west midlands police and crime commissioner

AGENDA ITEM 8

Strategic Policing and Crime Board

Date of meeting: 16 October 2018

Police and Crime Plan Priority: *Responding to National Threats*

Title: *Update report - Serious Organised Crime (SOC) / Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) / Counter Terrorism (CT)*

Presented by: *Supt Paul Betts/ Supt Darren Walsh*

Purpose of paper

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board with information and an overview of progress against the Police and Crime Plan priorities in the section Playing our part in responding to national threats. The report will cover Counter Terrorism, the Regional Organised Crime Unit and Cyber-crime. This report is for discussion.

Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU)

Threat picture

2. Whilst the Islamic State has lost territory in Syria and Iraq, the group is still able to inspire acts of terrorism around the world, including the UK. The past 12 months has seen a reduction in the amount of propaganda material being circulated online by the group, but access to extremist material is still possible. A trend to use low sophisticated methods to attack Western countries has seen the use of vehicles as weapons and bladed attacks.

3. The threat level for International Terrorism remains at SEVERE – an attack is highly likely.

4. The West Midlands Region has not experienced a terrorist attack over the past 12 months but has reacted in support of fellow counter terrorism units across the country. There continues to be disruptive investigations within the West Midlands Region, demonstrating that the threat and risk has not dissipated.

5. More recently there has been an increase of Domestic Extremism (DE) – most notably the proscription of the extreme right wing (XRW) group National Action and subsequent convictions of members. In addition two series of 'Punish a Muslim Day' letters across the UK and the Region had the potential to increase community tensions.

6. WMCTU tackles the threat from CT/DE through the 'four P' structure:

Pursue

7. The majority of WMCTU Pursue activity is focused on international terrorism emanating from Syria, North Africa and Afghanistan-Pakistan. This includes the threat posed by West Midlands residents either travelling to and from these regions for extremist purposes, or being inspired or radicalised by proscribed organisations based within these regions.

8. For example, in July 2018, a 16 year old male from Birmingham was convicted of terrorism offences after he was prevented from travelling to Syria to fight for an extremist group. Despite his travel plans being frustrated, he continued to plot terrorist activity with individuals based overseas using online discussions forums.

9. The threat from the Extreme Right Wing (XRW) within the West Midlands remains a growing concern. In 2017 and 2018, WMCTU conducted several successful operations against proscribed organisation National Action, resulting in significant degradation of this group's activities within the West Midlands region and nationally. The operations have been co-ordinated across the UK by the Counter Terrorism Policing network and have culminated in a number of ongoing trials and convictions, many of which remain subject to reporting restrictions.

10. The threat posed by the release of convicted terrorism offenders from prison continues to be a priority for WMCTU. In 2017, four individuals were convicted of late stage attack planning. Three of the offenders had previously been convicted of terrorism offences and two had met, for the first time, whilst in prison.

11. WMCTU continues to respond quickly to new and emerging threats within the region and nationally. In 2018, WMCTU supported the national investigation regarding 'Punish a Muslim' hate letters which were sent to individuals and mosques. Also, following the Salisbury incidents, WMCTU continues to support individuals within the region who may be at risk from hostile states.

12. In addition to its counter terrorism/domestic extremism work, WMCTU has provided specialist advice and support to a wide range of major crime, homicide and public protection investigations across the West Midlands.

Prevent

13. The national approach to CT Prevent is changing. A number of these changes have been identified by the national Operational Improvement Review (OIR) recommendations as a result of the attacks in 2017. The nature of CT/DE risk is becoming more complex and the clear delineation between the Pursue and the Prevent spaces is increasingly difficult to define. Extra Prevent workload has been seen due to closer working with Pursue colleagues as those deemed vulnerable are identified and subsequently safeguarded.

14. An example of this was the 2017 WMCTU investigation that jailed three members of a Birmingham family for their parts in planning to carry out a terror attack in the UK; the operation also included the safeguarding of vulnerable members of the offenders' families.

15. As WMCTU moves toward managing more of the CT/DE risk within the community, existing processes and structures will need to change. In the short to mid-term, demand for service will increase for Prevent officers as they help shape and develop local practices and relationships with partners, ensuring future risk management plans are robust, consistent and fit for purpose.

