Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile

August 2015

Contents

1. Purpose of this document

In October 2013 the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy was launched. It covers four core themes:

- **Pursue:** prosecuting and disrupting people 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.

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.

The profile should be used to:

- Develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks affecting Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
- Provide information on where to focus local response and form local action plans
- Enable a targeted and proportionate use of resources
- Identify information gaps and put forward strategic and tactical recommendations for local partnership activity to the Organised Crime Board.

It will assist local policing bodies and their partners to:

- Focus on key risk areas
- Put their response into context
- Decide on specialist resourcing
- Encourage involvement of other strategic partners
- Consult and engage with the public
- Provide evidence of a measured and progressive stance

The threat from Serious and Organised Crime is broken down in this document into cross cutting themes spanning many different crime types. For example an instance of cyber-crime can range from the online harassment of an individual to the unauthorised access of a major business organisations computer network (hacking). It is important that these threats are not treated in isolation.

This document has been produced at an Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) area level but also highlights particular threats within local areas where appropriate. It should be read in conjunction with other available reports and data. The availability of new sources of data will regularly be reviewed to ensure the most up-to-date and accurate assessment of organised crime.

An action plan is included as an Appendix at the end of the document by way of an example. A full action plan will be created after consultation with partner agencies.

2. Definition

Organised crime can be 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).

OCG structures vary. Successful OCGs often consist of a durable core of key individuals. Around them is a cluster of subordinates, specialists, and other more transient members, plus an extended network of associates.

Many groups are often loosely connected networks of criminals that come together for a specific criminal activity, acting in different roles depending on their skills and expertise. Collaboration is reinforced by shared experiences (such as prison), or recommendation from trusted individuals. Others are bonded by family or ethnic ties – some 'crime families' are precisely that.

The Organised Crime Group Mapping (OCGM) tracker is a database which provides an index of OCGs that commit serious crime within the East Midlands area. It provides an understanding of an OCG to police officers and staff thus supporting the tasking and coordination process, which complements the management of risk and reduction of harm. The tracker is not an intelligence tool and the information contained therein only records the details of known OCGs including member details, addresses, linked companies, commodities, geographic impact etc.

3. Geographical Overview

Leicestershire Police is responsible for the policing of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The force area is surrounded by 7 counties. These are: Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, and Cambridgeshire.

The Leicestershire Police Force area comprises two unitary authorities, Leicester City and Rutland with a further seven districts councils within the Leicestershire County Council area, namely: Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire and Oadby and Wigston.

4.   Demographics

Population

The population statistics have been taken from the Office for National Statistics website, whose data is taken from the latest Census survey last held on 27th March 2011 and compiled by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)©. This data is updated to produce mid-year population estimates in the intercensal period based on the composition of the population by age and sex.

Population statistics taken from the Census (2011) show that the current population within Leicester City is 329,839, Rutland is 37,369 and other Leicestershire areas collectively is 650,489 (breakdown below, Figure 1) giving a total population for the whole Leicestershire region of 1,017,697.

Area	Total Population
Leicester	329,839
Rutland	37,369
Blaby	93,915
Charnwood	166,100
Harborough	85,382
Hinckley and Bosworth	105,078
Melton	50,376
North West Leicestershire	93,468
Oadby and Wigston	56,170
Total Area	1,017,697

Figure 1 Census 2011 Population Statistics

At risk communities

The following table demonstrates the serious and organised crime segmentation of the adult population of the LLR area for both fraud and cyber-crime.

	Serious Organised Crime Segments							
	A Already Protected	B Online Novice	C1 Trusting	C2 Unconcerned	C3 Relatively Savvy	D1 Unsuspecting and Unprotected	D2 Unconcerned and Unprotected	E Unaware
United Kingdom	13.4%	9.8%	13.5%	17.8%	20.5%	7.0%	10.0%	8.0%
	6,664,952	4,874,368	6,714,691	8,853,444	10,196,382	3,481,692	4,973,845	3,979,076
LLR Area	13.7%	9.5%	14.0%	17.9%	19.9%	7.0%	9.9%	8.1%
	109,272	75,773	111,665	142,771	158,724	55,832	78,963	64,606
Leicester	13.2%	9.7%	13.0%	16.5%	19.4%	6.0%	12.7%	9.4%
	33,258	24,439	32,754	41,572	48,879	15,117	31,998	23,683
Leicestershire	13.9%	9.5%	14.5%	18.5%	20.0%	7.4%	8.6%	7.5%
	71,780	49,058	74,879	95,535	103,281	38,214	44,411	38,730
Rutland	13.4%	8.3%	14.6%	19.6%	20.7%	8.1%	7.8%	7.4%
	3,919	2,428	4,270	5,733	6,055	2,369	2,281	2,164

