worcestershire
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AGENDA ITEM 10

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
26 SEPTEMBER 2017

CYBER CRIME STRATEGY

Recommendation

 1. **The West Mercia Police and Crime Panel are invited to consider the Cyber Crime Strategy and determine whether it would wish to make any comments to the Police and Crime Commissioner.**

Background

2. Nationally cyber crime is recognised as one of the greatest risks facing the country and is a key element of the Strategic Policing Requirement. At a force level the threat from cyber crime is identified in the Alliance Control Strategy as one of the highest risks faced by the Alliance.

3. In 2016 the force signed off the Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Cyber Crime Strategy 2016. This document sets out at a strategic level the *4 P's* (Prevent Pursue, Protect, Prepare) approach that is currently being implemented across the Alliance. A copy of the strategy is attached at Appendix A.

4. Shortly after the strategy was implemented operational requirements led a number of changes in senior police personnel responsible for the implementation of the strategy. On a day to day basis the force approach to cyber crime is now the responsibility of a Superintendent who has provided the following update on the current position.

Current position

5. There have been a number of significant achievements reached in support of the strategy:

- **Training** – training has been delivered to staff and supervisors who work in the Operational Control Centre (OCC) so there is a clear route and advice/ support line for active cyber crimes reported to the police.

- **Guidance** - cyber incident guidance documents are now all live on the force intranet and provide a valuable, readily available resource for all personnel.

- **Alliance Cyber Unit** - in mid-August Chief Officers gave approval to create an Alliance Cyber Unit from within Protective Services resources from Crime Management, PVP and specialist intelligence, and from revising management responsibilities within Crime Management

6. The unit comprises: one detective inspector (DI), one detective sergeant (DS) and three detective constables (DC). This team will provide support and active guidance to specific threats and enable the force to look more closely at vulnerable/ higher threat cases and is ideally placed for a strong link with Action fraud/ National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB).

7. In addition a Digital Intelligence Unit will provide active support for investigation and provide support for the Digital Intelligence and Investigation (DII) capability. This is comprised of a detective sergeant and a detective constable

- **Alliance Digital PCSO**: a PCSO from Herefordshire has been recruited and will be in post soon. This officer will be working between the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) to start to coordinate prevent activity for partners working with the ROCU prevent lead.

- **Support to Alliance staff in Cyber Crime** – one of the DS is working with the Forces' Corporate Communications to provide ratified and streamlined guidance to staff for cyber-related in incidents via a single one stop shop on the force intranet

8. In addition Corporate Communications is working with 2 virtual teams of staff as subject matter experts and end users to create interactive, intranet-based "push notification" guidance that will be sent as a "click link" to staff deployed to incidents. This will be developed with support from the Learning and Development team in September and will potentially be ready for testing in October.

- **Digital Media Investigators (DMIs)** – Officers in the cyber crime unit are now responsible for coordinating and supporting the DMIs.

- **Partnership activity –** the Force cyber lead is keenly aware that partner activity has been continuing with less support from Police at a strategic level than there should have been. This has been as result of the internal structure changes. The 4P plans are being reviewed regionally in the ROCU, which is looking to streamline and get more consistency across the region to ensure all forces share the same learning and focus activity on current threats. When all the Cyber Crime Unit staff are in post the force will be better placed to assist coordination and development of partner activity.

9. Moving forward, Tracey Onslow, the Deputy PCC, has offered to chair a West Mercia cyber partnership group that the Police wish to create to help progress the partnership approach.

Conclusion

10. Since the inception of the strategy there has been a considerable amount of internal restructuring taking place to ensure the force is best placed to deal with the cyber threats it faces. There has been a necessary focus on the internal and specialist requirements as opposed to partnership development. However this will be addressed in the coming months.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Cyber Crime Strategy 2016

Contact Points for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal & Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.