16. One potential new structure is the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) pilot:

Multi-Agency Centres (MAC) PILOT

17. Three local authorities within the West Midlands Region - Birmingham City Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council - have agreed to work with WMCTU in an ambitious new national pilot called Multi-Agency Centres (MAC). The MAC pilots, which are also taking place in London and Manchester, are designed to find new ways to improve information sharing between the security services and a wider range of local statutory partners.

18. The MAC concept developed out of the lessons learnt following the 2017 terrorist attacks. In his independent review, David Anderson QC, confirmed that Khalid Masood, the Westminster attacker, and Salman Abedi, the Manchester Arena attacker, had both been subjects of interest (i.e. national security threats under investigation by MI5 and CT Policing) but they had been placed into the 'closed' space at the time of their attacks. This meant that they were not under active investigation. They were also not undertaking any Prevent programmes

19. The MAC pilots now seek to bring together policing, the Security Service, government departments, local authorities and other public services to provide co-ordinated support to those individuals and their families who are not considered a threat to national security but may still be vulnerable to extremist ideology.

20. Within the West Midlands Region a multi-agency project team is working with a small number of individuals to design and test the best ways to provide support using the experience which has been gathered from similar programmes such as Integrated Offender Management and Prevent Case Management. The MAC pilot will run until March 2020 and will be independently evaluated.

21. In the future, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) will be undertaking an inspection of PREVENT, with a specific focus in terms of how local policing is equipped to contribute towards the agenda.

Protect and Prepare

22. WMCTU Counter-Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) regularly visit Crowded Places, Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) Sites and Hazardous Substances Sites (HSS) across the region offering security advice. The team also conduct security reviews for locations and people deemed vulnerable to terrorist targeting and deliver awareness and security training to numerous businesses across the region.

23. Future developments will have a major impact on Protect demand, including the Commonwealth Games 2022, Coventry City of Culture 2021, major road developments and HS2.

24. The Prepare team deliver live-play and table-top exercises, complemented with briefings on risk awareness with regional agencies, as well as in relation to CBRN preparedness. In November 2017 the team organised a major multi-agency exercise at Grand Central and the Bullring Shopping Centres in Birmingham City Centre to test the regional response plan to a marauding terrorist firearms attack (MTFA).

25. A host of internal mandated training is provided to staff around procedures and internal systems. Similar to Protect, Prepare anticipate an increase in demand due to future events and the growth in staff that will requiring training.

WMCTU BUSINESS PLAN & PERFORMANCE REVIEW

26. The WMCTU 2018/19 Business Plan set outs the WMCTU response to three Regional strategic priorities and 12 National strategic priorities.

