

Business Crime Forum 24th June 2019

Guild Hall, Bath

Attendees:

Mark Simmonds (Chair)	CFO, OPCC	Supt Andy Bennett	Force Business Crime Lead and Bristol
Paul Cox	Bath BCRP	Gareth Williams	Yeovil BCRP
Dave Holtby	WSM BCRP	Sgt Jon Raisey	Bath
Insp Gavin Usher	BANES Neighbourhood Team	John Mayer	Federation of Small Businesses
Rachel Merrel	Retail Leadership Group, Bridgwater	Sgt Stuart Williams	Somerset West seconded onto joint DISC project
Craig Carter	Operations Manager, Cabot Circus	Steve Bluff	Broadmead Bid
PS Rob Cheeseman	Central Bristol	John Wilson	Oris Forums
Andy Sharman (via video call)	Police & Crime Panel – link Member and SW Business Crime Centre	PC Paul Giddings (via teleconference)	South Bristol
Vicky Ellis	PA, OPCC		

Apologies: John Hirst; Alice Porter; Ben Mosely; Lisa Simpson; Sam Holliday

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed. Outstanding actions updated as below:

Meeting Date	Action	Update
14/09/18	CI Mosely to review Op Heron and report	Keep in view at future meetings
14/09/18	C/Insp Mosely / GW to liaise with Dorset and finding out about how their system integrates with police systems (Niche).	Carry forward
14/09/18	Asda BWV pilot	CI Mosely updated on Asda pilot started in 2016. No data to show reduced crime numbers but have prosecuted a number of offences – would be a good subject for regional meeting for other stores such as Boots for discussion. Cabot are using and only activate when an incident in progress, works well,

		<p>especially when switched on for the whole incident. CLOSED. FOLLOW UP ACTION: Police offered to share best practice for BWV with partners. Be good for reengagement through NPT with community. CI Baker has done this and gone well – will ask Mark Nicholson to put something together. 24/6/19 – MOS to ask Mark N for update</p>
15/02/19	Supt Andy Bennett to share website links for Op Remedy information once available so that attendees can share with businesses	Op Remedy was launched in April and AB thinks the website has been updated – will check and also provide verbal update in the meeting.

2. ASC updates:

Supt Bennett updated the forum on the progress following the launch of the **new Neighbourhood Model** and 6 pillars of policing which has embedded well, just had 6 month review. There had been some resourcing issues. In order to recruit the 100 new officers to staff Operation Remedy it was necessary to double the normal number of recruits. Burglary, knife crime and drugs to be the focus of Remedy. County Lines is one of biggest threats to the safety to residents. Uplift of Remedy has been a success and In November will be at their capacity. Has meant that NHP have lost some resources and are backfilling – recruiting to fill those. Partnered with UWE for all new officers for undergraduate model. By Autumn response teams and NHP will be full to capacity and Remedy will be at capacity to allow response and NHP to focus on their tasks, which includes Op Heron.

When the force moved to **Op Heron** it was felt to be controversial but believed to be innovative way to deal with volume of incidents. Struggled with capacity to work in this way which has led to disengagement from how planned to work – still the aim to work with partners in this. New manager at IAU – a number of reviews on crime packs and CCTV packs and not quite right – work ongoing on these.

An uplift in PCSO numbers has also been agreed for 18 months to support the Serious Violence work.

Partners raised some issues with reporting incidents and the response received from the call centre, different response received from different operators.

Action: Invite Becky Tipper to next Business Crime Forum

There were a number of issues raised in Yeovil in relation to the use of radios and the diminished response businesses are receiving.

Action: Supt Bennett will work with Gareth Williams to problem solve the geographical needs/issues and make agreements regarding the use of radios.

It was noted there are slightly different approaches used across the Avon & Somerset area and it was agreed it would be useful to try to unify this and use best practices.

The Chair provided an update on the Business Crime recorded figures. Business Crime accounts for 15% of total crime for Avon and Somerset – and has seen an increase of 5% over the last 12 months.

Some areas have seen a more pronounced increase (Somerset 13%) others have seen a decrease (Bristol).

3. Local Updates

Bristol – the two Bids are uniting to join into one BCRP and should be up and running soon. Broadmead still has some concerns with the street community, ASB and the use of the drug ‘Spice’ but reported good relationships with the Neighbourhood Beat Team. The impact of the closing of the Bear Pit by the Council recently was noted. Partners were encouraged to keep reporting incidents to the police as they need the intelligence from the community to know where to resource officers. The recent Extinction Rebellion protests and the disruption caused to businesses was also discussed – acknowledged the police were doing all they could.

Bath – Following a recent office move, Paul is now located in the Bid office. Bath still has a few street community issues and there is a lot of partnership working and discussions to address this. Success is judged on whether the same people are being discussed and this is not the case, so feels like it is successful. It was felt that the County Lines is impacting on offenders who are now being more organised and seriousness of offences is increasing. They are being spoken to and offered support as victims of exploitation.

Yeovil – Well managed, shoplifting is slightly down – there have been threats to shop owners – partnership working is going well with Julian House. The One Team approach is working well – the homelessness issue has been resolved. The BCRP has achieved national accreditation.

WSM – Anecdotally it is felt that crime is relaxing a bit but it is too early to consider it a long term trend. A similar One Team approach has been established with notable successes. Offered the DISC system to cascade any messages to the 400 members – WSM/Yeovil/Bath/Mall/Sedgemoor are all linked on DISC.

FSB – Has a diverse membership and sees the different aspects of crime – due to publish a report in the next couple of months. Recently a number of members have had their vans broken into and had tools stolen and have had a low response from the police. The wider issue of cyber crime is also recognised as an issue. The Chair advised that cyber crime has specific teams dealing with it in the police and does not come to this forum – suggested a Cyber Crime Forum might be a future consideration.

Somerset West – DISC was launched in April and the radio link is being expanded. There was some discussion around ownership of the data and further clarity was requested about arrangements for the ICO approved data controller - as currently the system is being administered by Sedgemoor District Council.

Action: SW to ask Alice Porter to confirm who is the data controller for the system.

The first meeting of the new Retail Leadership Group had been held and made a good start, forming the criteria for exclusions and agreeing 4 exclusions at the meeting. The group are engaging with the big stores and expanding their membership.

Niche and DISC

It was noted Northamptonshire are using DISC for crime reporting and linking to the police Niche systems

Action: Charlie Newman from Northamptonshire would be able to help with the duplication issue.

MOS will discuss possible Niche integration with the Head of strategic digital services in ASC.

4. Oris Forums

John Wilson introduced himself and the work of Oris Forums, looking after 10 Forums, 150 brands including large retailers. Their members are reporting that violence is on the increase and the police response to it has been a challenge in some areas, although it is better in Avon & Somerset, with just some issues in Cabot Circus that are now resolved. They are looking to work closely and collaboratively with the partners at the Business Crime Forum. It was noted there are police secondees working with companies in other areas to understand the issues faced by businesses and that discussions in the meeting reflected issues being reported nationally.

5. National Update

Andy Sharman updated on National work. Noted there have been 4 accreditations completed and confirmed the BCRP is progressing well in Bristol.

6. Next meeting

To be arranged for the Autumn.