



Office of the
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire

National Policing and Crime Measures April 2022

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1. Introduction

The Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 was formally published on the 31 March 2022 and the objectives set within the plan have been formulated with the National Policing and Crime Measures in mind. To ensure delivery against the measures the PCC will ensure that all agencies are working together to reduce crime, support victims and make communities safer. This will happen through regular engagement with communities, the police, partners, and community safety organisations, to ensure an ongoing understanding of local policing and criminal justice needs. The PCC is the Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, which enables him to monitor the provision of an effective and efficient criminal justice system in Warwickshire.

In terms of the responsibility to 'hold the Chief Constable to account' for the performance of the force, the PCC holds a formal monthly meeting with the Chief Constable. The purpose of the Governance and Performance Board is to focus on specific areas of force performance and the meeting is also attended by senior officers and staff from both the force and the OPCC. The minutes of the meetings are published on the OPCC website. At each Board a topical 'focus' subject of concern or interest is selected for a presentation to provide a better understanding of the issues, and thereby allow more informed discussions and a greater scrutiny of performance.

2. Warwickshire Police Overview

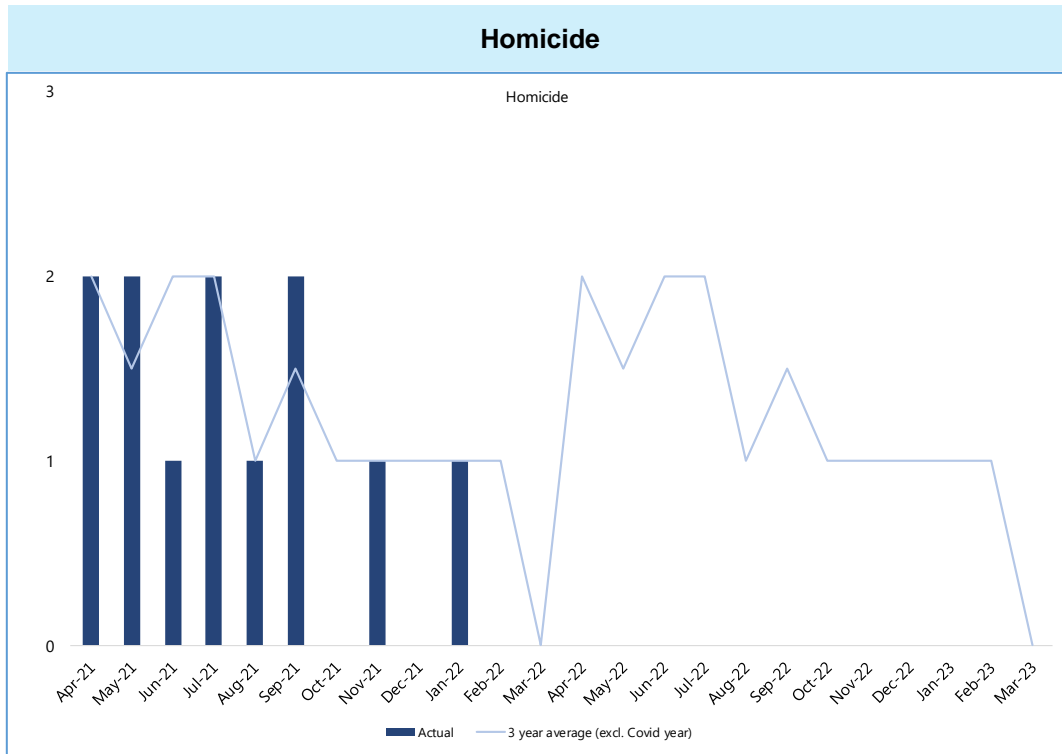
The National Police and Crime Measures are set to be monitored on a quarterly basis. There is an expectation that PCC's will explain how their force is performing against the measures (Specified Information Order). This is the first time we will be reporting against the measures.

Whilst there are national measures against the six priority areas, some of these are not available or appropriate for the force to report against. For example, against the priority 'reduce serious violence', one of the national metrics is hospital admissions of under 25's for assault with a sharp object. This is not data held by the police and we are not able to assess its reliability – for example, does this exclude residents outside of Warwickshire who present at hospitals near the border.

The force has therefore selected some additional proxy measures which will be used to assess Warwickshire's contribution against the national priorities.