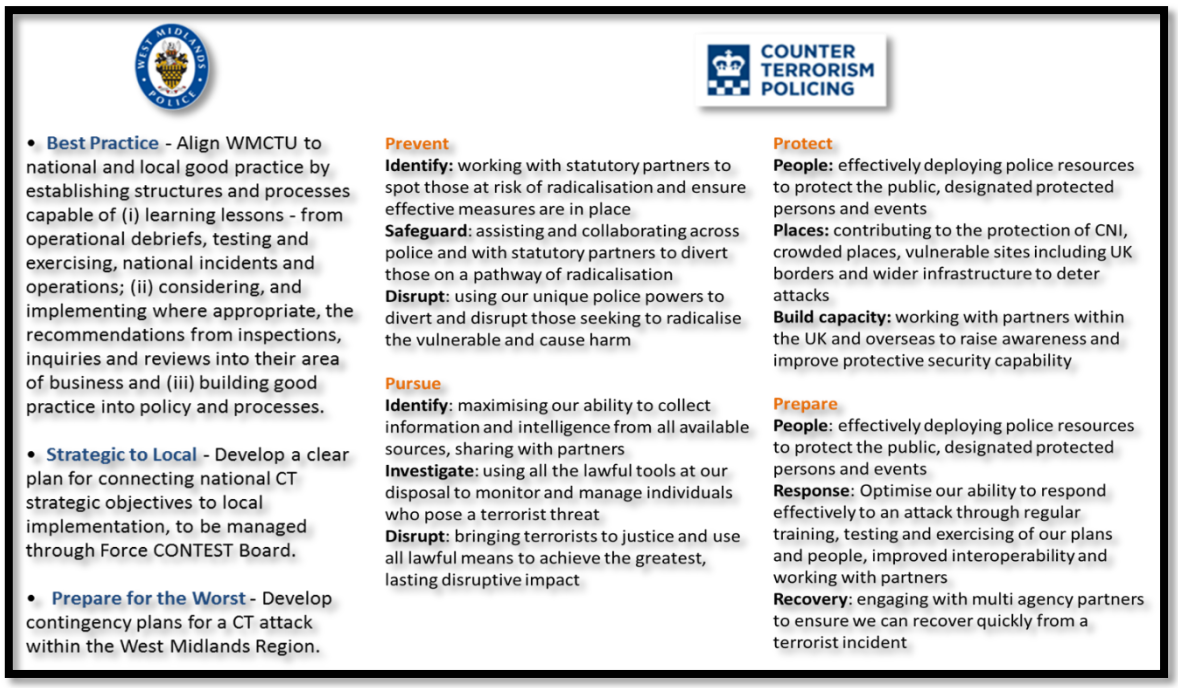

Figure 1 - WMCTU Business Plan

27. WMCTU performance against these priorities is scrutinised and monitored through a quarterly performance review by the West Midlands Police Assistant Chief Constable (Security); a quarterly review by the Regional Governance Group consisting of the four Regional Chief Constables, Police & Crime Commissioners and Chief Executives; and a quarterly performance review by the Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations (ACSO) who leads for counter-terrorism policing on behalf of the National Police Chiefs Council. Due to the nature of the work undertaken by the department, specific performance data for WMCTU is classified.

CONTEST Stategy (Version 4)

28. The aim of HM Government's CONTEST Counter-terrorism strategy is to reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

29. The CONTEST Strategy was first published in 2003. On 4 June 2018, the Government published its fourth version. Heavily influenced by the changing threat from terrorism, and specifically the lessons learned from the attacks in 2017, the updated strategy retained the 'tried and tested' 4 'P' structure but with a renewed focus on systemic coordination across the public sector and local policing:
    - PURSUE – stopping terrorist attacks
    - PREVENT – stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

- PROTECT – strengthening our protection against a terrorist attack
- PREPARE – mitigating the impact of a terrorist attack.

30. The new CONTEST strategy recognises the threat from terrorism changed in 2017, both in terms of the scale and pace at which plots are developed. The internet is a key driver of this, as is learning from attacks which emboldens those to conduct attacks who may previously have not considered them possible. This has seen a growth in lone actor and low-sophistication attacks. The strategy confirms Islamist inspired terrorism remains the priority, but extreme right wing (XRW) groups are a growing issue. The threat from Northern Irish-related terrorism (NIRT) remains serious

31. The new CONTEST strategy promotes greater information sharing between the Security Service and other public sector authorities to allow better us of multi-agency interventions, and the West Midlands region has been chosen as one of three regions to pilot a new multi-agency centre to share information.

32. The new CONTEST strategy puts safeguarding at the heart of PREVENT to ensure vulnerable individuals are not groomed or exploited by terrorist influencers. Through 'Project CAIREEN', a joint protocol between the Public Protection Unit, the CTU and all seven Local Safeguarding Children Boards, the West Midlands has been at the forefront, nationally, of child protection and child safeguarding issues linked to terrorism and extremism.

33. The new CONTEST strategy prioritises the strengthening of resilience in communities with links to the new Integrated Communities Strategy, the Counter Extremism Strategy (2015), and Building Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) Programme. The West Midlands PREVENT Strategy has been assessed as remaining fit for purpose, as it already focuses on building community resilience; managing risk; and safeguarding.

34. The new CONTEST strategy sets out the need for more integrated relationships with the private sector to help PROTECT themselves and their communities with strengthened protection of transport sector, crowded places and critical national infrastructure.

35. Many of the strategic aims within the CONTEST strategy have now been set as priorities for WMCTU to deliver in 2018/19.

Overview of Force Management Statement for Counter Terrorism

36. West Midlands Police's ability to deliver Counter Terrorism was included in the 2018 Force Management Statement (FMS).

37. The FMS highlighted the changes in demand facing UK policing. There has been a 'shift' in the terrorist threat - more terrorist activity that is harder to detect, coming more quickly with threats emerging from the peripheral and closed space.

38. This 'shift' has culminated in unprecedented demand on the national Counter-Terrorism Policing (CTP) network in the past year as it contends with approximately 600 CT investigations encompassing Islamist, Extreme Right Wing and other motivations

comprising more than 3,000 subjects of interest and a legacy of over 20,000 individuals who featured in past terrorism investigations.

