

**Nottingham City Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Update on Nottinghamshire
Knife Crime Strategy May 2019**

Supt Matthew McFarlane has taken over the role of co-ordinating activity to deliver the knife crime strategy for the OPCC. He replaces the previous postholder (Supt Simon Firth) who is retiring from policing.

An update on some key areas of activity:

Knife crime in Nottinghamshire has increased over the last 12 months with figures to the end of 2018 showing a rise of 9.5% (an increase of 77 offences).

| Core Cities Forces comparison Ranked by % change | 12 months to Dec 17 | 12 months to Dec 18 | Change | % Change |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Greater Manchester (Manchester) | 1,484 | 3,614 | +2,130 | +143.5% |
| Merseyside (Liverpool) | 910 | 1,231 | +321 | +35.3% |
| South Wales (Cardiff) | 591 | 724 | +133 | +22.5% |
| West Yorkshire (Leeds) | 2,259 | 2,715 | +456 | +20.2% |
| West Midlands (Birmingham) | 2,751 | 3,210 | +459 | +16.7% |
| Nottinghamshire (Nottingham) | 812 | 889 | +77 | +9.5% |
| Avon & Somerset (Bristol) | 550 | 596 | +46 | +8.4% |
| Northumbria (Newcastle) | 850 | 887 | +37 | +4.4% |
| Metropolitan Police | 14,504 | 14,660 | +156 | +1.1% |
| South Yorkshire (Sheffield) | 1,027 | 994 | -33 | -3.2% |
| Core Cities Forces Average | 25,738 | 29,520 | +3,782 | +14.7% |

| Local Regional Forces comparison Ranked by % change | 12 months to Dec 17 | 12 months to Dec 18 | Change | % Change |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Derbyshire | 478 | 581 | +103 | +21.5% |
| Leicestershire | 697 | 824 | +127 | +18.2% |
| Lincolnshire | 225 | 259 | +34 | +15.1% |
| Nottinghamshire | 812 | 889 | +77 | +9.5% |
| Northamptonshire | 468 | 487 | +19 | +4.1% |
| MSG Cities Forces Average | 2,680 | 3,040 | +360 | +13.4% |

| MSG Forces comparison Ranked by % change | 12 months to Dec 17 | 12 months to Dec 18 | Change | % Change |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Kent | 771 | 925 | +154 | +20.0% |
| Leicestershire | 697 | 824 | +127 | +18.2% |
| Lancashire | 942 | 1,038 | +96 | +10.2% |
| Nottinghamshire | 812 | 889 | +77 | +9.5% |
| South Yorkshire | 1,027 | 994 | -33 | -3.2% |
| Bedfordshire | 479 | 451 | -28 | -5.8% |
| Hertfordshire | 564 | 490 | -74 | -13.1% |
| Essex | 1,026 | 677 | -349 | -34.0% |
| MSG Cities Forces Average | 6,318 | 6,288 | -30 | -0.5% |

Nottinghamshire Police Knife Crime Team

The work of this team, of a Sgt & 6 PCs continues. Proactive policing is undertaken in areas identified at high risk of knife crime through the operational tasking meeting. The capacity of the team is increased through ongoing deployments of response officers working alongside it, this also spreads the experience of proactive patrolling and use of stop/search powers effectively.

Nottinghamshire Police Robbery Team

We are developing a new robbery team which will use detectives to better focus on investigating knife crime robberies.

Integrated Offender Management

Work is on-going to expand our Integrated Offender Management offer to enable the management of an increased number of knife crime adult non-statutory offenders within the community. Recruitment is currently ongoing to identify two probation officers to take on this work and it is anticipated that they will be in post by July 2019. Work is currently ongoing to identify an initial cohort of 70 offenders for them to engage with on taking up their posts.

Street Doctors

We have engaged the charity Street Doctors in conjunction with Nottingham University to utilise medical students to deliver lessons in schools and alternative education providers around challenging attitudes to violence as well as equipping young people with the practical skills required to provide a first aid response to a victim of a knife injury whilst they await an ambulance to attend. This project was funded via the Cascade fund, Nottingham University for the 2018/2019 financial year. A new stream of funding for the £6,000, is required to continue with this project for the current financial year.