Figure 2 Leicestershire profile - Serious and Organised Crime Public Interventions model, May 2015

Although Leicester's fraud and cyber vulnerability profile is broadly similar to the wider UK, Rutland and Leicester have a higher than average population of the following segments:

- Rutland
    - C1: Trusting
      Primarily female. Easily swayed with lower than average levels of offline protection.

    - C2: Unconcerned
      Primarily 16-44 year old males. Inclined to risk-taking, without consideration of consequences. More likely than most to fall victim to online payment scams and social engineering.

    - D1: Unsuspecting
      Primarily 16-29 years old. Highly malleable and lack confidence in themselves. Low levels of protection in all areas.

- Leicester
    - D2: Unconcerned and unprotected
      Primarily 16-29 years old.   Risk-taking with very low levels of protection in all areas. More likely than average to have been a victim of SOC.

    - E: Unaware
      Mainly women, 70 years plus.   Fatalistic with little awareness of the threat and low levels of protection.

5.   Areas of Interest

East Midlands Airport (EMA)

East Midlands Airport is an international airport located in North West Leicestershire and is policed by the Leicestershire Force. Although it is the 11th busiest airport in the UK for passenger traffic, it is also the 2nd busiest freight hub which poses a threat from illegal importations and terrorism.

Strategic Road Network

The LLR area is well serviced by the strategic road network. The M1 links Leicester to Northampton, Luton and London to the south, and Derby, Nottingham, Sheffield and Leeds to the North. The M69 allows quick access to Coventry, and further connection to the M6 for Birmingham. The other major roads within Leicester include the M42, A46 and the A1 to the east of Rutland. This network of fast roads leaves the LLR area vulnerable to travelling criminality crossing county boundaries to commit crime in the local area.

Download Music Festival

The Download Festival is a three day rock festival held annually at Donington Park in North West Leicestershire. It is now the second largest music festival in the Country. The event is licensed for a capacity of 120,000.
It is anticipated that OCGs from both the UK and Europe will target the festival due to the large amount of property / cash at the event that can be gleaned by pick pockets / tent thefts.

From 2015, the festival organisers are going to use a new device (integrated into a wristband) which means that cash can be loaded onto the wristband before individuals attend the festival. This means that individuals may carry less cash on their person

or stored within their tents. When the wearer purchases food/drink their wristband is scanned allowing payment to be deducted from the wearer's account.   It is hoped that use of this technology will reduce the amount of thefts at the festival in future.

Leicester City Football Club

Since promotion to the Premier League nearly all Leicester City (LCFC) fixtures have been sell outs with capacity crowds of around 32,000. These home attendances are attracting between 7,000 – 10,000 more fans compared with the majority of fixtures last season. This did initially cause some issues at various licensed premises in the immediate vicinity of the ground, which have since been addressed with combined visits to licensees by the Football Intelligence Officer and City Licensing Officer.

Military Establishments

There are many military establishments within the LLR area. These include:

- St George's Barracks, North Luffenham
- Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore
- Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray
- Army Reserve Centres in Leicester, Glen Parva and Loughborough
- Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College, Loughborough

Armed forces and law enforcement agencies are seen by terrorist organisations as valid targets and therefore these locations should be considered in the response to preventing serious organised crime.

Prisons

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland house four prisons - HMP Leicester, HMP Stocken, HMP Gartree and HMP Glen Parva. HMP Leicester is a category B prison which has the capacity to hold 408 inmates; it currently has a population of 337 inmates. It is the main remand prison for Leicestershire. HMP Stocken is a closed category C prison at present housing 837 prisoners with a capacity of 842. HMP Gartree is a long term closed category B prison which currently has a population of 707 which is up to capacity. HMP Glen Parva is a Youth Offenders Institute and Remand Centre which caters for inmates up to 21 years of age. It currently accommodates 535 inmates with a total capacity of 808.