39. WMCTU continues to deal with a significant proportion of this investigative demand.

40. The current CT demand profile is expected to continue and to most likely increase, as CT Policing moves towards managing volume risk with our partners, including wider policing. WMCTU, working with policing, intelligence and community partners at a local, national and global level, remains well-placed to counter the threat posed by terrorism and extremism across our Region.

41. Finally, it should also be noted the CT Policing remit covers 'allied matters' e.g. counter espionage, counter intelligence, counter-proliferation and hostile state actors.The investigation into the poisoning of Sergei Skripal has required a huge amount of national CT resources. An increase in demand in any of these areas would impact on CT Policing's overall capacity.

Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU)

Effective Performance, Management and Accountability

42. The 2018/19 strategic priorities for the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit (WMROCU) were set by the Regional Executive Board and incorporated into the regional control strategy for Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) as shown in Figure 2 below.

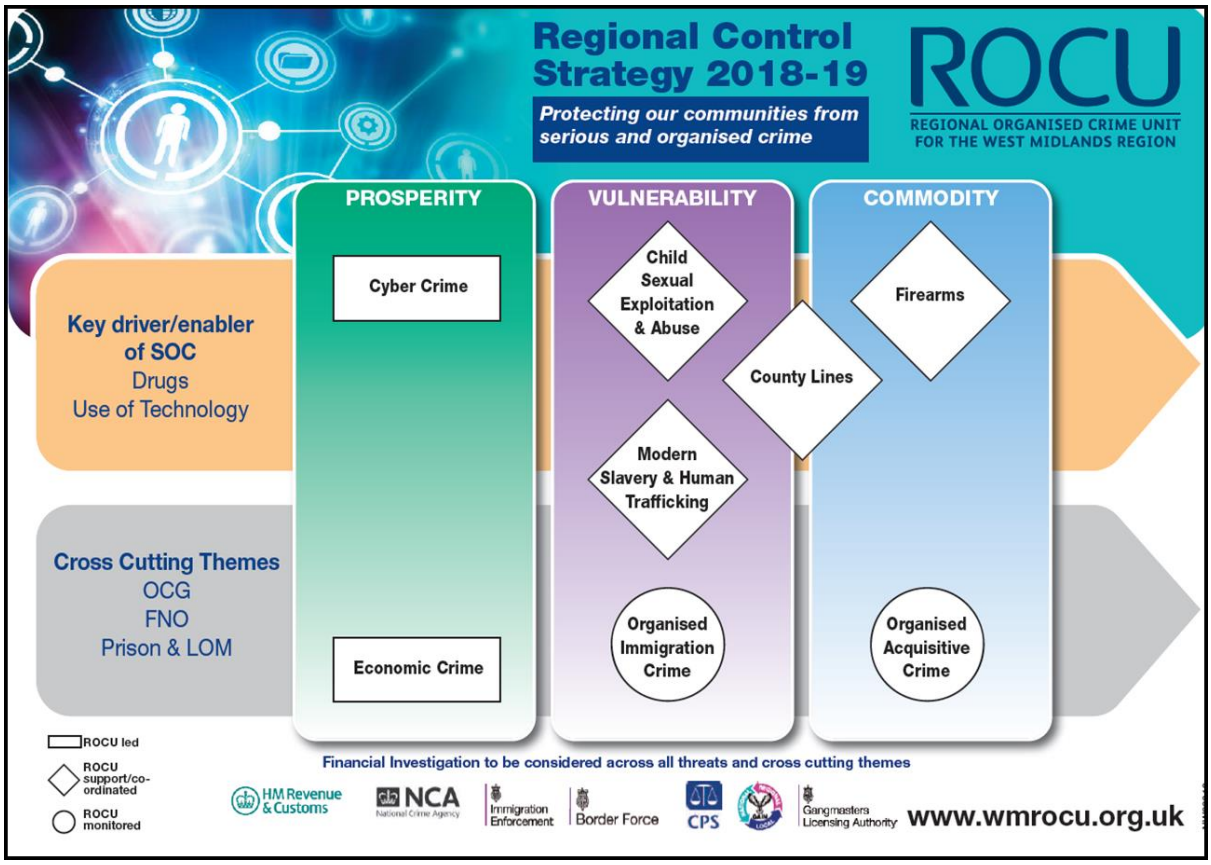

Figure 2 - Regional Control Strategy

43. The pie chart overleaf highlights the predominant crime activity of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in the West Midlands. Drugs continue to be the predominant crime activity for over half of the mapped OCGs in the region, which is consistent with the regional strategic assessment that drugs activity is a key driver for other forms of organised crime such as firearms and cybercrime. Firearms is incorporated into the violent crime activity in line with national guidelines and is the most common secondary crime type for organised crime groups engaged in the importation and supply of drugs.