Knife Crime Learning Zone – National Justice Museum

The new knife crime learning zone at the National Justice Museum will launch on 27 June 2019. This is a partnership with the National Justice Museum and the Ben Kinsella Trust. The zone will be a permanent facility which is anticipated to host over 2500 children over the next 12 months. Consideration needs to be given to supporting on going operational costs which are projected at £50K per annum. As part of the project we are developing a knife crime homicide families group to help shape a Nottinghamshire theme to the learning zone and to develop both an educational and wider communication platform for the families to spread the message of the devastating impact on families of knife offending. In the first instance twelve families have agreed to support the initiative which is being developed together with EMSOU Homicide and Stone Soup Academy.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

We are collaborating with the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to bring their successful Mentors In Violence Prevention Project to secondary schools across Nottinghamshire. The project aims to get young people to champion with their peers healthy relationships and tackle all forms of violence with a specific focus on knife crime. This project has been a central plank of the VRU's work in combatting knife crime in Scotland. Eight schools and one alternative provider are identified to pilot the project in September 2019. The cost of the project is £12K which is being funded by the OPCC.

Violence Interrupters/Outreach youth work in Nottingham City Centre

£30K of Home Office funding was secured from the Early Intervention Fund to establish and deploy violence interrupters to key hot spots within the city centre. To this end Nottingham Forest community Trust and Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges have been engaged. These are individuals with community credibility who are deemed capable of relating to young people at risk of committing knife crime who would deescalate conflicts and provide non-violent alternative ways of dealing with confrontation including referrals to positive activities. Further funding sources to continue this work are being identified.

Initial outcomes and impact March 1st –April 5th 2019:

- Number of young people engaged (around 500 in total an average of 40 per day engaged in conversation)
- Number of violence de-escalation incidents (5 recorded interventions)
- Number of retailers engaged and informed of the violence interrupter programme (15 to-date)
- Number of positive engagements with the Police (10 occasions)
- Number of young people engaged with suspected of carrying knives (26)

Consideration is currently being given to how this intervention could be funded moving forward.

There are currently active discussions between the OPCC, NFFC community Trust, Nottinghamshire Police, English Premier League, Nottingham Business Improvement District and Nottingham City Council to further fund the program for a period of 12 months and in addition create a safe space for young people adjacent to Market Square, Nottingham as well as re position the NFFC / Premier league 'Kicks' program to knife crime hot spot locations.

Multi-Agency Risk Management

Work is on-going on a delivery model for a multi-agency approach to identify and manage risk in relation to knife crime. This will include individuals currently involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in knife crime, whether as victims or offenders, and also those locations

most vulnerable to this type of criminality, whether this is public spaces or licensed premises. In addition they are working toward a common set of risk factors and a process for identifying, on a regular basis, those peoples and places potentially at risk. Finally, they are seeking to agree to a method for the effective coordination, analysis and dissemination of the data to the relevant stakeholders and operational teams. Currently working with Nottingham Trent University to ensure the methodology for identifying young persons at risk is robust and fit for purpose. It is hoped that this work will be completed by July 2019 to allow targeted interventions through the Nottingham city Troubled families program. Work is being undertaken to allow for the sharing of information in relation to this project.

NTU research re engagement by victims

Together with Nottingham Trent University we are carrying out research with young people subject to serious youth violence to better understand the critical success factors required to better engage with victims of knife violence. Currently 25% of knife violence victims refuse to cooperate with a police investigation. It is anticipated that this work stream will report by July 2019. The project lead NTU staff member Sarah Hilder is looking for opportunities to discuss her findings work with partnership colleagues.

'No point' knives

We are trialling the replacement of domestic carving knives with specialist 'no point' knives to victims of knife violence within a domestic setting. These 'No Point' knives do not have a sharp point and have been specially designed to prevent stab / puncture type injuries. They are currently being utilised as part of safety planning for victims of knife violence within a domestic setting.