6.   Partnership Priorities

The Police and Crime Plan (PCP) contains a Serious and Organised Crime section, with the Police and Crime Commissioner setting out his expectation for the "Chief Constable to continue to work with partners, regional police services and our communities to:

- Stem the opportunities for organised crime to take root and stop people being drawn into organised crime.
- Identify the threats posed by organised criminals and prioritise activity against them to disrupt and investigate activity and prosecute suspects.
- Understand and safeguard the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland from those who travel into the police area to commit crime
- Collaborate and train with regional and national partners to ensure consistency in tactical delivery and command functions, especially in:
  - o Major crime investigation
  - o Intelligence provision
  - o Serious organised crime investigation
- Safeguard communities, businesses and the State by raising awareness of organised crime and helping them to protect themselves from this threat.
- Work with partners to understand the links between Troubled/Supported families and organised criminality
- Work with partners to understand the link between the four key themes in this Plan and organised criminality"

7. Serious and Organised Crime Threat

Leicestershire Police currently has over 25 live OCGs, who are involved in Serious Acquisitive Crime, Drugs, Money Laundering and Firearms.

Organised Immigration Crime, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

It was identified 18 months ago that there was an emergence of Slovakian suspects involved in the offence of Modern Slavery or Servitude whereby victims were subjected to forced labour, and benefits and identity fraud. More recently the Force has been involved in joint operations with Trading Standards concerning travelling organised crime groups including travellers who have set up a 'soup kitchen' and are encouraging vulnerable homeless people to take on work for low or no pay (City) and UK based Travellers (Enderby) who are recruiting Eastern European groups that have trafficked UK and Eastern Nationals around the UK and Europe for labour exploitation.

Although the number of these offences is low it is clear that based on increased intelligence these offences are taking place but are greatly under-reported.

Travelling Criminality

Travelling criminality is a current priority for Leicestershire Police. This type of offending is a cross-cutting theme that impacts on all crime types and communities. Offender travelling patterns highlight much diversity in the distance and modes of travel to commit crime, including considerable in-Force movement. However for the purpose of this report, offenders that have travelled into the Force area from elsewhere will be considered. Travelling criminality also includes the foreign national offender portfolio.

Offender data over the last two years (based on offences between March 2013 to February 2015) would indicate that 7.7% of all offenders have travelled to LLR to commit crime. Intelligence would suggest that other offences are also committed by perpetrators who do not live in LLR.

Leicester city centre, and other major towns in LLR, are key targets for OCGs due to their criminogenic attraction – high density of commercial, recreational, and economic targets that are desirable to both victim and offender. This is also reflected in a recent study conducted by the University of Leicester in a 'Study of Journey to Crime in Leicestershire'[1]. Preliminary findings identified that Leicester City wards were more disposed to victim mobility, travelling to these areas for access to commercial and entertainment sectors. Likewise, the offender's journey to crime is influenced by such factors, motivated by profit.

Other locations feature that are close to arterial routes and public transport systems in the Force area, these mediums being exploited for ease of access to prime targets. This includes routes such as the M1, M69, A6, A46, and A47. There is a key train network, with direct routes to locations such as Birmingham, London and Nottingham. The area also affords a major airport, East Midlands.

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[1] Victim and Offender Travel to Crime: Preliminary Findings from a Study of Journey to Crime in Leicestershire - Matt Hopkins, Sarah Hodgkinson and Lex Comber (University of Leicester)

Due to its central location in the country, the Force is also surrounded by other Forces. Individuals close to these boundaries are also attracted to commit offences beyond their own Force area to reduce the potential of being identified.

Firearms

In the last Strategic Assessment (2014/15) Firearms and Gun Crime criminality was assessed as low risk. However, in the last 11 months there has been a re-emergence of firearms related incidents. This has been attributed to two City (East Leicester) based OCGs which it would appear are in dispute with each other. One of the OCGs was initially involved in ASB and low level criminality and has slowly progressed into committing street robberies and Class A drug-dealing across the Belgrave and Market Harborough areas.

The disputes largely centre around drug dealing / turf war as both groups are involved in drug supply at street level. Prior to the firearms links, these disputes were resolved by conventional violence or bladed weapons.

One of the OCGs seem to be more capable of causing harm than the other, however due to the lack of physical capacity, the members of the second OCG appear to use firearms almost as the default weapon in any confrontation. They also appear to be the main instigators of firearms incidents. The opposing group members would appear to arm themselves as a result and become involved in retaliatory offences.