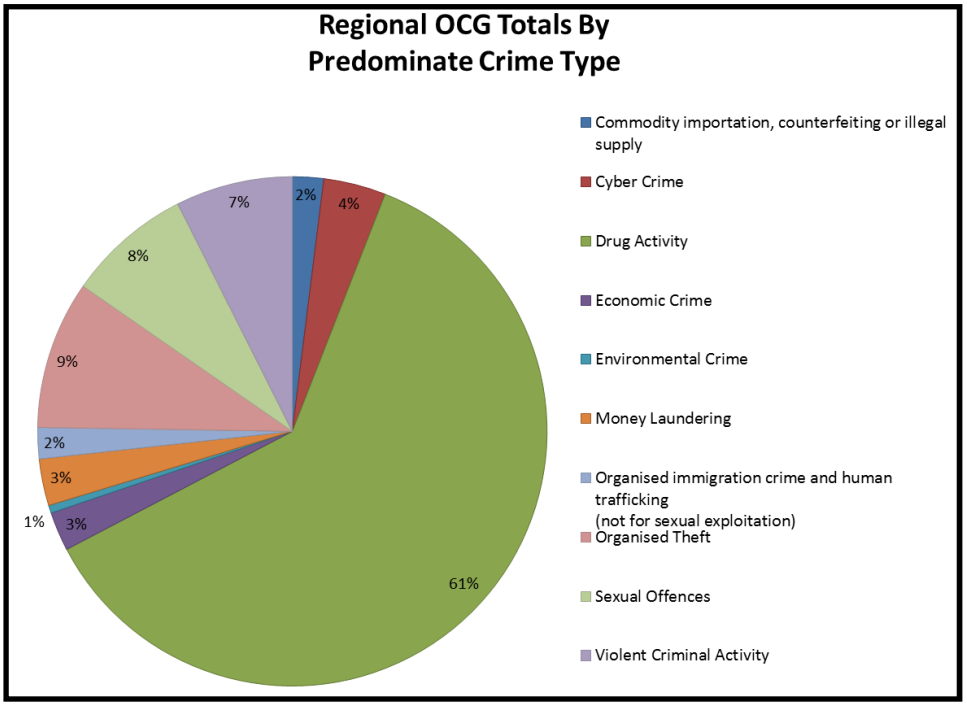

Figure 3 - Pie chart detailing OCG totals per crime type

44. During this reporting period, the ROCU has worked closely with the West Midlands Police lead for Serious and Organised Crime and the Regional Policy Officer for the PCC to produce a quarterly performance document that provides trend analysis, management information and operational highlights of the work undertaken by ROCU.

45. The performance document is scrutinised by the Regional ROCU Executive Board to ensure that the ROCU is held to account for delivering an efficient and effective response to organised crime in line with the above control strategy. The highlights and key themes from the performance document are then presented to the regional Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners on a quarterly basis.

46. Both West Midlands Police and the ROCU continue to record disruptions against Organised Crime Groups (OCG) in line with the national ROCU performance framework. Drugs remain the crime type with the most ROCU led disruptions and this is a reflection of the operations that are currently being run in the ROCU targeting drugs type offences.

47. Firearms are the second highest crime type for disruptions claimed, a reflection of the number of operations that are currently targeting firearms in the ROCU.

48. Monthly performance moderation panels, chaired by the ROCU and attended by forces and partner agencies, have been established to ensure that we have an effective and consistent approach to monitoring performance across law enforcement agencies.

Future Challenges

49. WMROCU receives funding from three primary sources; the Home Office main ROCU grant, specific Home Office grants for discrete capabilities and contributions from regional forces based on the agreed ROCU funding formula. The current contribution that each force makes to regional capabilities is as follows:

- West Midlands Police 57%
- Alliance 26%
- Staffordshire 17%

50. The regional funding formula was considered and endorsed by the Regional Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners in 2017/18 with any future review of the formula remitted to the Regional Finance Group.

