Policing Minister Visit

Policing Minister, Nick Hurd MP, visited Lincolnshire as part of his tour of Forces around England and Wales. During his time at Headquarters he met with the Chief Officer Team and PCC before spending some time with officers and staff.

ESN

All Airwave contracts are scheduled to expire at the end of 2019. The existing Airwave system will continue until transition on to Emergency Services Network (ESN) is completed. The costs to Government of any requirement to extend Airwave contracts beyond the planned National Shutdown Date (NSD) of 31st December 2019 have been negotiated and agreed with Motorola Solutions Ltd, the owners of Airwave. There remains concern at the time and additional cost that this may incur.

DCC Knighton, Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), Supt Ross Cooke (Programme Director) and Steve Hempton (Programme Manager), are leading the EM Regional ESMCP delivery. A Regional Strategy and Governance structure has been put in place and a Section 22 agreement is in the process of being signed by the 5 East Midland Force Chief Constables and PCCs. Regional Work Stream leads are in place and liaising with local force leads to understand the requirements for mobilisation and transition.

1st and 2nd line supervisor seminars

The autumn round of Seminars to 1st and 2nd line supervisors has been delivered. The seminars were opened by the Chief Constable and the PCC, allowing officers and staff to hear
first-hand the hopes and challenges for the future whilst celebrating the successes to date. There were a number of operational inputs which were well received and the opportunity to ask the Chief Officers questions was also well received.

Feedback is in the process of being collated and will be used to inform future decision making to improve seminars next year and introduce improvements to service delivery.

3.2 Recruitment

The new cohort of 30 police officers is currently undergoing their training with the next cohort in April potentially increasing from 30 to 60 police officers. Additionally there are plans to bring between 15 and 20 transferees into force in January. These are targeted roles with detectives and firearms officers being prioritised.

3.3 Retired Officers

Requests sent out to recently retired officers to consider returning to the Force on short term contracts is generating interest with a positive response. This will assist with some of the administrative tasks where police experience would be useful. A number are about to start employment and will be used in areas of high demand or risk.

3.4 Bluelight Collaboration Programme

Planning permission was granted for South Park on 3rd October for work to begin on site. Work continues on the internal layouts of the building. Wider interoperability projects continue to be developed.

Shared Headquarters is nearing completion with a ‘sign-off’ board to be held in due course. A ‘Who’s Who’ document has been circulated to encourage closer working at Shared Headquarters.

3.5 Firearms Licensing

The Critical period has now passed and Performance Management has reverted to the monthly contractual service review meeting governance process. Risk continues to be closely monitored and effectively managed.

The new Firearms on-line system has undergone an IT health-check. A small number of risks have been identified and are being worked through by ICT to ensure the system is robust and fit for purpose.

A stakeholder engagement day is planned for 13th October with a proposed go-live date of 1st November.

3.6 Force Medical Examiners (FMEs)

The new service delivery model which will look to provide embedded healthcare professionals, i.e. nurses, in Lincoln & Boston custody suites continues to make progress. Contractual documentation has been finalised with a go-live date set for 1st November. This will be closely monitored by CPT and Force Custody Inspectors.
Adult and Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The Commercial Partnership Team continues to work with National Health Service England (NHSE), the commissioning body for the re-procurement of services. Detective Superintendent Hatton and Detective Chief Inspector Whiffen continue to be involved by providing operational inputs. The new services are planned to commence on the 1st of April 2018. The Adult SARC is to remain in Lincoln with the Paediatric facility potentially being provided by 2 hubs in the region (Notts. and Northants).

Interim arrangements for the Paediatric SARC have been confirmed. This will be up until the end of March next year and will involve the use of QMC (Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust) to provide a service for those aged 1-13 years when existing arrangements in Lincolnshire are not available.

3.7 Digital Public Contact – Online Reporting (OR)

On-line crime reporting was initially beset with high levels of reporting of non-crime matters. Work was undertaken to develop a pre Online Reporting Triage question set and this went live on the force website on 22nd August 2017.

Initial results look promising with overall volumes and the percentage of non-crime reports reducing. Data for the first week of September indicates that 40% of the total reports were non-crime; this is a significant reduction in the average of 75% from April to June.

The next steps are to continue to monitor volumes and assess if any further activities are required, including a wider campaign to market what should be reported through this mechanism. Phase one of the draft campaign plan to advertise OR and Track My Crime is awaiting approval. This will start on the 23rd October until 5th November.

During the month of September total non-crimes have reduced from an average of 75% to 53%. A formal review meeting has been held for Online Reporting during the reporting period.

3.8 Force Control Room

The FCR is currently experiencing difficulties achieving the required service levels for 101s (the focus, quite rightly has remained on 999s, which has by default affected the performance on the 101s). There has been an increase in the number of calls received since May 2017 (this is reflected nationally) and the CPT Manager and G4S Delivery Manager are undertaking a review of demand to ensure an appropriate operating model is provided in the FCR to respond to this increase.

The level of demand being experienced is beyond that of the terms of the contract with G4S so may result in additional costs for the recruitment of temporary staff.

3.9 Ethics Panel

The first two meetings of the ethics panel have been held and active recruitment is underway to establish membership and a work plan. Terms of reference have been drafted and an initial appointment of an independent chair has been made to start to develop the panel and build the capability. The terms of reference will be circulated in force to stimulate interest.
3.10 Independent Advisory group (IAG)

The IAG has a fairly small membership that does not represent the population that lives, works or visits Lincolnshire. Discussions have been had with the members and it has been agreed to advertise for new members in the coming weeks. The advert will encourage participation from across the communities of Lincolnshire and seek to bring a much broader age, gender and diversity balance to the group.