



STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2019 - 2020



Warwickshire
POLICE





Summary

The Strategic Assessment provides an overview of the current and medium-term future issues that affect, or have the potential to affect, our communities. It informs future policing activity in areas of prevention, intelligence gathering, enforcement and policing strategy.

The areas that we assess as the highest threat are Domestic Abuse and Child Exploitation and we will continue to prioritise them. The key aspects that inform this threat are the level of potential harm and the vulnerability of victims. We will also focus on Serious Organised Crime, Organised Acquisitive Crime and Road Collisions where members of the public are killed or seriously injured.

The force has undergone significant recent change in its response to Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and our renewed focus has helped us to develop a more detailed picture of organised crime and, specifically, how individuals become involved in organised crime; the pathways that lead into criminal involvement, so that we can work with partners to remove those factors or divert individuals away from crime.

- Residential Burglary - Dwelling
- Sexual Offences - Other
- Bicycle Theft
- Robbery
- Theft From Person
- Sexual Offences - Rape

Our Policing Priorities



Child Exploitation

A recent increase in reporting has been attributed, to some degree, to a number of high profile cases of child exploitation, as well as high profile offenders.

There is a growing need to focus attention and resources on the technological aspects of criminal activity, and target those using the internet to facilitate the exploitation of children in our force area and beyond.

Two thirds of individuals reported as missing are children and within this number there has been an increase in children who go missing repeatedly and are frequently in the care of the local authority. Children that go missing, and especially those that go missing from care homes are highly vulnerable to exploitation. The force has resources dedicated to missing children which may lead to an increase in reported cases, but is an approach that we hope will uncover information and identify opportunities to prevent these children going missing and avoid their potential sexual and criminal exploitation.

Future

In 2019 there will be a push to combine and build on the current 'What Works' evidence from various partnerships to develop understanding of how people are drawn into abuse, how to prevent offences before they happen and enhancing police ability to detect and disrupt offenders online. As a result of this, police and partners will face scrutiny from inspectorates, government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as to the efficiency and effectiveness of their

interventions, especially where national best practice has been identified.



Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is an area where we work especially closely with professionals and partners to develop a plan of activity to support and safeguard victims. The increase in DA has been suggested to be due to increase in the public reporting to the police, and better police recording practices. It remains, however, a significant concern to the force.

The force has developed its focus on vulnerability and domestic abuse through a Vulnerability Strategy which has driven training for all staff involved from those that take the initial call from victims through to those that deal directly with victims, family or concerned members of the public to ensure positive action is taken.

Learning in relation to domestic abuse has led to a change in the national definition and changes to the recording of offences which has given us a more accurate picture of levels of domestic abuse, including some of the less tangible aspects such as coercion and control of victims, the use of technology/social media and stalking and harassment.

Future

The modified definition of domestic abuse following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Bill in 2018 and the Domestic Abuse Act in 2019 will better reflect aspects of DA, for example, to reflect the impact on children. Over the next three to four years, it is anticipated that levels of domestic abuse demand will stabilise as improvements in service delivery are

established and prevention activity is delivered more consistently.



Serious Organised Crime (SOC)

The threat from SOC is increasing in both volume and complexity and will continue to do so in the short to medium term. Common drivers such as technology will continue to enable organised criminal activity and result in challenges in terms of response.

We experience a broad range of organised criminal activity in the force from fraud to the distribution of drugs by organised crime groups that are based in other force areas, known as 'county lines'. These crime groups have relatively quick, unimpeded access to markets across the force area. We don't, however, experience the levels of organised criminal activity or near the level of associated violence seen in metropolitan areas. The majority of identified crime groups active across Warwickshire are involved in the distribution of drugs.

The force has used national research and our own data to create a local picture of pathways into involvement in organised crime to inform prevention and protection activity as organised crime relies on the identification and exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

Future

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) is working with the Home Office to provide peer support to forces, including sharing effective practice and providing access to subject matter experts. With this push in focus on SOC, and the nationally funded

projects, strategies and agencies set out specifically for targeting SOC, forces will be expected to demonstrate improved activity against the most serious and organised criminals, within the UK, overseas, online and offline.



Pathways into Serious Organised Crime (SOC)



Organised Acquisitive Crime (OAC)

The force is experiencing an increase in the number of vehicles that are stolen by means to breaking into homes to steal the keys. The vehicles stolen are usually high value and may be stolen for parts or for resale.

We have also, to a lesser degree, seen the theft of cars using technology that removes the need for a key including the interception of the car key signal.

There has been an increase in the number of ATM attacks in Warwickshire, particularly in more rural areas.

Agricultural or construction machinery, as well as cars, may be stolen in advance to facilitate the attack on the cash machines or gas may be used to explode the machine open.

The force is working with partners to investigate these offences as those that are attacking cash machines are also attacking machines in neighbouring forces as the machines are a key service in our often very rural communities.

Future

Acquisitive crime can have a marked impact on those victimised especially where homes are invaded and sentimental items are stolen. A new national intelligence unit, Opal, has been created with a remit to discover and enhance the development of

operational intelligence associated with serious organised acquisitive crime (SOAC).



Killed and seriously injured on the roads

The majority of collisions in the force area lead to only slight damage and there were fewer deaths in 2018. The types of casualty are linked to the speed limit in the area, for example, pedestrians and cyclists are more likely to be involved in incidents in a 30mph area rather than 60mph areas.

One of the most common causes of collisions is speed, as well as an increase in risk taking behaviours such as drink/drug driving and the use of mobile phones when driving. There is more of an emphasis to police the risk taking behaviors on our roads which should in turn decrease the number of collisions.

Motorcyclists remain a disproportionately high number of KSI casualties.

Road safety is a concern for the force and we regularly analyse collisions to identify trends and routes where we can focus policing activity.

Future

The Strategic Roads Network (SRN) is undergoing improvement across Warwickshire and this is expected to impact on the reports of RTC incidents. With temporary road layouts, road closures, and new road layouts, Warwickshire is likely to see a small rise in collisions as the public are getting used to the road changes.

