

PCC Performance Scrutiny – Quarterly (Jan – Mar 2019)

This report has been produced in response to the Warwickshire Police Performance Scrutiny (Q4 2018/19) report, compiled by the Warwickshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It provides a response to the four specific questions raised within the OPCC's report.

1. Crime Rates

It is pleasing to see the OPCC recognise the overall excellent performance year in 2018/19 with crime rates significantly below projected at start of year and large reductions in some iconic crime types, like burglary dwelling. However, it is also recognised that other categories (Robbery, weapons) will need a greater focus and work has been commissioned around both of these areas to firstly understand the issues, and then take a problem solving approach to addressing them.

Analysis and Service Improvement will soon provide crime rate projections for 2019/20, which will help us to understand what 'good' looks like and what parameters we are working within. It is noted that Total Recorded Crime (TRC) is showing a 10% increase in the first few weeks of this year but this was wholly expected and foreseen. April last year was, by some way, one of the lowest in terms of TRC in the previous 12 month period. Therefore this April is compared against that period and increases in TRC were therefore very much predicted. From May onwards, TRC levels in 2018 returned to more expected levels and therefore we would expect to see 2019 comparison rates return to more normal levels as the year progresses.

2. Personal Robbery and Possession of Weapon offences

Robbery remains a challenging area for us and represents a general increasing trend rather than any identifiable series. A problem profile has been commissioned to ensure we can fully understand this issue and then task resources accordingly. We have also redirected some of our existing staff to bolster our response to serious acquisitive crime in general and robbery will clearly be one of their primary focuses.

In terms of possession of weapons offences and specifically knife crime, we have a lot of work ongoing and much of it is in conjunction with the OPCC. A commissioned problem profile identified the possession and use of weapons in dwellings was a key driver for this

increase, and we await a second product to see if the increases have been sustained. Some of the initial work has focused on:

- Developing the Knife Crime in schools PSP (Op Impression)
- Research of educational provision
- Further analysis
- Seeking PHE/NHS data
- Focus on recidivist offenders
- Developing an overarching strategy/plan

This is also very much in line with the national focus in this area and the governments Serious Violence Strategy.

3. Non-emergency 101 calls

It is recognised that this has been a particularly challenging area for the force in recent months. A number of options are being explored by the OCC Command, with the absolute focus being ensuring that vacancies and absences are minimised within the OCC environment. Prior to the HMICFRS inspection, CC Jelley took a conscious decision not to divert other front line resources to bolster the 101 performance. However, with the inspection complete and the potential for call volumes to increase, a 4 week pilot will be run that allows resources from the Incident Progression Team (IPT) to support call handlers at peak periods. Once this has been completed, we will review the impact on 101 performance but also the impact on the IPT as they are at the forefront of filtering demand from reaching our Patrol Officers.

4. Criminal Justice Performance

The Criminal Justice performance landscape is a complex one with many different measures and it is important to spend time understanding the different measures, their interrelation, and how activity in other areas can impact upon these measures.

The OPCC have referenced the Case File Quality Assessment (CFQA) measure and indeed it was disappointing that 18% of files had errors in February. However, as recent as December this was at 7% and among the strongest across forces. The error rate does fluctuate from month to month and at the moment we are satisfied that there is no enduring trend in poor performance.

The charge to NFA ratio is also mentioned in the report and we have gone to substantial lengths to explain the reason for this, which is almost wholly linked to our drive around domestic abuse, commencing in the autumn of 2018. The charge to NFA ratio refers to Police Charges that are later discontinued by CPS. Last month 78% of all cases discontinued in the North and 50% of all cases discontinued in the South were DA cases, with the most common reason being **Victim refuses to give evidence/ inappropriate to compel**. We are comfortable with this position because it shows our sergeants are erring on the side of charging DA perpetrators as opposed to not. T/ACC Franklin-Smith recently met with regional CPS and raised the issue as we are concerned that CPS lawyers are discontinuing too many cases on the basis of ‘victim will not support prosecution’. Some further analysis has now been carried out by CPS and they now share this concern. We are going to progress this work in tandem with CPS which will hopefully lead to more productive outcomes and strengthened partnership relations.

A final point in terms of charge to NFA ratio is that until the end of August our charge to NFA ratio was above 3 for a sustained period. We then introduced our focus on DA and this immediately dropped to around 2. The below table illustrates this:

Warwickshire	18-03	18-04	18-05	18-06	18-07	18-08	18-09	18-10	18-11	18-12	19-01	19-02
Total PCD cases advised to charge ()	57	68	72	79	94	78	50	79	75	69	78	71
Number of PCD cases resulting in no prosecution ()	20	17	19	26	26	22	23	37	40	35	41	38
Charge to no-prosecution ratio ()	2.85	4.00	3.79	3.04	3.62	3.55	2.17	2.14	1.88	1.97	1.90	1.87

It is also worth noting that, although not contained in the OPCC report, Warwickshire remain 6th nationally in the transforming summary justice (TSJ) measure, which is an excellent achievement for the force.

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