



SOC LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS BULLETIN

Working together to tackle serious and organised crime

Welcome

Welcome to the seventh edition of our Serious & Organised Crime (SOC) Local Partnerships Bulletin, developed to share good practice from across law enforcement and the public, private and voluntary sectors. We hope these articles will form the basis for practitioners and policymakers to interact and share information to help develop both local activity and national policy that will protect the public from Serious and Organised Crime.

Summer seems to have passed by in the blink of an eye, and there certainly hasn't been any let up in the amount of partnership activity over the past few months. This edition reflects on the outcome of the last 'PEEL Effectiveness' report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and highlights some of the excellent work being delivered across England and Wales in response to the findings of the report, especially around the importance of partnerships. There are also updates on the Police Transformation Fund, Prevent funding for this financial year, the SOC Strategy Review as well as an introduction to the Gangs and Labour Abuse Authority, the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate and the Metropolitan Police Organised Crime Advisors.

The SOC Local Partnerships Bulletin is released on a quarterly basis by the Home Office's Strategic Centre for Organised Crime, part of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and is available online. If you have an article which you would like to feature in a future edition, please email the submission form found here to the team mailbox below. If you have any further feedback/ suggestions or questions, please contact your usual SCOC contact or the SCOC Local Partnerships mailbox at: SCOC.localpartnerships@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

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FROM THE CENTRE



PEEL and beyond

In March, HMICFRS published the findings of the last round of PEEL Effectiveness inspections (2016). This was the second time that SOC had been one of the areas considered as part of the inspection. The report found that most forces are 'Good' at tackling SOC. They have the right processes in place to identify and assess organised crime groups and their ability to pursue these groups is well established. Effective partnership working is becoming increasingly common at local level, and growing regional capabilities allow forces to exploit more sophisticated techniques to tackle organised crime. The spread of individual force grades was broadly similar to 2015; four forces were graded 'Outstanding', 29 forces were graded 'Good' and nine 'Requires Improvement'; one force was graded 'Inadequate'. Since March a range of activities have been launched, both from the centre and locally, to help address some of the common issues raised by HMICFRS, and others raised in the force.



Peer support team

A peer support team, approved by the NPCC and led by T/Det Superintendent Dave Kirby from Derbyshire Police, has been set up to assist forces in their response to SOC. The team comprises subject matter experts from policing and the Home Office, with the composition of the team tailored to the needs of the force being reviewed. Any force can request assistance, although requests will generally be prioritised according to

HMICFRS grading. Emerging trends from the first tranche of visits include issues around governance and the involvement of relevant non-law enforcement partners (and crucially, their data to enrich the SOC Local Profiles), use of Organised Crime Group Mapping, OCG ownership and the role of the Lead Responsible Officer, communications (internally and externally) and briefing and training of officers around SOC and OCGs operating in their areas. Dave Kirby and the Home Office will be exploring relevant best

practice products and guidance with SOC national policing leads and the College of Policing over the coming months.

Engagement

Our Director, Richard Riley, and Deputy Director, Caroline Mersey, have been on the road over the summer visiting Chief Constables and PCCs to get an honest view of the SOC scene in their area and discuss barriers to partnership working. More visits are planned over the coming months. These visits

complement the ongoing work of the Regional Engagement and Delivery (READ) Team.

And at a local level we are aware, and have attended, a range of events that have been designed to promote the benefits of partnership working and we know that more are due to take place in the coming months.



FROM THE CENTRE

Police Transformation Funding

During the summer, the Home Secretary was pleased to announce the release of more than £40m of Police Transformation funding over the next three years to help transform the law enforcement response to serious and organised crime.

Over £20m will be spent providing dedicated officers to identify and disrupt offenders seeking to groom children online for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This follows a successful pilot in the Eastern region, which saw 43 arrests and

19 people charged, nine of whom were identified as repeat offenders. Of those arrested, 11 were registered sex offenders. Police estimate that at least 25 children were protected because of their intervention.

A further £23m has also been granted over the next three years for a suite of measures which will provide the NCA, Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU), and police forces with new capabilities to detect, monitor and disrupt organised crime groups.

