

Warwickshire Police Cyber Crime Unit

Summary Report for the Joint Audit and Standards Committee

Introduction

The Warwickshire Police Cybercrime Unit (CCU) is dedicated to tackling cyber dependant crime, which is defined as *“offences which can only be committed by using information communications technology, where the devices are both the tool for committing the crime and the target of the crime”*. This is distinct from cyber enabled crime which is defined as *“existing crimes that have been transformed in scale or form by their use of the internet. The growth of the internet has enabled these crimes to be carried out on an industrial scale”*. Cyber enabled crimes are greater in volume whilst cyber dependant crime requires a specialist capability to investigate it. The wider “Digital Investigations and Intelligence” (DIIU) Team support the force response to cyber enabled criminality and the preservation of the digital crime scene.

For the purpose of this report the focus will be on the force response to cyber dependent crime.

The Warwickshire Police CCU provides local delivery of the response to Cybercrime across the Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent Strands of the National Cyber Security Strategy.

There is a focus on:

- Improved victim experience
- Effective investigative response
- Targeted local cybercrime prevention messaging
- Diverting young people who are vulnerable to going down a path of cybercrime
- Working with businesses to help them develop effective incident response plans and to test them

In addition to this, the team is a centre of excellence and offers guidance to the wider force, helping to mainstream cyber skills and knowledge into other areas of policing regarding, for example, the Dark Web and Cryptocurrency.

This Cybercrime capability was initially consumed as part of the Strategic Alliance with West Mercia Police. In April 2020, following the exit from the alliance, the Warwickshire Cybercrime Unit was set up and a result is in its relative infancy in comparison to other Home Office Forces.

Funding

Between 2018 and 2019 the cabinet office National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) allocated resources to support the initial build at local level. Warwickshire's Cyber capability was part of the alliance response and as such did not benefit from this National funding stream. In the financial year 2020-2021 Warwickshire Police benefited from a total of £146,850 from the NPCC National Force Specialist Cybercrime Unit Build Project. £118,850 was spent on staff pay, with the remainder paying for training and equipment.

The allocated funding for the financial year 2021-2022 has reduced significantly and represents a risk for the force capability which is more immature than other forces due to its relative infancy. The funding allocation totals £122,146.25, which is made up of £114,646.25

for staffing costs and a further £7,500 for training, equipment, travel and accommodation. This equates to a reduction of £24,703.75 in comparison to the previous financial year.

There is a National Review ongoing of the minimum capability required at regional and force level for specialist cybercrime units. Once this is complete there may be a funding stream available to address any capability gap identified. There is no known timescale for this.

NPCC Cyber Force Build Grants 2021 / 2022

Resources (Pay)	114,646.25
Training/ Equipment/Travel &Accommodation	7,700
Total	122,146.25

Force Capability

The Force Cyber Crime Unit (FCCU) Minimum Capability Standards was revised in February 2021. This does not set the minimum staffing levels or comment on the internal processes, but sets the minimum capability acceptable for forces to meet the standard.

The Warwickshire Police CCU are made up of the following staff.

Detective Inspector 20%

Detective Sergeant 40%

Cybercrime

Detective Constable	100%
Detective Constable	100%
Detective Constable (PROTECT)	100%
Cyber PCSO (PROTECT)	

DMI

Grade F	25%
Grade F	25%
Grade F	25%

Of note, the line management responsibility for the Detective Sergeant and Detective Inspector extends beyond that detailed above. This illustration depicts the establishment *and* the amount of time dedicated to the response to cybercrime. This time is then match funded by the NPCC who pay 50% of the wages according to time spent on tackling cybercrime.

One DC and the Cyber PCSO are dedicated to the "Protect" response of the 4P plan. The Cyber PCSO is temporarily seconded to the CCU. His anchor post is in local policing.

In addition to this and in response to recent National HMICFRS recommendation, Warwickshire Police have recruited their first Cyber Volunteer. It is the intention to build on this and recruit more volunteers and cyber specials to enhance the force's response to cybercrime.

Warwickshire CCU do not currently have a dedicated Prevent capability and any suitable candidates are referred by the CCU to the ROCU.

In line with the FCCU minimum capabilities, the team are co-located at Warwickshire Police Headquarters.

Performance

The following key performance indicators are set for FCCU's:

- 100% of Action Fraud referrals will be investigated (PURSUE)
- 100% of victims who report to Action Fraud will get advice in person or over the telephone to prevent them becoming repeat victims (PREPARE)
- 75% of organisations and the public who receive PROTECT advice will change their behaviours as a result
- 75% of organisations who receive PREPARE advice will develop or review incident response plans and test them
- 100% of young people identified as vulnerable to cybercrime will get PREVENT contact and intervention from a PREVENT officer where appropriate

Warwickshire CCU are responsible for reporting on the first two KPI and have consistently met the target KPI. The final 3 KPI are monitored by the ROCU.

Demand

National

Action Fraud reported that for the performance year 2020-2021 the top three cybercrime types were:

1. Hacking - Extortion
2. Hacking –Social Media and Email
3. Computer Virus/Malware/Spyware

Of the 4279 disseminations made by Action Fraud to forces in the last performance year, only 2% resulted in a judicial outcome. The global nature of this type of criminality presents real challenges for law enforcement in respect of the pursue strand of the 4P plan. In response, significant time and effort is invested in the protect strand, and Warwickshire CCU work closely with the Cyber Team of the OPCC in delivering protect messaging to businesses and members of the public across the geography of Warwickshire.

Local

For the Financial year April 2020 to April 2021 there were 135 reports of cyber dependent crime referred to Warwickshire's CCU via action fraud.

Since April '21 the force have received 49 reports.

Warwickshire CCU also deals with Cyber Protect and engages with a large amount of businesses and individuals.

From the 1st April 2021 to the 31st Aug 2021 the Cyber Protect DC and PSCO have achieved the following:

- Direct Cyber security awareness training to businesses and business victims and school engagements- 1679

- Number of Action Fraud victims provided with Protect Advice - 41
- Number of engagements through Protect Campaigns (including social media engagements) - 781,518

DCI Anna Middleton

Specialist Crime Operations

20th September 2021