The force has used comparative data where it is available to contextualise performance. It is expected the force will continue to develop its approach with the OPCC to ensure it is appropriately aligned with the national position.

1. Reduce Murder and Other Homicide



Volumes			Change in Volumes	
Jul 2018 - June 2019 Baseline	Last 12 Months (ending Mar-22)	Last 6 Months (ending Mar-22)	Current Financial Year vs Baseline	Current 6 Months vs Previous 6 Months
1	12	2	+11	-8

Force Commentary

The national measure is a count of homicide offences. Fortunately, Warwickshire has a relatively small number of homicides, with 1 recorded in the previous 3 months. The force has previously been flagged by the Home Office as an outlier in terms of homicide levels and this is because of the choice to use year to June 2019 as a baseline – the force had a single homicide in this period and it is this figure that is the outlier, not recent levels. Since 2015 the force has on average around seven homicides per year.

There is also an issue with assessing the most recent figures as a number of recorded homicides will eventually be re-classified and not classified as homicides. Due to the increased national scrutiny of homicide, we have reviewed recorded offences from 2021 and assessed that circa six offences highly likely not to be homicides and will be considered for crime cancellation when finalised

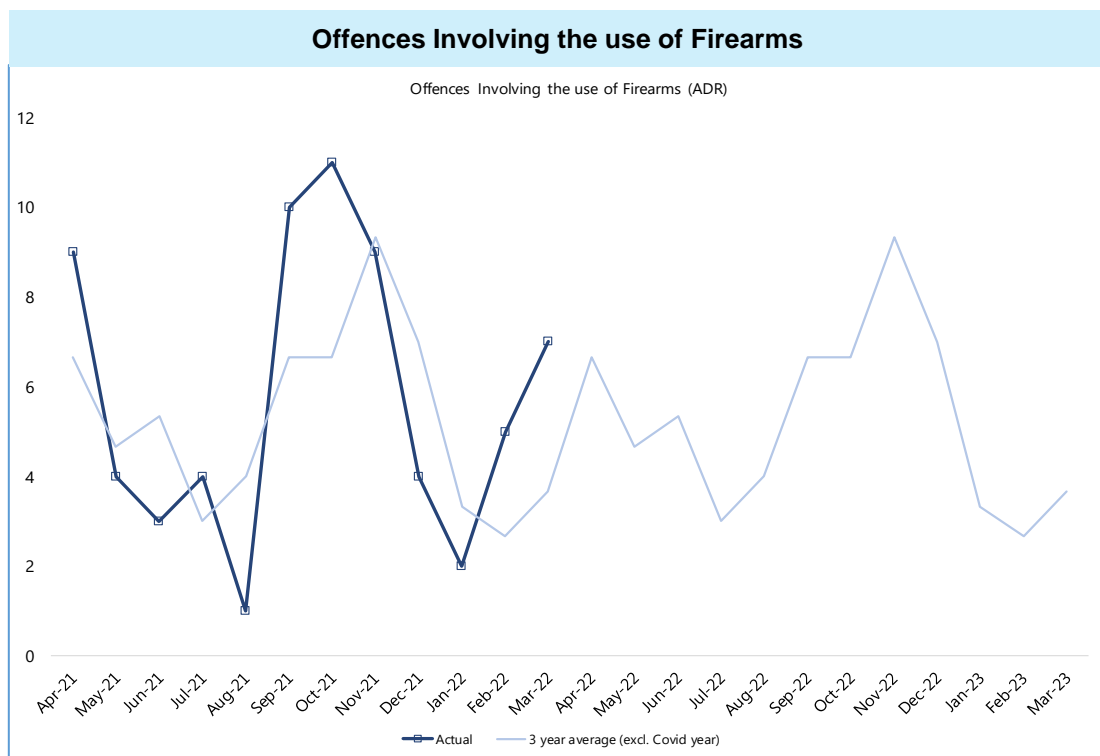
We are actively engaging with the Home Office and National Crime Registrar on proposed changes to recording homicides which will alleviate the current issues. An assessment of homicide was taken to the force’s Service Quality and Performance Board in March, which is chaired by Deputy Chief Constable

OPCC Commentary

Homicide was discussed by the Police and Crime Commissioner with the Chief Constable as a focus topic at the 'holding to account' Performance Accountability Meeting in March 2022. During this meeting it was noted that the Home Office's baseline month of June 2019 is not representative of the position in Warwickshire. Also, the current crime recording practices produce a distorted picture of the number of homicides in Warwickshire. It was therefore a positive development that action had been taken by the force to make representations to the Home Office and the National Crime Registrar to provide a more nuanced explanation of the true position in the county, thereby providing reassurance to our communities.