These include:

- The creation of specialist **Disruption Teams** in ROCUs, who will use a range of powers and legislation to disrupt SOC offending
- The creation of **Regional Organised Threat Assessment (ROCTA)** teams in ROCUs to bring together a range of techniques and methodologies to assess the threat from SOC
- Uplift in national **Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN)** capability to provide a single gateway for police forces and government agencies to work together to tackle SOC
- Uplifting dedicated **Assisting Offender** debriefing capability in ROCUs, in line with the provisions set out in s.71-74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) 2005
- The delivery of a **Multi-Agency Firearms Unit** operating on behalf of all law enforcement.



FROM THE CENTRE

Serious and Organised Crime Strategy Review



As mentioned in the last bulletin, we are currently reviewing the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. The priorities of our review include:

- Improving our intelligence capabilities, information exchange and understanding of the threat
- Articulating the SOC threat and 4P framework more clearly
- Driving a more comprehensive response by increasing our focus on building resilience and reducing vulnerability to SOC
- Strengthening our emphasis on partnership working and local delivery.

The Home Office's SOC Strategy Team has been working closely with colleagues across HMG and law enforcement to shape our review priorities and ambition. We want to build on the progress that has been made since the launch of the 2013 SOC Strategy – and learn from the many successful local initiatives that exist across the country. To ensure that we are reflecting the views of local delivery partners, we will be holding a number of regional consultation events in October/November throughout the UK. Invites will be sent via your local READ Team member – please contact Carla.Giudice@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk for further information.



WHAT'S NEW

Take 5 and Cyber Aware



This month sees the re-launch of **Take Five**, a joint HM Government and UK Finance led campaign that equips the public to more confidently challenge fraudulent approaches – be they face to face, on the telephone, via email or online. The campaign call to action is clear: Take five seconds to stop and think and remember this simple but vital message 'My money? My info? I Don't Think So! Support campaign activity starting on 6th October by heading to Take Five's social media channels to re-share posts or download campaign materials from the Take Five website [here](#).

Cyber Aware's new campaign materials are also coming this month. We have developed a new creative concept using audience feedback, enabling us to better reflect the seriousness and importance of cyber security, and helping to encourage the uptake of key behaviours and protect individuals and SMEs against cyber-attacks. Please support the new campaign across your social channels. On 18th October Cyber Aware will launch **#techfree15**. We are on our devices all the time and Cyber Aware wants to encourage everyone to have a #techfree15 minutes, using this time to install software and app updates. We will provide social content for you to share, so put the launch in your diary and watch out for these materials. Visit <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>



WHAT'S NEW

Prevent Projects 2017/18

The Home Office received over 70 bids for SOC Prevent funding this year. Five Prevent projects (all aimed at young people at risk) were selected. Four have started:

- A project based in Norwich will help identified individuals **develop enterprise skills** and to form a **social enterprise**;
- In Merton identified individuals will receive mentoring, training and employment skills, leading to offers of **apprenticeships** through local businesses;
- In Ceredigion a project will deliver **group-based cognitive behavioural interventions**, supported by enhanced one-to-one mentoring to identified individuals;



- A sports based mentoring programme in Warwickshire, combining **1:1 mentoring from professional athletes** with opportunities for identified individuals to participate in sport, a community benefit project, and training and employability workshops.

These will end in March and will be academically evaluated in April 2018.

We will be seeking new projects for 18/19 from January, so start thinking now about intervention projects you could develop with partners.

For more information contact:
socprevent@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk



Proceeds of Crime Act Statistics

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) gives prosecutors and financial investigators the power to locate and seize money made by criminals which can disrupt criminal networks, prevent the funding of further illegal activity and compensate victims for their ordeals. These powers are further bolstered by the Criminal Finances Act 2017.

The Home Office has published statistics for the first time on the amount seized using POCA powers.

- In 2016/17, £201m of criminal proceeds were confiscated, representing a 19% increase compared with 2011/12 (£170m).
- In total over the past five years, over £1.16bn in cash forfeitures from civil cases and confiscation orders from criminal convictions has been collected, largely driven by the amount collected through criminal proceedings.
- Since 2011/12 £174m has been paid in compensation to victims from the proceeds of confiscation.