Medical Bleed Kits

Together with Nottingham Business Improvement District and the Trauma Unit at QMC we are developing the issuing of specialist medical packs to business / retail and night time economy venues across Nottingham City centre to enhance the first aid provision available. Nottingham BID have funded 100 kits for the city centre. We are also delivering enhanced first aid training to workers within these identified premises. It is anticipated that the training will commence May 2019. A further meeting has taken place between representatives of Nottinghamshire county council and the six district councils to consider a similar initiative across the County.

Home Office Knife Crime Fund 2019

The Government recently announced the provision of £100m into policing to deal with Serious Violence. Alex Hurst (Deputy Director of the Serious Violence Project Unit) further reported on the £100m in a national briefing to the PCC's on 30th April 2019. £65m of this funding has been allocated to surge activity. (The remaining £35m has been dedicated to the establishment/development of Violence Reduction Units). £51m surge funding has been allocated to 18 forces. Nottinghamshire has been allocated £1.5m. £1.6m has been

allocated nationally to data requirements The remaining £12.4m is currently un - allocated and an update in respect of its availability is expected in the coming months.

The HO requires monthly returns on the utilisation of this funding.

A plan is being developed, with a range of activity to ensure this funding is utilised well locally.

Nottinghamshire Youth Commission

Initial planning is under way within the OPCC to hold a further youth violence / knife crime conference on 21 June 2019 targeting young people and their families to better engage and understand the challenges they face and to help shape future provision. Statutory agencies, schools, alternative providers and the third sector have been reached out to help shape the proposals.

Lifeskills Education in Primary Schools

Nottinghamshire police and the OPCC have funded Lifeskills Education to provide an education programme to year 6 primary schools pupils in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire addressing risky behaviours associated with hate crime, knife crime drugs and alcohol.

The new programme will be offered to all state funded primary schools in the County of Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham of which there are 353 with approximately 13,350 pupils in the target group. The project will run for three years. The funding arrangements do require some contribution towards half the cost of delivery.

The delivery aims at 5436 lessons in the 353 schools (average 1.4 classes per schools 11 lesson per class.).

The program will also address dealing with Hate Crime, Bullying and Coercion together with knife crime, drugs and alcohol which also links in to the Government's Serious Violence Strategy with a clear read across to 'County Lines'. The funding meets 50% of the costs to the Primary school providers.

Youth Endowment Fund

In February 2019, the OPCC hosted a Home Office regional serious violence conference for statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations. Feedback from the event is informing the delivery of future funding opportunities from the recently announced Youth Endowment Fund. The fund (£200m) will be run by Impetus, in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and Social Investment Business.

The fund aims to prevent children and young people from getting caught up in crime and violence, by making sure that those most at risk get the best possible support, as early as possible, to get on a positive path and succeed.

The Youth Endowment Fund will do this by:

- Finding, supporting and evaluating programmes working with young people most at risk of involvement in crime and violence — providing funding, capacity building and evaluation support
- Generating and promoting new knowledge and practice to transform local and national responses to tackling youth offending, and supporting the best evidenced programmes to have an even greater impact.
- Developing an approach to working with local communities to prevent youth offending — driving long term, sustainable change in those communities.
- Impetus plans to launch the first funding round, a general open call round, with the aim of awarding the first round of grants in the autumn.

Offensive Weapons Bill 2019

Both Houses have agreed on the text of the Bill which now waits for the final stage of Royal Assent when the Bill will become an Act of Parliament. A date for Royal Assent is yet to be scheduled.

The Bill will make it illegal to possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives and knuckle-dusters in private.

Other measures include:

- Stopping knives being sent to residential addresses after they are bought online
- changing the legal definition for threatening with an offensive weapon to make prosecutions easier
- banning the possession of a knife on a further education premises
- banning rapid firing rifles, and certain powerful firearms and bump stocks, which increase a rifle's rate of fire
- updating the definition of a flick knife to reflect changing weapon designs
- Creating new knife crime prevention orders for both juvenile and adult offenders.