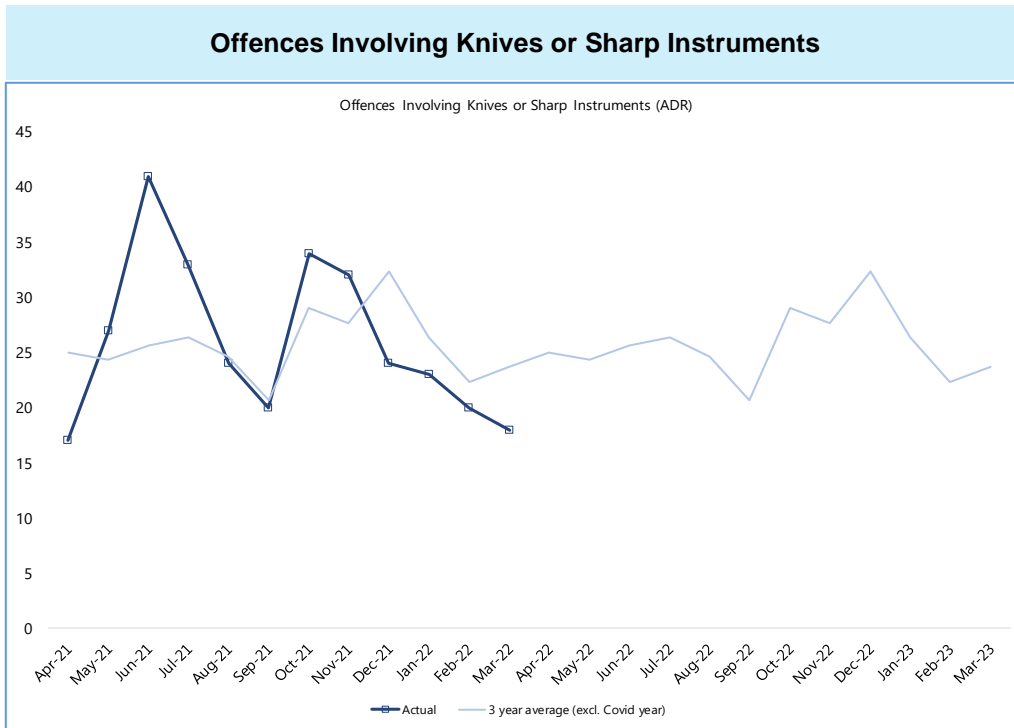
The additional scrutiny that the measures provide in this critical area is welcomed, as it provides an opportunity to reflect and consider what more can be done to reduce the number of homicides in Warwickshire through partnership and prevention activity, particularly in respect of the catalysts of serious violence, county-lines, domestic abuse and child abuse. Nevertheless the OPCC will continue to work with the force to ensure that a focus is given to the prevention of Homicide.