Counter Terrorism

As identified in the Strategic Policing Requirement, Terrorism is assessed as a major national threat, and therefore this needs to be considered within the Serious Organised Crime Local Profile.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

During the last 2 years Leicestershire Police has seen an increase in victims of CSE. This was identified as a threat and a Problem Profile was commissioned to provide intelligence gaps and put forward recommendations. The key findings of this profile highlighted the following:

- The vast majority of CSE related reports recorded by Leicestershire Police relate to White European female victims between the ages of 12 to 17, although all ethnicities and both genders are affected
- There is a clear link between children being reported missing and being identified as at risk of or victims of CSE; more than half of those identified as at risk of CSE have been reported missing in the past
- Identified suspects in CSE related reports are overwhelmingly male, with just two female suspects recorded (2014 data)
- There is no clear link between victim ethnicity and offender ethnicity
- From intelligence and crime reports, a number of budget hotels/guesthouses in Leicester are being used by offenders to meet and abuse their victims. Rooms are usually paid for in cash. Victims are either taken there directly by offenders, or are taken there by taxi, booked by offenders on their behalf. This is usually very late at night or in the early hours of the morning.

There has been a significant increase in victims reported since 31/03/14 from 130 to over 370 to date. Although the Police have seen this increase in crime reports, there has also been a change to crime recording methods due to discrepancies highlighted in a previous CSE problem profile.

Of the identified reports (including crime and Vulnerable Child reports) relating to CSE, 31.8% involve some form of online sexual exploitation, where the offender has contacted the victim via Facebook, Skype, Snapchat or other online messaging and/or webcam services. 12 of these relate to Operation Orchestra, in which a number of female children were groomed over Facebook by a male offender, who added them as a friend. A number of these offences have also involved contact sexual exploitation, where the offender and victim have met in person.

Fraud

It has been identified that there is a re-emergence of Courier Fraud offences targeting vulnerable people. There is a common theme to these offences, where offenders call the victim purporting to be a police officer investigating counterfeit currency. They offer to send a courier to collect the victim's bank cards or arrange a taxi to collect the victim to take them to the bank to withdraw money. It has been highlighted in a Regional Intelligence Group meeting that Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire are experiencing the same type of offence. Comparative Case Analysis has been completed and since January 2015 there have been 11 offences within LLR which can all be linked.

It is not known to what extent this criminality is being under reported. However, the Serious and Organised Crime Public Interventions model provides an indication of potential vulnerability. Based on NFIB data from April – September 2014, grossed up to 12 months, there are approx. 8,000 fraud reports in the Leicestershire police force area annually, equating to a reported loss of approx. £127.5 million (An average of £160 per adult per year).

Substance Misuse

Legal highs / New Psychoactive Substances

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or 'legal highs' are synthetic substances designed by chemists to be used like illegal drugs, but not covered by the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1971. However, the term 'legal high' is misleading as some of these substances do contain drugs covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as well as most containing chemicals which are highly dangerous and not suitable for human consumption. 'Legal Highs' deaths have increased from 10 in 2009 to at least 68 in 2012. New substances are being produced on a regular basis, however the Government can quickly add new 'legal highs' to the growing list of illegal substances in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 through a Temporary Class Drugs Order (TCDO) therefore a substance may be legal one day and illegal the next. The Government has also launched a review of Drugs Policy in order to ensure legislation is robust enough to deal with the dangers of legal highs.

These substances mimic the effects of other drugs such as ecstasy, LSD and cannabis. NPS come in three forms: pills, powders and 'herbal' mixes. NPS are packaged and sold in 'head shops' (retail outlets specializing in paraphernalia used for consumption of cannabis, tobacco, legal highs, legal party powders and New Age herbs) and can also be purchased from sex shops, joke shops, market stalls and petrol stations. There is also a large active online market.

Current threat

These substances are specifically designed to mimic the effects of illegal drugs but not to fall within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. However, as noted above, the term 'legal high' is misleading as some of these substances contain illegal drugs, and often contain noxious chemicals which have resulted in fatalities.

Consequently, the user cannot be sure what is in a 'legal high' or what affect it will have on them. There has been little or no research into the short or long term effects of NPS use.

People who run head shops or websites selling these products are not concerned about the consequences for their customers – they are only interested in maximizing their profits.

