POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Report of	**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**
Subject	**NICHE UPDATE**
Date	**WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2015 – 1:00pm**
Author	**C/INSPECTOR CHRIS COCKERILL**

Purpose of Report

1.   To provide an update on the implementation of the NICHE programme throughout the region.

Recommendation

2.   The Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report.

Background

3.   NICHE went live in Leicestershire in April 2015: Data quality has improved with all crime occurrence locations being mapped correctly to local neighbourhoods. An initial technical issue was identified after Leicestershire Police merged its data into the regional system, this has now been resolved.

4.   The development of a user interface "web form" to populate data into NICHE has been developed by Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire Police. This web form 'talks' to NICHE directly and includes mandatory fields which has contributed to an increase in data quality. Work on the form is ongoing and will be required for Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire go live dates (2nd February and 8th March respectively). The Niche Project Team is engaged with this design and they are scoping the implementation of this form into Leicestershire Police to create occurrences in the future. This will lead to an improvement in data quality and align operating practices.

5.   Work continues on further optimisation of the system; moving property management and the court warrant management onto NICHE is being considered as well as the reduction or removal of legacy systems and the associated on costs of licenses.

6.   The programme is now focused on the 'go live' of Nottinghamshire Police (2nd February 2016) and Northamptonshire Police (8th March 2016) with NICHE being the main recording system for Crime, Custody Intelligence and Prosecution (case). Derbyshire Police are now programmed in for the 21st June 2016 which will result in all five East Midlands Police Services being on the same common operating platform.

7. The local development and introduction of the Victims Code module within NICHE, which went live in October, has not only allowed resources to record better the requirements of victims of crime and offer support it also future proofed the force for the new Victims code of practice which came into force last month. We can now identify and record those who require enhanced support, whether being vulnerable or intimidated at an early stage of the investigation. This is automatically sent through to Victim First via NICHE and as a result there has been an increase in referrals. Other forces in the region will be adopting this module within NICHE to manage its requirements under the Victim's Code.

8. The operational benefits of sharing the Niche system have already been demonstrated with arrests being made as a direct result of instantaneous access to another force's information / intelligence. It has also allowed for an increase in the efficiency of cross-border prosecution file management.

Implications

Finance: Not applicable to this update report
Legal: Not applicable to this update report
Equality Impact Assessment: Not applicable to this update report
Risks and Impact: Not applicable to this update report
Communications: Not applicable to this update report

List of Attachments / Appendices

Background Papers

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