

**Business Crime Forum**  
**Notes from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**  
**Sedgemoor District Council Offices, Bridgwater**

**Attendees:**

Mark Simmonds (MOS)	CFO, OPCC	Barry Donbavand	Sedgemoor BCRP
Paul Cox (PC)	BANES BCRP	Insp James Wasiak	Incident Assessment Unit
Craig Carter (CC)	Operations Manager, Cabot Circus	Sally Fox	Incident Assessment Unit
Jo Hawkins (JH)	BCRP, Destination Bristol	Adrian Grabarski	Union for Shop, Distribution and Allied Workers
Dave Gill	GAIN Coordinator for Organised Crime Unit	C/Insp Mark Evans (ME)	North East
Insp Neil Dillon	Taunton	C/Insp Zoe Chegwyn	Bristol
Sgt Andy Gloyn	Taunton	Vicky Ellis	PA, OPCC

**Apologies:** Amie Vaughan; John Hirst; Jon Miles; Lisa Simpson; Adrian Ley; James Durie; Sam Holliday; Andy Gregory

**1. Introductions**

MOS thanked everyone for attending and invited introductions.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

No comments on these. Outstanding actions below:

Meeting Date	Action	Update
20 Jan 17	Paul C raised a potential emerging risk in relation to Public Space Protection Orders and the way these are used.	Following discussions at the Forum it was agreed to keep this action open as these are being inconsistently used across the force – to share ideas, including from Devon and Cornwall
5 May 17	C/Insp Chegwyn is the lead for Avon Gorge Prevention where they are working on an order to prevent people from returning to the site where they have attempted suicide and agreed to share this work with Craig.	It was noted there are still a number of mental health related incidents that require a lot of resources from partners and the police. Multi-agency issue. Related to homelessness/drugs/ASB. AV suggested a business crime forum member should attend the City Office meetings where these issues are discussed. Noted this is a

		national issue. ME to speak to Julie Knight's team to look at any national learning.
28 Nov 17	Need options to address DISC access and accreditation in Somerset - Mark Evans and Paul Cox both offered to help with this.	Discussions are ongoing – questioned whether there was any potential for joint funding for the administration of the system? Forcewide support is required to provide a complete intelligence picture. MOS advised the OPCC would be receptive to a business case for joint funding. Mark Evans and Paul Cox to collaborate and this work will come back to the forum as an agenda item. MOS to forward proposal from Andy Sharman for SW Business Crime Centre to ME.
28 Nov 17	Cabot Circus are interested in knowing more about funding specific officers. MR to liaise with CC to discuss.	Cabot Circus would like to see budget/costings. MR was trying to organise a meeting – ZC will follow up. JH noted that the City Centre BID are also looking at it.
28 Nov 17	ME to introduce Natalie to other Beat teams to pilot in other locations the Deter work.	Carry forward

### 3. Online reporting and CCTV upload for shoplifting

26% of shoplifting is now reported online. 30% of these have evidential issues – for example the CCTV is not provided or not good enough or does not show the continuity of the offence. The faster processing has improved the prosecution rates and is removing offenders from the streets more swiftly. The Incident Assessment Unit would be happy to help inform retailers what the Force need in order to obtain a conviction – methods such as a short video were discussed. Any message should be added to DISC for retailers to access.

### 4. Local updates

#### Bristol/North East

Undertaking Op Bird – which is a day of action operation that can be built to suit the area but focuses on addressing Violence in the Workplace, ASB and Retail Crime. It will be trialled in Bristol during June/July and can then be considered for use Force wide. An update will be provided at the next Forum.

C/Insp Chegwyn is working with Bristol City Council in relation to the rough sleepers in Bristol and a multi-agency plan is forming.

**Action:** MOS to speak to the PCC and engage with local authorities on behalf of the Business Crime Forum.

## **South**

Also noticed an increase in the number of rough sleepers in the town centres. In Taunton the One Team is addressing this and includes Mental Health workers, Local Authority, substance abuse workers and housing officers. Bespoke packages are being created for each person and there has been some success seen. There was good feedback from the business community.

It was queried whether there could be an online tool for reporting ASB in the same way as shoplifting?

**Action:** Sally Fox confirmed this was in the pipeline and would speak to Scott Fulton's team to see whether this could be accelerated.

There was a discussion around what more could be done, for example some areas have found that advertising local charities who support rough sleepers and encouraging people to donate to these has worked.

**Action:** C/Insp Chegwyn agreed to take the lead on a piece of work to consider this, forming a team with various colleagues from each district.

## **5. Business Crime Trends**

Whilst the statistics would indicate there has been a reduction in crime, ASB is not included. McColls was noted as a retailer that suffers spikes in crime, as well as Primark in Bristol, Boots and Sainsbury's. C/Insp Evans was meeting with Boots and Sainsbury's. It was noted ACC Watson met with Regional Managers for some of the larger stores last year and it might be worth replicating this as it was well attended.

**Action:** MOS and C/Insp Evans to explore possibility of Regional Manager conference at HQ

## **6. Organised Crime (Dave Gill)**

Dave Gill is the Co-ordinator for 22 Government agencies – sharing intelligence and encouraging partnership working. He covers 5 forces and looks at CSE/Modern Slavery/Cyber/Fraud/Money laundering and County Lines Drug dealing.

The Cyber briefing can be shared with businesses. Dave provided attendees with some information on how businesses can protect themselves and be aware of various issues and recognise victims of modern slavery.

## **7. Retail – violence and abuse (Adrian Grabarski)**

Adrian is the Union official for Union of Shop, Distribution and Allied Workers (USDAW) and works in the Bristol office. USDAW have a number of campaigns to increase safety for their members, including a campaign to reduce violence in retail and asking the government to change legislation to give more protection to shop workers. The Union are also working to educate customers to try to reduce frustrations and therefore violence. Offered to help with distribution of any messages such as in relation to online reporting and evidential requirements.

## **8. Next meeting: July - North East**