

## **Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

### **Serious and Organised Crime**

#### **Introduction**

1. This paper seeks to provide the Board with a briefing on the partnership approach to Serious and Organised Crime and to give an overview of the governance of Serious and Organised Crime across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

#### **Background**

2. Serious and Organised Crime is defined as serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often but not always, financial gain. Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an Organised Crime Group (OCG).
3. The Home Office has published a Serious and Organised Strategy in order to better coordinate a national approach to reduce the levels of Serious and organised Crime. The national strategy uses the national counter terrorism four thematic pillars known as the 4 P's:
  - Pursue - prosecuting and disrupting those engaged in Serious and Organised crime;
  - Prevent - preventing people from engaging in Serious and Organised Crime;
  - Protect - increasing protection against Serious and Organised Crime;
  - Prepare - reducing the impact of this criminality where it takes place.
4. The Home Office has also clearly identified that the responsibility to address Serious and Organised Crime is not the sole responsibility of the Police, and a partnership approach is required based on the cost, demand and the impact Serious and Organised Crime has on agencies and within local communities.

#### **Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile**

5. The Home Office guidance requires a local Serious and Organised Crime Profile to be completed in every force area. The key principle of a Local Profile is to inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular police and crime commissioners, policing teams, local authorities and other relevant partnerships (such as education, health and social care and immigration enforcement) of the threat from serious and organised crime and the impact it is having on local communities.

6. After consultation with partners the LLR profile (attached as appendix one) identified the priorities as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Organised Immigration Crime / Human Trafficking / Modern Slavery, Travelling Criminality, Firearms, Counter Terrorism, Fraud, Substance Misuse and Cyber Crime.

### **Governance**

7. In Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland there are already established partnership Boards that are delivering on many of the crime areas identified in the local crime profile such as the Local Safeguarding Boards, The Prevent Steering Board, The Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN) and the Community Safety Partnerships.
8. As part of the development of the local strategy a Serious and Organised Crime partnership seminar was held. The event was well attended with positive feedback but despite the broad attendance from across the businesses, voluntary and statutory agencies an effective solution that would implement an effective Board could not be identified without duplicating or undermining the positive partnerships already in place tackling Serious and Organised Crime.
9. The issue is illustrated by the established partnership work on Child Sexual Exploitation. Child Sexual Exploitation is overseen across the partnership by a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB) sub group that has task and finish groups reporting into it and oversees the ever developing joint operational team. The subgroup is responsible to and reports into both LSCB's and in addition there is an Executive Group of senior strategic partnership leads overseeing the development work at a strategic level. Therefore the challenge identified is in relation to what added value would a Serious and Organised Crime Board deliver and how could it effectively take over the governance of Child Sexual Exploitation when this is the Local Safeguarding Children's Board's priority and the Board is established through statute.
10. The developed nature of partnership working locally identified these issues consistently and therefore a solution was identified to maximise the benefits of having individual areas of focus for each of the local crime profile areas identified, but have a strategic oversight over all the groups. It was therefore recommended that the proposed Serious and Organised Crime Structure would consist of the Strategic Partnership Board Executive in the role of the Serious and Organised Crime Board.
11. The Strategic Partnership Board Executive is an established Board with multi agency attendance and can provide the necessary oversight to ensure there is an effective partnership response to Serious and Organised Crime. This would also contribute to the effective partnership working and ensure that interdependencies, areas of development and strategic requirements can be achieved whilst maintaining and developing effective tactical and crime profile specialisms.
12. In terms of the individual areas of the local crime profile the following was proposed:-
  - **Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Human Slavery** – The CSE Executive group will ensure there is an update to the Executive Board

- **Firearms, Substance Misuse, Travelling Criminality** – These crime areas will be reported on through the Police Organised Crime Group meeting, the Government Agency Intelligence network and where relevant the Community Safety Partnerships.
- **Counter Terrorism** – The Prevent steering group and Multi Agency Channel groups will provide an update and the Executive is developing method for reporting in relation to the Protect and Pursue elements of Counter Terrorism.
- **Cyber Crime** – Cyber is a cross cutting crime profile area that does not have a multi-agency board established, therefore the Executive has gained agreement that the Police Cyber Crime Development Board is developed and expanded into a multi-agency board. The new group will report into the Executive.

13. Therefore all the areas identified in the Serious and Organised Crime local profile have specific multi agency groups focusing on developing the individual area with a reporting mechanism into the Strategic Partnership Board Executive Group.

14. This recommendation was endorsed at the Strategic Partnership Board on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

### **Recommendations**

15. It is recommended that

- a) The Board notes the partnership approach to Serious and Organised Crime and the new governance arrangements.
- b) The Board considers the best mechanism for CSPs to engage in tackling Serious and Organised Crime across the partnership.

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### **Appendix**

Local Profile

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