them effectively and find accommodation with other local authorities. Kent Police officers are now working alongside the Joint Debriefing Team (JBT) with the Home Office at the Kent Intake Unit. Early identification of UASCs intention and onward destination plan will reduce the likelihood of missing cases.
14. KCC and Kent Police now produce monthly missing reports including repeat and long term missing. Through the UASC Partnership Board, work is underway to develop information sharing and analysis to be able to understand the profile of UASCs living within Kent, and to be able to work more closely with Foster homes to increase the speed in reporting missing cases, in order to increase the opportunities to locate children within the first 24 hours, ensure they are safeguarded and reduce the cases of long term missing.

NATIONAL CSE AWARENESS DAY

15. A multi-agency Day of Action was held on 18 March 2016, the results of which were shared at the last PCC Governance Board. In March 2017, there will be a multi-agency Day of Action. This is designed to safeguard children and young people from the risks of CSE and target potential perpetrators, gather intelligence and raise awareness. Planning concerning this day of action is already underway for police and partner agencies.

CSE GOVERNANCE

16. The MASE and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) are established with terms of reference, strategic and operational action plans agreed and in place. This allows for CSE to be a main focus of those meetings and resulting efficiencies to be made.

17. The LSCBs have commissioned individual agency CSE self-assessments be completed. This reflects the longer term development of our services with partners in areas of work with parents and carers of those subject to or at risk of CSE, as well as using feedback from children and young people to shape our service delivery.

18. Significant work continues to be completed by CSET and as evidenced above has now moved into an operational footing. The improved readiness of the Force to respond to reports of CSE across the County is already evident and colleagues and partners are working more effectively together.

CROSS BORDER CRIMINALITY

19. Cross border criminality occurs when crimes are committed across different areas. It can affect local communities and neighbourhoods through to having an international impact. Level 1 is within a force area, level 2 is across one or more force areas and level 3 is national/international.

20. The Force identifies cross border crime through a number of streams. In the first instance, the county analyst at Level 1 which covers Kent or Level 2 which is cross border cover between Kent and Essex will identify cross border criminality through analysis and development of a problem profile where a crime series is emerging. This may involve the crossing of local policing borders, or across county borders. Where this occurs, a commissioning document is used to bring this to the attention of Level 2 to request support with intelligence or investigative assistance.

21. The Organised Crime Group (OCG) scoring panel receives nominations from divisional policing for the inclusion and mapping of OCGs. This forum is able to determine a proportionate response based on threat. The outcome maybe adoption at divisional level for disruption or intelligence gathering. Where the threat is cross border or beyond the capability of the division the OCG are tasked to the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) to deliver the response. SCD contribute to both the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU) and the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) regional intelligence and tasking meetings.

22. The SCD intelligence department has a relationship with other force intelligence units, predominantly the Metropolitan Intelligence Bureau (MIB) along with the National Crime Agency (NCA). This provides an external link to other agencies in order to respond to fast time intelligence which invariably has a cross border aspect to it. Kent also has an officer embedded in the MIB to ensure SCD remain sighted on MPS/Kent/Essex cross border crime. This is particularly of use in relation to gang activity.

23. The SCD intelligence unit have an officer embedded within the Op Snowbird team at the UK Border Agency in Folkestone. This is a multi-agency hub having knowledge of criminals that are entering and exiting the UK through Kent ports. This provides SCD with information relating to international criminals who may have links with Kent based OCGs involved in human trafficking.

24. Op Seventy is an example of a joint Serious Organised Crime Unit and NCA operation targeting an OCG, and associates, for the suspected importation of firearms. This was a long term operation where the offenders were evidenced importing firearms to the UK from Europe via a private boat. On 11 August 2015 an armed strike took place and a number of the organised crime group, including the principal Harry Shilling, were arrested for importing firearms and a total of 22 assault rifles and 9 Skorpion sub-machine guns. A large amount of ammunition and a silencer were also recovered. This was the largest ever seizure of such a weapons cache. On 3 June 2016 Harry Shilling was sentenced to 30 years after being found guilty at a trial at the Old Bailey. His associates received custodial sentences ranging from 28 years to 4 years.

MODERN SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING (MSHT)

25. The Home Office estimates that there are between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of Human Trafficking in the UK. Despite a 5% reduction of potential victims of MSHT in last quarter down to 895, the Force believes that the overall scale of the threat from modern slavery has remained constant. However, due to a fragmented national intelligence picture, we are unable to rule out a reduced incident rate.

26. The gender split of potential victims is even between males and females (50% and 49% respectively), with transgender individuals accounting for the remainder. Males are often exploited through forced labour or criminality whilst females are most regularly subject to sexual exploitation.

27. It is of note that 61% of referrals, where the location of the exploitation was known, the victims claimed that exploitation had taken place in the UK, or the UK and overseas. This remains consistent with the general trend over the past year. Labour exploitation is more likely to be recorded in the UK, whilst sexual exploitation was more prevalent overseas, significantly impacted as a result of reporting by Albanian females.