2. Reduce Serious Violence

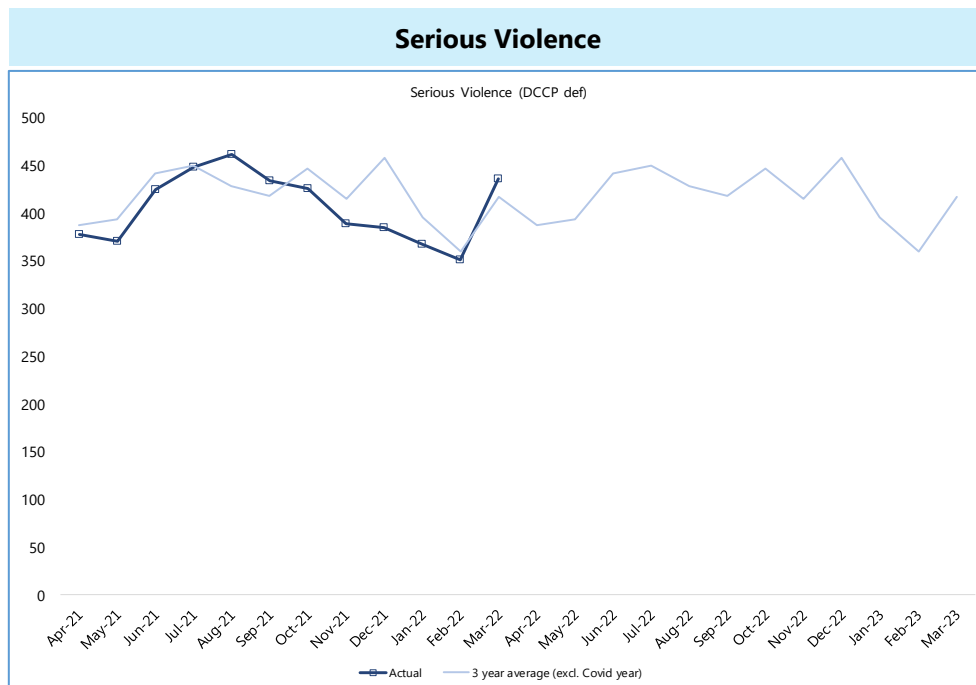


Volumes			Change in Volumes	
Jul 2018 - June 2019 Baseline	Last 12 Months (ending Mar-22)	Last 6 Months (ending Mar-22)	Current Financial Year vs Baseline	Current 6 Months vs Previous 6 Months
94	69	38	-25	+7

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Volumes			Change in Volumes	
Jul 2018 - June 2019 Baseline	Last 12 Months (ending Mar-22)	Last 6 Months (ending Mar-22)	Current Financial Year vs Baseline	Current 6 Months vs Previous 6 Months
305	313	151	+8	-11



Volumes			Change in Volumes	
Jul 2018 - June 2019 Baseline	Last 12 Months (ending Mar-22)	Last 6 Months (ending Mar-22)	Current Financial Year vs Baseline	Current 6 Months vs Previous 6 Months
5179	4875	2356	-304	-163

Force Commentary

The national measures are identified as

- Hospital admissions of under 25s for assault with a sharp object (to be supplied by NHS)
- Offences involving discharge of a firearm

Here, we have commented on firearm offences along with two proxy measures of knife crime and serious violence offences (identified as violence with injury and personal robbery offences).

In terms of offence levels, serious violence levels are lower in the last 12 months compared to the June 19 baseline. This is also reflected in firearms offences. The exception to this is offences involving knives or bladed instruments which are slightly above June 19 levels. The actual levels of knife crime per 100,000 per people are 49 offences for the force (ONS – year to Sep 21), which compares favourably to national levels (77 offences per 100,000 pop) and the region (99)

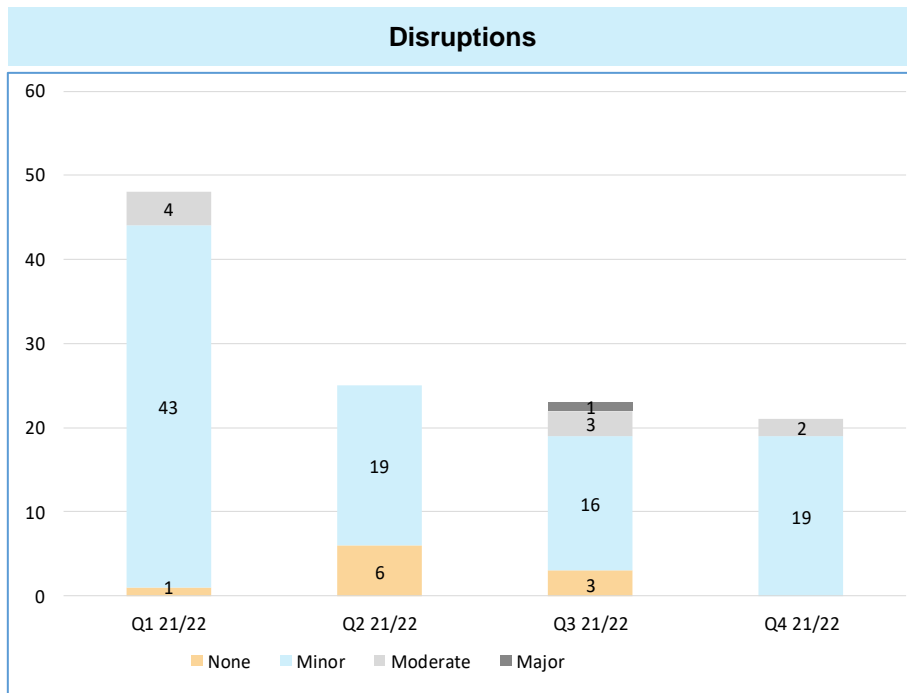
Comparing to other forces, the force levels of violence with injury (closely correlates with serious violence) the force has relatively low levels both nationally and within the most similar group of forces.