51. As the contribution is made primarily through staff costs rather than a direct payment, the exact contribution varies according to staffing levels at any given time. These staffing levels are therefore tracked to enable appropriate budget reconciliation between the financial leads for each force.

52. Given the potential that the new funding arrangements will not be in place for the 2019/20 financial year, the ROCU is supporting the Regional Finance Group in order to prepare end of year accounts for 2018/19 and to begin budget planning arrangements for 2019/20.

Overview of Force Management Statement for organised crime

53. Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) has long been recognised by WMP as having a particularly corrosive and damaging effect on the wellbeing and safety of the public. WMP have invested heavily in developing capabilities and capacities which can effectively disrupt and reduce SOC activity and safeguard the public, particularly vulnerable persons, through dedicated teams such as Prevent and Locate. Increasingly, WMP is working with partners to tackle SOC, developing relationships such as Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) Prevent and Pursue Panels.

54. Emerging trends within areas of police demand demonstrate increasing complexities and sophistication of organised criminal activity, such as Cyber-enabled crime, County Lines and procurement of local contracts. WMP have led calls for increased levels of transparency and information between partner-agencies, in order to achieve the most holistic and accurate intelligence picture of organised crime and to maximise the range and effectiveness of our response to it.

55. Progress has been made through the Partnership Intelligence Liaison Team (PILT) function and MASHs, whose primary function is safeguarding, however, they do have a role to play in the development of SOC intelligence collection, intervention and prevention.

56. Greater collaboration is still required in order to keep abreast of the highly adaptive and often elusive nature of SOC activity. Neighbourhood Policing Unit based Local Responsible Officers (LROs) oversee identified crime groups within the force area and are informed by a variety of teams as to the best possible interventions to Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue in line with the 4P approach set out in the national SOC strategy. A dedicated SIO from WMP Intelligence regularly attends WMROCU meetings and acts as the conduit between LROs and ROCU to bid for tasking resources. WMP's primary investigative function, FCID, is presently in the process of realigning its departmental infrastructure to improve its consistency and accessibility to Neighbourhood Policing Units in support of tackling SOC.

57. There are five key levels of activity that takes place to tackle Serious and Orgnaised Crime in WMP:

- **Local:** Activity within local policing unit boundaries to tackle SOC threats including street drug dealing, gang activity and small groups of co-offenders who commit acquisitive crime together. This includes multi-agency work across all four strands of the SOC strategy, including diversionary activity to support individuals who are vulnerable to either being drawn into organised crime or becoming victims. This activity is locally led with support from force departments and partner agencies.

- **Force priorities** (demand driven and/or theme led): Activity delivered and co-ordinated at a force level to tackle a strategic theme (vulnerability, public protection, firearms) or a response to existing demand (including linked-series serious crime, crimes in action, and threats to life). This activity is generally prioritised on the basis that it is having an impact on a strategic priority for the force or generating exceptional operational demand. The activity being tackled undoubtedly meets the national definition for organised crime and is the product of the organised crime networks that operate across the region, but the threat does not emanate from a single or specific organised crime group. This activity is led by the force with support to meet specific operational objectives coming from the ROCU.

- **Force priorities** (dedicated organised crime group activity): Force led activity to tackle the organised crime groups that represent the greatest threat to the force. This activity is led by the force with support to meet stated operational objectives coming from the ROCU.

- **Regional priorities** (dedicated organised crime activity, demand driven and theme led): ROCU led activity to tackle the organised crime groups that represent the greatest regional threat, demand led operations not assigned to an individual group (cybercrime, firearms supply) and strategic themes owned (digital exploitation) or co-ordinated (CSE, Modern day slavery) by the ROCU.

- **National priorities:** Activity at a multi-region or national level. Such activity is led, supported or co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency (NCA).

58. The Force Management Statement led the ROCU Executive Board to commission review of:

- ROCU operating model and control strategy
- Regional SOC Strategy
- Regional capabilities and service levels
- The ROCU delivery plan
- ROCU Risk Register
- The S22a ROCU Legal Agreement

59. The ROCU operating model, control strategy and service levels have been reviewed and updated to reflect the FMS and the changes sanctioned by the 2017/18 ROCU efficiency review

60. The 2017/18 delivery plan was reviewed and led to the following departmental objectives for 2018/19 being set:
    - Embed robust continuous improvement processes.
    - Ensure ROCU delivers a 4P approach to SOC that meets local needs, regional priorities and national expectations.
    - Develop a prepare strategy and working practices to ensure we are ready to respond to SOC threats and major incidents.
    - Commence Preparation for the Commonwealth games.
    - Explore opportunities to enhance service in areas where regionalisation could yield efficiency savings.