Those selling 'legal highs' expose themselves to both Criminal and Civil Law sanctions which can include a claim for damages for personal injury. The market is very fast moving and new substances are being created at a fast pace. There are numerous combinations of chemical structures, therefore creating a wealth of potential 'legal highs'. There is very little local or national intelligence regarding the use of NPS.

Leicestershire Operation Nitrox

Operation Nitrox is an operation addressing the issue of 'New Psychoactive Substances' or so called 'legal highs', with specific areas of activity:

- Intelligence Collection: Developing Intelligence through Police, Partners and our local communities
- Education: Informing our communities and in particular young people about the risks associated with 'legal highs'
- Enforcement: Working in partnership with Trading Standards to target 'legal high' sales and to disrupt the developing market

Cyber Crime

The nature of some 'traditional' crime types has been transformed by the use of computers and other information communications technology (ICT). This is in terms of its scale and reach, with risks extending to many aspects of social life. The areas affected include:

- Financial transactions
- Sexual offending
- Harassment and threatening behaviour
- Commercial damage and disorder

Cyber-crime is an umbrella term used to describe four distinct, but closely related criminal activities:

Digital Footprint

The digital footprint represents the trail of data that is left behind by users of digital services. In an investigative context, this typically relates to mobile and on-line communications, travel and financial transactions by both investigative and protective subjects of interest (i.e. criminals and victims).

Internet Facilitated

Internet facilitated crimes are traditional crimes where the internet and smart phones are a component in the planning or co-ordination of criminal activity.

Cyber Enabled

Cyber-enabled crimes (such as fraud, the purchasing of illegal drugs and child sexual exploitation) can be conducted on or off line, but online may take place at unprecedented scale and speed.

Cyber Dependant

Cyber dependant crimes can only be committed using computers, computer networks or other forms of information communication technology (ICT). They include the creation and spread of malware for financial gain, hacking to steal important personal or industry data and denial of service attacks to cause reputational damage.

It is not known to what extent that LLR is at risk of Cyber Crime. In addition, it is not known to what extent this criminality is being under-reported. There were 82 offences in 2014 identified on Force systems with links to cyber-crime, although it is known that this number is not representative of the total offences which occurred in 2014. In addition to reported crime, the Serious and Organised Crime Public Interventions model (see section 4) provides an indication of potential vulnerability.

Appendix A. Example Action Plan

Pursue				
No	**Recommendations**	**Milestone**	**Ownership**	**Review date**
1				

Prevent				
No	**Recommendations**	**Milestone**	**Ownership**	**Review date**
1	Work with Education partners to highlight the dangers of gun crime			
2	Identify pre cursor ASB activity to assist with early intervention			
3	Work with partners to produce a communication strategy for the hotel industry highlighting issues of CSE			
4	Police force area to prioritise "at-risk" audiences for financial and cyber-crime and brief partnership agencies			
5	Work with partners to raise awareness of CSE to frontline practitioners including Health and Education			
6	With partners, work to raise awareness of CSE in secondary schools to students/pupils			
7	Enhance partnership working with other law enforcement agencies and industry to support a proactive approach to cybercrime			
8	Public education targeted at all demographics, to include the findings of analysis on victimology and geographic profiling, intelligence led prevention strategies.			
9	Proactive investigations including those at the advanced level to target potential criminality activity at its core / initiation			

Protect				
No	**Recommendations**	**Milestone**	**Ownership**	**Review date**
1	PCC to ensure there is a suitable partnership arrangement in place to agree, own and monitor delivery of the profile and actions	Page 15 of 15		
2	All partnership agencies to be briefed around the definition of an OCG and encouraged to identify to Leicestershire police any groups they consider to be active within the area			
3	Assess which partner agencies can assist in this area of criminality			
4	Partnership work with charities to highlight those at greatest risk of exploitation			
5	Provide clear communication messages to public through community organisations / charities to highlight the dangers of providing personal details			
6	Promote good practice against cybercrime, supporting the concept of 80% of crimes can be avoided by appropriate defences such a virus checkers and safe computer usage drawing on Cyber Streetwise materials			
7	Educate the public on what is a cybercrime and how to 'react and report'			
8	Educate officers and staff on how to advise on cybercrime			

Prepare				
No	**Recommendations**	**Milestone**	**Ownership**	**Review date**
1				

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