OPCC Commentary

The use of proxy measures by the force are noted. Given the low levels of use of firearms and offences knives or sharp instruments that provide an erratic picture when presented in graph form, a request has been made to the force to include average line and trend line to enable better scrutiny of performance.

The commentary in the force summary is helpful, regarding the lower levels of knife crime in Warwickshire when compared to the regional and national position. A similar position also exists with violence with injury, and the reduction in the volumes achieved in 2021/22 with 304 fewer offences when compared to the June 2018/19 baseline is a positive position.

3. Disrupt Drug Supply & County Lines



Force Commentary

The national measures are identified as

- Drug related homicides
- Police referrals into drug treatment (to be supplied by Public Health England)

Here, we have commented on drug related homicides and OCG disruptions.

Only one of the twelve recorded homicides in 2021/22 is noted as being drug related. The force currently has eleven 'live' OCGs and there are fourteen county lines in operation across the county.

Disruptions are submitted to and ratified by the ROCU. In Q4 21/22, there were twenty-one approved OCG disruptions across the Minor, Moderate categories. Fluctuation in the number of disruptions each quarter is expected due to the nature of OCG enforcement activity.

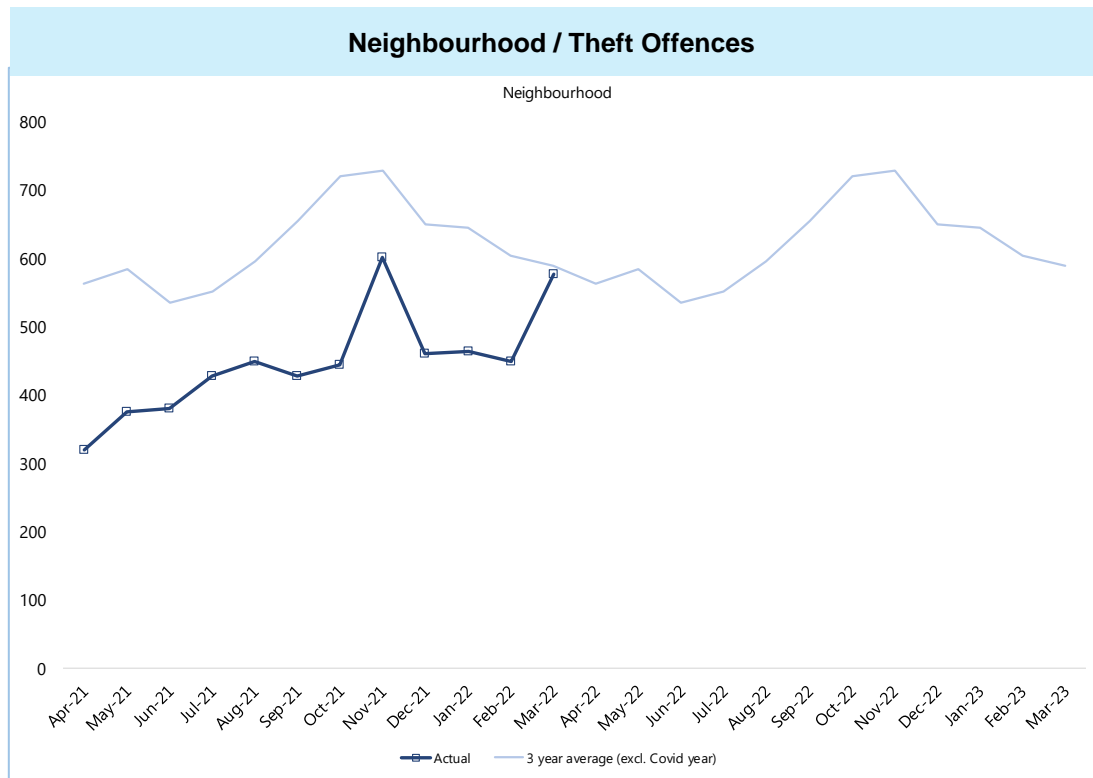
The force continues to engage with national operations and during March 2022, conducted a week-long intensification around County Lines operating within Warwickshire. This resulted in an increase in arrests from previous operations and identified new trends in vulnerable adult exploitation in our area and indeed the region. The tackling of this type of criminality is a focus for the proactive policing teams along with the continued growth in partnership working to tackle the harms caused to our communities through County Lines.

