

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

20TH MARCH 2020

LSCSB UPDATE: CYBERCRIME PARTNERSHIP

Background

1. Cybercrime is a recurring Strategic Priority for Leicestershire Police and is within the Police and Crime Commissioners Plan until 2021. Cybercrime and the risks associated are deemed a Tier 1 Government threat. The threat posed internationally by states and organised crime groups is still considered high either for disruption or financial gain. Action Fraud continues to be the national reporting and dissemination body for Cybercrime.
2. Leicestershire Police setup a dedicated Cyber dependent Crime Unit in 2016 made up of four detectives. Since June 2018 every Police Force has been funded to ensure there is a Cybercrime investigative capability and protect/prevent roles attached. This funding will cease in April 2021.
3. Between April 2019 and April 2020 there have been 734 Cyber dependent offences affecting the people of Leicestershire. This is made up of 84% of individuals and 16% businesses. Cyber dependent offences have a direct cost of £1.5million pounds with far ongoing impact that is more difficult to quantify.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

4. Expansion of the dedicated Cyber dependent crime unit within the Local Force to contain 3 dedicated Detectives, a Cyber Community Support Officer and a Cyber Protect Officer.
5. Development of Prevent role within the Regional Organised Crime Unit and supportive training to raise awareness within key staff within Leicestershire Police.
6. Creation and running of two dedicated Cybercrime Conferences to support those in the Charity sector following research highlighting their vulnerability.

Coming Year

7. Embedding of Prevent process throughout local education, social services and service based sectors to ensure the early identification of appropriate candidates who may be at risk of offending.
8. Introduction and development of the East Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre.

9. Ongoing development of resources to include both staffing and equipment to meet increasing demand of Cyber dependent crime.
10. Develop Digital Forensics capability of Cyber dependent unit and associated Digital Forensics Unit.
11. Empower and enable Safeguarding PCSO's and cadets to undertake simple awareness raising sessions throughout the communities of Leicestershire and complete simple risk assessments around simple setups.
12. Development of a range of "scenarios" and tests that can be provided as a tool for organisations to test themselves and understand their own reactions to what are examples of real life cases.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

13. As the workplace continues to centralise around IT infrastructure the options of being targeted increase as well as the impact of even a simple incident. (Office 365 migration, VOIP calls etc.)
14. Reporting of "near misses" and minor incidents is still low limiting the opportunities to prepare for and manage ongoing risk.
15. The actions of the above work will ensure that the people of Leicestershire are more aware of online risk and in a better position to understand the means and methods of reporting both criminal activity but also appropriate intelligence.
16. Staff (normally through mistakes) are still the largest causal feature of most cybercrime attacks failing to adhere to simple policy or advice due to a lack of training and awareness.
17. Understanding amongst the public and businesses is still poor meaning that the full threat is often only truly understood during or after a serious incident (Wannacry). There is not enough work completed to try and measure/understand the impact of even a simple incident.

Issues in local areas

18. Repeating key issues within the local area are:
 - a. Ransomware targeting Businesses (primarily small & medium enterprises);
 - b. Unauthorised access to personal social media accounts;
 - c. Targeted Hacking of Businesses to secure data;

- d. Unauthorised access and exploitation of Office 365 vulnerabilities within companies who have not kept it updated.

Recommendations for the Board

19. The board is asked to:

- a. Support and encourage the adoption of Cybercrime as a strategic priority across all local authority span;
- b. Support the setup, advertisement and successful utilisation of a Cybercrime Prevent referral process across Leicestershire;
- c. Ensure staff within all stakeholder organisations receives Cybercrime prevention advice in order to keep themselves safe online;
- d. Encourage membership of the Cybercrime Strategic Oversight group to help ensure effective information sharing and collaborative working of all parties involved.

Officer to contact

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