28. The Kent and Essex PCCs have provided a two year funding stream for a Modern Slavery Coordinator. This post will work to the Anti-Slavery Partnership (ASP) and work towards the national action plan through a local prepare, prevent, protect and pursue plan (4P Plan). The key areas of initial focus include supporting victims in the golden hour period such as provision of clothes, food and accommodation. The mission of the Kent / Essex Anti-Slavery Partnership is to support and enable the discovery of and response to incidents of MSHT through a victim-centred, multidisciplinary and collaborative community effort.

29. The ASP is primarily an operationally focused group and local vehicle for:

- Effective partnership working to tackle modern day slavery.
- Developing organisational best practice in regards to trafficking and slavery.
- Identifying gaps in current knowledge and service provision.
- Identifying potential victims of trafficking / slavery across a range of organisations and sectors.
- Implementing local safeguarding protocols when potential victims are identified.
- Identifying ways forward as agencies.
- Reviewing changes to local services, and being aware of what is happening across the South East / East in regards to awareness of the issue and what is being done to effectively prevent and support potential victims of Modern Slavery as they are identified.
- Monitor agencies Modern Slavery improvement action plans and increase knowledge and understanding.
- Receiving information, from across Kent / Essex and the partnership region, including unitary authorities, concerning all aspects of slavery.
- Exchanging information and communication changes to a wide stakeholder group.
- Being a consultative body to inform agencies working in any capacity with potential victims of Modern Slavery.
- Sharing our learning and expertise further afield.

30. Each division in Kent has a local SPOC. The rationale being that a speedy investigative response is required around trafficking matters.

EMERGING RISK- GANGS

31. A 'County Line' describes a situation where an individual, or more frequently a gang, establishes and operates a telephone number in an area outside of their normal locality in order to sell drugs directly to users at street level. This generally involves a group from an urban area expanding their operations by crossing one or more police force boundaries to more rural areas, setting up a secure base and using runners to conduct day to day dealing. 'County Lines' is a national issue, where gangs extend their drug dealing businesses using telephone lines to facilitate businesses.
32. This new trend affects most forces in the UK and almost always involves the exploitation of young, vulnerable people and drug addicts. These gangs are responsible for the widespread supply of addictive drugs, predominantly heroin and crack cocaine through organised supply chains, controlled from central locations.
33. This particular crime trend cuts across a number of threats, not least through:
- Violence (linked to turf, debts and drug market control), including the use of firearms and other weapons.
 - Enslaving young and vulnerable people to facilitate and assist with the commission of crime.
 - Radicalisation of young people.
 - Widespread control of local drug markets across England, Wales and into Scotland, with inevitable associated criminal finance flows.
 - Child sexual exploitation, as a consequence of the influences they exert upon (not least) potentially vulnerable teenagers.
34. A major concern is the issue of safeguarding, as many gangs form a secure base, known as cuckooing, in the homes of vulnerable people and force assistance by using violence or exploiting an addiction to drugs. Similarly, the exploitation of young people is a common factor, with groups often recruiting children to work as runners.
35. A sample of areas affected by County Lines activity found that 42% were coastal towns, rising to 57% when including towns close to the coast. 15% of the areas were market towns and another 15% were commuter towns near London; the remainder were two small cities and a large spa town. The areas were characterised by being predominantly white British with lower than UK average numbers of ethnic minorities and an older than average population. 65% had decent transport links to a major city while 30%, all of which were coastal towns, had very poor transport links. 46% of areas had at least one issue with either deprivation, low levels of educational attainment amongst residents, unemployment, high levels of mental health issues or crime. All but one of these areas was a coastal town. The remaining 53% of the areas had no issues with deprivation or unemployment and would be described as middle class or affluent areas.
36. There are a number of scenarios where violence can occur in the County Lines context. Firstly, where groups infiltrate an area and push out local dealers. In general, reporting indicates that local dealers do not offer significant resistance owing to the capability and intent of the groups involved. Secondly, violence can be used to secure an operating base, coerce people into becoming runners and to enforce drugs debts. Thirdly, and most importantly, where there is insufficient space in the drug market for groups to co-exist and they compete for business. This often draws more group members to the area to build strength and act as enforcers.
37. Kent and Essex have seen the impact of these gangs and the attributed violence and vulnerability. There have been a number of commissioned operations that focus on the threat as well as joint working with the MPS and the region through Op Holdcroft to share intelligence across our borders.
38. The Gang team for Kent and Essex have a relationship with the MPS Trident team and act as a conduit to the County for cross border gangs and County Lines affecting both counties. Essex & Kent Analysts are developing a threat matrix (based upon the MPS product) called GRITS to highlight the individual, County Line and Gang threat to the local districts.