OPCC Commentary

The data provided in the Performance Report is noted, however it is difficult to provide comment given the complexity of tackling Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) where qualitative information and narrative is critical to allow a meaningful understanding of the issues, such information being operationally sensitive and not disclosable in the public arena. It is nonetheless positive to note the arrests made during the intensification week and that vulnerability issues that were exposed.

A key priority for the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 is to Fight Crime and Reduce Reoffending, with a focus on Violent Crime and Organised Crime. The Plan provides a narrative as to how this will be achieved and the measures by which the success of the plan will be measured. The PCC will continue to closely monitor performance and 'hold to account' the Chief Constable in this area of considerably public concern.

4. Reduce Neighbourhood Crime



Volumes			Change in Volumes	
Jul 2018 - June 2019 Baseline	Last 12 Months (ending Mar-22)	Last 6 Months (ending Mar-22)	Current Financial Year vs Baseline	Current 6 Months vs Previous 6 Months
8739	5377	2996	-3362	+615

Force Commentary

The national measures are identified as

- Burglary; Robbery; Theft of & theft from vehicle; Theft from Person

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The Home Office will take their assessment from the Crime Survey England & Wales data. Here, we have commented on the above offences using Force data.

The current levels of neighbourhood crime are significantly lower than the baseline level (12 months to June 19). There was a significant reduction in neighbourhood crime linked to COVID and whilst levels have remained lower as restrictions have eased, we are seeing some short-term increases.

The most significant of these reductions was residential burglary.

Whilst all of our most similar forces experienced significant reductions in neighbourhood crime, the level of reductions in Warwickshire was the highest. From a baseline of 1,516 offences per 100,000 population, the force currently has 870 offences per 100,000 pop (12 months to Jan 22).