61. This has resulted in a local delivery plan and a ROCU people plan being produce for 2018/19 with appropriate governance through ACC Cann and the ROCU Executive Board.

62. The S22a legal agreement has been reviewed and there are no material changes to the ROCU operating model that necessitates a change to the legal agreement. This review will be undertaken again in 12 months.

63. The one outstanding review relates to the regional SOC strategy as it has been agreed that this review will not take place until the publication of the new national SOC strategy.

Cybercrime

64. WMP's Cybercrime Strategy is built around a five point plan:

- Our capability will address all elements of cybercrime from cyber-dependant to mainstream digital policing.

- Our people will be aware, skilled and equipped to respond to all levels of cybercrime.

- Our response will be tiered and delivered in partnership: with regional and national law enforcement agencies, through cross government arrangements, with private industry and with academia.

- Our focus will be on protecting individuals and businesses that are most vulnerable by reducing the threat of cybercrime.

- Cybersecurity will be a consideration in all our operational policing responses and our internal processes.

65. Delivery against this plan is governed through a quarterly strategic governance group led by DCS Chris Todd, where the the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Regional Cyber Crime Unit are represented. Leads have been established for each of the '4 P' areas (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare), and each hold their own interim groups and report against agreed delivery plans. The current status in each area can be summarised as follows:

Cybercrime - Pursue

66. Activity in relation to pursue has been largely focused on developing internal capability and DSupt Darren Walsh leads the WMP2020 Cybercrime Project.

67. National and regional support continues through the National Crime Agency and ROCU respectively, whilst local investigative capability within WMP has now been enhanced through professional development of Economic Crime Unit (ECU) investigators, where WMP's responsibility for cybercrime investigation now sits.

68. All referrals into Action Fraud (AF) are now directed through the WMP ECU for triage. Those reported into WMP directly are also referred into Action Fraud for recording purposes, but now with the assurance that the direct communication between AF and WMP is consistent including the delivery of local victim care.

69. Cyber-dependent investigations remain the responsibility of either Force CID as a whole or the Public Protection Unit, dependent upon the nature of the primary offence. Both departments are able to avail themselves of direct support from Digital Media Investigators (DMIs). A central DMI team sits with FCID and supports the continual professional development of other DMIs sitting across disparate investigation teams.

70. The WMP2020 Digital Forensics Project is led in parallel and will deliver tiered capabilities so that all front line officers and staff can secure digital evidence, whilst retaining the ability to refer more serious cases into investigators or to digital forensic specialists as required.

71. The National Digital Investigation and Intelligence requirements have been assessed against the capabilities being delivered through both the Digital Forensics Project and the Cybercrime Project to ensure that any potential gaps are picked up through the Digital Skills and Culture sub-group of the WMP Digital Board.

72. The provisions being delivered through this work include Digital Kiosks where frontline staff are able to take mobile devices for forensic downloads, negating the requirement to submit devices centrally which potentially deprives vulnerable victims of their only means of communication.

73. The gap analysis however has identified additional requirements such as the need for a mobile app for frontline staff, equipping them with real-time guidance when dealing with digital evidence or attending crime scenes for lesser offences where the presence of a digital forensic examiner or DMI would not be expected.

74. Cyber awareness training is now delivered to student officers during the Police Foundation 2 stage of their development. Cyber awareness training has been delivered to all Neighbourhood Policing Team through this year's GetSafeOnline 'train the trainer' event.

75. Officers and Staff across WMP are now able to see the extent to which cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime is being reported through a recently developed MiPatch page. Prior to this, cybercrime was largely invisible to the majority of staff other than those in direct receipt of AF summaries.

Cybercrime - Prevent

76. WMROCU have now recruited a Prevent Officer to work alongside their long established Protect Officer in support of WMP's prevention requirements. The Prevent Officer is working alongside the Prevent Lead and Head of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) in order to develop capability amongst offender managers in anticipation of more referrals as awareness develops.

77. WMP's ongoing partnership with 'GetSafeOnline' includes the delivery each year of a public awareness raising event. Last year saw this delivered at the Godiva Festival in Coventry which reached a large target audience. This year the team will be engaging with a national gaming event being staged in Wolverhampton in November, where it is anticipated the prevent message will be most relevant.