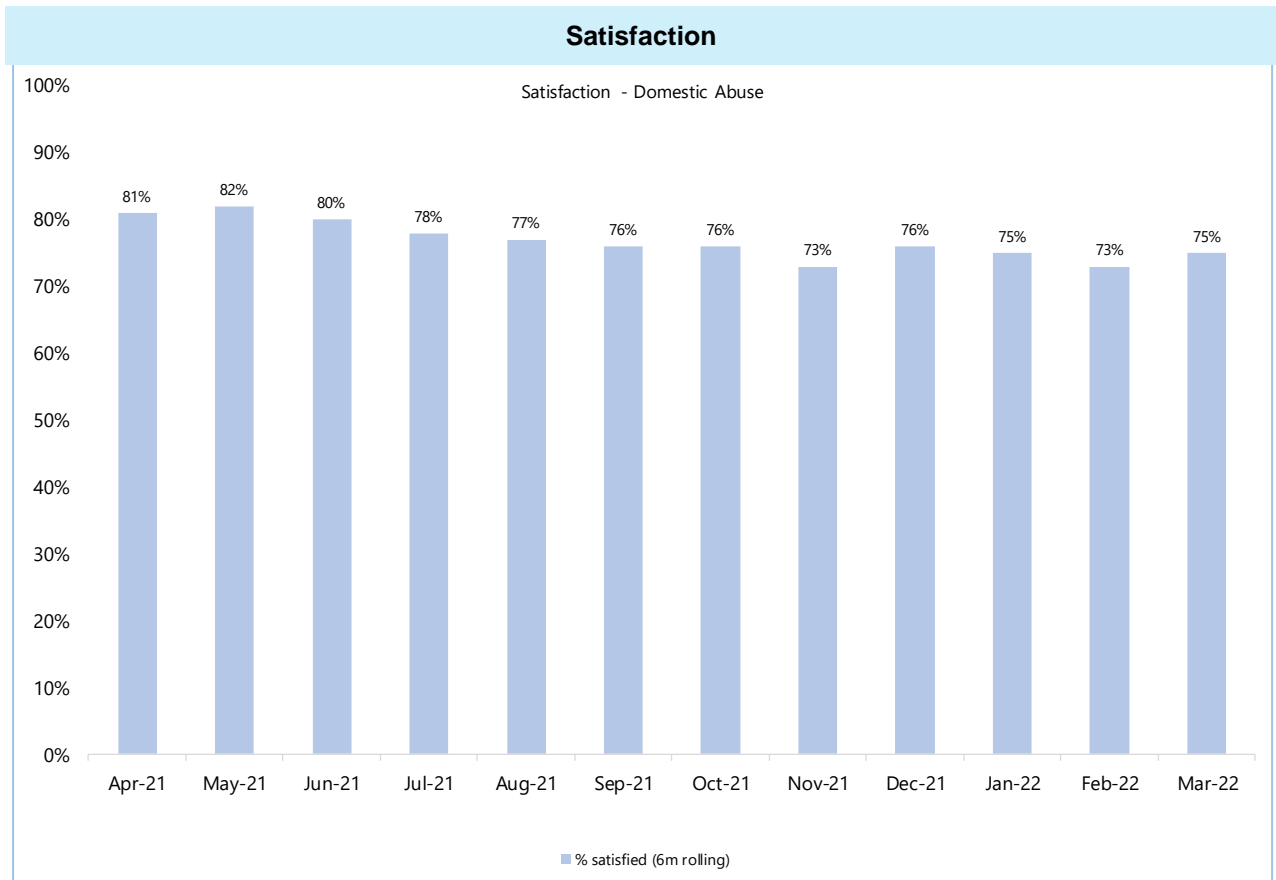
OPCC Commentary

The issues of neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood crime are a key element of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025, which provides a narrative as the actions the PCC intends to take to tackle community concerns.

The reduction achieved in Neighbourhood Crime in 2021/22, with 3,362 fewer victims when compared to the baseline of 2018/19, is a positive development. It is however of concern that volumes are beginning to rise as Covid-19 enters the endemic stage and a greater degree of normality returns.

Warwickshire Police are currently undertaking an 'Empower' change programme, the three components of which are 1. People 2. Place and 3. Technology. The purpose of the programme is to review the force's operating model to ensure that it can meet current and future demand, and that it has the tools and maximises the potential of its technology to do so. The recommendations arising from the review will be of particular interest to the PCC, as to how the force propose to modify its operating model to tackle increasing crime levels and emerging threats.

5. Improve Satisfaction Among Victims



Force Commentary

The national measures are identified as

- Satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse
- Victim satisfaction with the police

The Home Office will take their assessment from the Crime Survey England & Wales data. Since the COVID pandemic, no force level data has been available from this source. The force runs its own user satisfaction survey. Here, we have commented on results from this survey. The 6-month satisfaction level for Domestic Abuse (DA) has increased by 2% from 73% in February 2022 to 75% in March 2022. These levels are lower than the historical position and baseline (82% in June 19). There is currently no overall satisfaction with the force measure, and it is not possible to compare DA satisfaction rates with other forces due to differences in methodology e.g. phone v online.

A 10-point DA improvement plan has been created to improve our response to DA, it is in the process of being briefed to all patrol shifts. The plan covers important guidance including; Use of Body Worn Video, dealing with victims, risk assessments, safeguarding, DVDS, and voice of the child.

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DA Matters training has now been completed. The training consisted of twenty sessions over a 3-month period, delivered to 233 officers and staff, which was rich in both diversity of both roles and ranks. The course has had some very positive feedback from those that have attended. It will be revisited later in the year to capture more front-line officers, who were unable to attend due to resilience on patrol. This will hopefully improve our response to DA victims and will be monitored over the coming months.

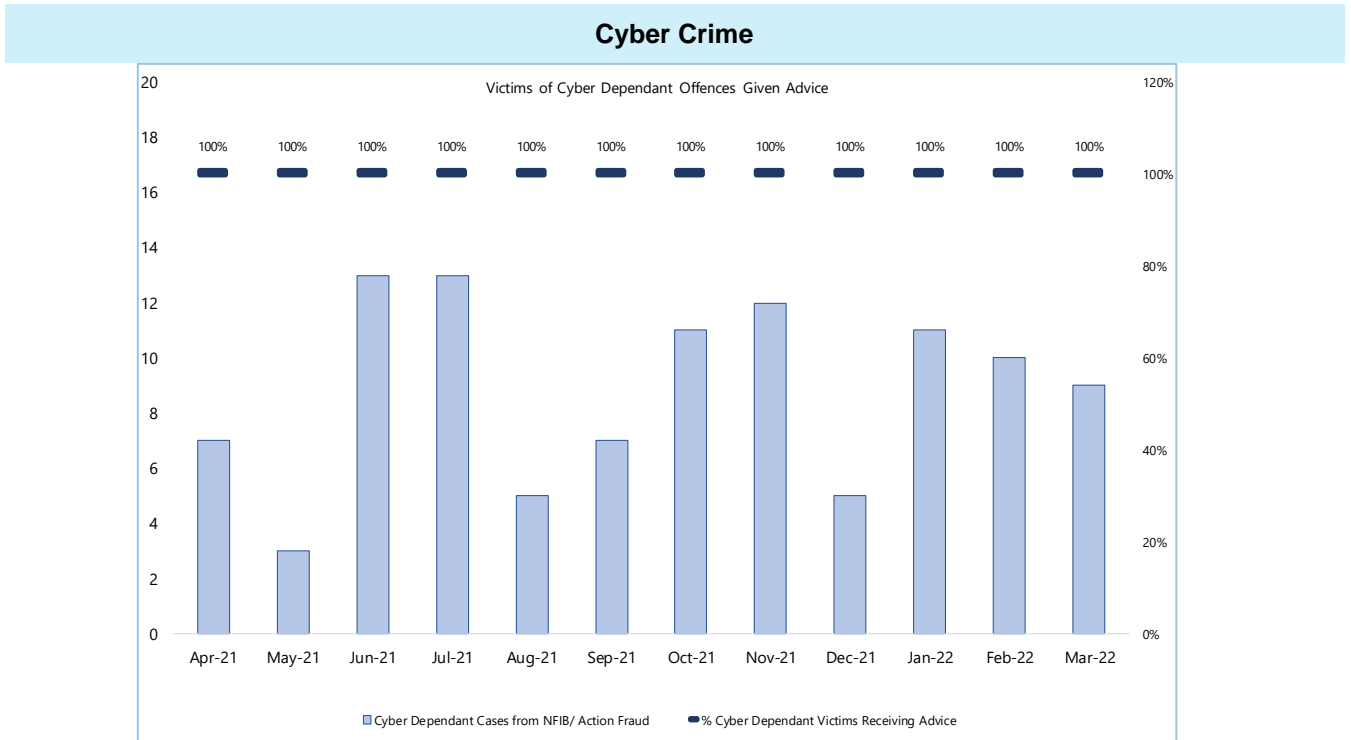
The DA Working Group continues to meet. Work is ongoing to set up a DA scrutiny panel to understand the victim journey.

OPCC Commentary

A key priority of the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 is to deliver better justice for all, including providing a better service to the victims and witnesses of crime. The PCC has committed to holding to account the Chief Constable in ensuring these services are integrated across all aspects of the force's work, with the aim of further boosting the take-up of specialist victim services.

The comments regarding the disconnect between the national measures and the force's proxy measures are noted. The investment that the force has committed to improving its governance of domestic abuse and its response to the victims is a positive position. The OPCC has scrutinised the DA Matters programme, with the Chief Executive attending one of the days, and have reviewed the training outcomes report. The specific issue of domestic abuse satisfaction rates was raised by the PCC with Chief Constable at the Governance and Performance Board with a mutual desire to improve them further, to be achieved following the implementation of the recommendations from the Empower operating model review.

6. Tackle Cyber Crime



Force Commentary

The national measures are identified as

- Confidence in the law enforcement response to cyber crime
- Percentage of businesses experiencing a cyber breach or attack

The Home Office will take their assessment from non-police sources. Here, we have commented on a proxy measure relating to the force’s response to victims of cyber dependent offences.

The proposed national measures are not available at force level.

The force continues to achieve 100% in terms of providing advice to victims of cyber dependent crimes. The level of offences is based on cyber dependent cases passed to us from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and the levels are broadly stable.

OPCC Commentary

Cyber-crime is also referenced in the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025, in that cyber offences now make up the most likely way that people will experience crime and a more comprehensive response is therefore needed. The PCC is intent on ensuring that the force puts a greater priority on tackling these types of offence whilst also taking an active interest in how online crime is dealt with at a national and regional level.

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The comments regarding the disconnect between the national measures and the force's proxy measures are noted and hopefully improvement will be soon made at the national level in providing consistent, dependable, and informative performance data.