Cybercrime - Protect

78. WMP continues to promote CyberEssentials to all small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and to encourage adoption within our own supply chain. Protect officers have

now been trained and are accredited by CyberEssentials themselves so that they can support the strategy directly with SMEs.

79. Monthly campaigns continue to be delivered through Corporate Communications in partnership with 'GetSafeOnline'. Themes included the threat from digitally enabled vehicle theft in June, thus supporting our wider force priorities. This is built into the WMP 'Marketing and Communications Campaign' plan. We are unable to provide specific detail regarding if this tactic alone increases Twitter following.

80. The West Midlands Cyber Security Cluster was launched in November 2017 following considerable lobbying by the OPCC and WMP Cybercrime Group and continues to support local SMEs.

81. The Cyber Information Sharing Partnership (CiSP) also continues to support local businesses and organisations through a West Midlands chapter.

82. Following the recent delivery of a problem profile on cyber-enabled fraud, engagement has been undertaken with the Senior Leadership Teams of Coventry and Birmingham Neighbourhood Policing Units in order to deliver an Outreach programme with the organisation 'Outreach Solutions' to target vulnerable communities, specifically elderly citizens. Strategic Intelligence assessment indicates that this demographic represents a significant percentage in terms of being victims of Economic Crime.

83. Preparations are underway for the annual business focused cybercrime conference to be hosted by the OPCC and WMP on 7/11/2018.

84. Coventry NPU has developed a localised Cyber Safety Group to raise awareness and build resilience within the community. This model is now to be scoped for further development at a force level through the Local Policing Governance Board and Digital Board.

85. Analysis has indicated a peak in tax fraud around the start of each financial year. The Protect Team will therefore work now with GetSafeOnline to develop protect products ahead of next year's threat for use not just across the West Midlands, but nationally.

Cybercrime - Prepare

86. An internal Phishing awareness campaign and test is being developed with Information Management and Corporate Communications in order to ensure WMP staff are resilient against such threats.

87. Cross Sector preparedness has been tested through a Local Resilience Forum table top exercise at Tally Ho earlier this year. This was followed up by an event-specific test ahead of Op Pelkin (policing of the Conservative Party Conference) involving the LRF again but also specific partners such as the Hyatt Hotel and NEC Group. WMP will next participate in a regional exercise together with ROCU, NCA and NCSC partners amongst others (date tbc).

88. Information Security continues to sit at the heart of every WMP2020 project. There are several examples available which remain commercially sensitive in which WMP's influence in this regard has led directly to the development of new products at a higher security specification, to the potential benefit of UK policing as a whole.

Update on Transformation Funding

89. The Force received notification in June 2018 that the Cabinet Office had confirmed funding from the National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) to assist in the development of force specialist cybercrime units. This funding could be used on hardware, software, accommodation, licensing, vehicles, equipment and training.

90. At this same time, confirmation was also received that funding from the Police Transformation Fund (PTF) would be made available for staff costs and that this funding was guaranteed until 2020. The caveat attached to the PTF is that it will match fund posts dedicated to cyber dependent crime investigation.

91. As an early adopter in the ROCU Co-ordinated Cyber Dependent Crime Pilot, WMP has submitted comprehensive bids to the National Specialist Cybercrime Build Project Board of circa £122k in the first year of funding cycle to cover the costs of equipment and to offset fifty per cent of staff costs. The National Specialist Cybercrime Build Project Board considered this bid at its meeting on 17th September 2018. A vernal update will be provided at the board.

Update on the work of the 'Digital PCSO'

92. Resilience for the WMP Digital PCSO has now improved with the arrival of a Digital PCSO for the Allliance alongside an established counterpart in Staffordshire Police. As a ROCU resource dedicated to the WMP force area, this resilience at a regional level is important.

93. The WMP Digical PCSO reaches an average of 107,000 community members each month via social media with a high of 200,000 being achieved in July.

94. Events being supported each month include School inputs to SMEs, Commercial Banks, Local Authority Councils and Women in Business. The PCSO has also delivered anti-bullying campaigns over the last two months and has delivered training to WM Fire Service so that resilience can be extended to vulnerable groups in our communities alongside Fire Service Prevention visits.

Ensuring West Midlands Police have an effective response to cybercrime:

95. Development of WMP's enforcement and investigative capability has been detailed above in the 'pursue' update.

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