Assets recovered under POCA are also distributed amongst operational agencies under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS). In 2015/16, 88% (£72.9m) of the £83m ARIS funds were used to support further asset recovery work with the rest of the funds supporting crime reduction and community projects.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/asset-recovery-statistical-bulletin-financial-years-ending-2012-to-2017>



MEET THE...



The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) is the agency charged with protecting vulnerable workers from labour exploitation across the entire UK labour market. We work closely with policing and other law enforcement agencies such as Border Force and Immigration, HMRC and the Police.

The GLAA has specialist officers with police-style powers of arrest and the capability to search and seize evidence. The authority investigates all forms of labour abuse from modern slavery to breaches of the Employment Agency Act.

Chief Executive Paul Broadbent said:

“ Our mission is to work in partnership to protect vulnerable and exploited workers. We already have a strong reputation nationally and across Europe and are seen as leaders in the field of preventing labour abuse and protecting those vulnerable and/or victims to exploitative practices ”.



Find out more about the GLAA by visiting our website www.gla.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police Service Organised Crime Advisors

In March 2017, experienced detectives from the Met's Organised Crime Command were embedded into six London boroughs as Organised Crime Advisors (OCAs), to work locally to tackle organised crime problems. The OCAs aim to raise awareness of the different types of organised crime, develop the local intelligence picture and work with local officers and partners to reduce the level of organised crime affecting the area.

Since the OCAs arrived, 10 new Organised Crime Groups have been identified and are being tackled by neighbourhood and proactive teams. One example is Operation Ajaxis, led by a Local Policing Team Sergeant into a group running a network of



brothels. Fifteen arrests have been made, 32 brothels closed and nearly half a million pounds seized.

The scheme has proved such a success that it is being expanded so that there is an OCA to cover each of the 32 London boroughs.

For more information contact: Jason Prins – Jason.Prins@met.pnn.police.uk



TOTAL POLICING

MEET THE...

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectorate is the regulator for the private recruitment sector in Great Britain and part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

It exists to make sure recruitment agencies are following the law and treating their clients fairly. This includes helping agencies be compliant, and where agencies have failed, investigating and taking appropriate action, from prosecution to prohibition. The main areas of work are:

- Responding to complaints about potential breaches in legislation
- Proactive targeted inspections
- Intelligence-led inspections

Potential breaches are mainly withholding earnings, not issuing contracts or undocumented deductions.

EAS can, through use of its existing powers, support other enforcement bodies in investigating cases that may involve agencies involved in potential cases of fraud, money laundering, or as enablers for other criminal activity.

For more information, contact EAS via [eas@beis.gov.uk](mailto: eas@beis.gov.uk) or 020 7215 5000 and ask for an EAS officer. The EAS are keen to speak to partners locally, including Organised Crime Partnership Boards.



PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Operation SLATE

Op SLATE the investigation into an organised crime group operating from a traveller's site in Middleborough who were influencing, coercing and intimidating businesses in the surrounding areas. In April, the Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN) coordinated collaborative disruption activity involving Cleveland Police, Durham Constabulary, North Yorkshire Police, Fire Service, Trading Standards, Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency, Council, DVSA, HMRC road fuel team and DVLA. All partners had positive results including 23 vehicles uplifted from the highway, investigation of illegal trade plates, advertising hoarding removed from the highway, prohibition notices displayed on several vehicles, prosecuting an owner for operating an illegal waste site, recovery of 2 stolen caravans from North Yorkshire & Cleveland and a Land Rover Discovery stolen from a car key burglary the week before in Durham. Together with breach of tenancy agreement of OCG living in a stolen caravan and removal from site.

The North East GAIN Coordinator Peter Constantine said "Once again this shows the value of bringing together relevant agencies to tackling serious and organised criminals".



PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Op GUARDIAN

On the 5th September South Wales Police ran a County Lines Practitioner Workshop for frontline police and partners. The objective of the event was to raise awareness of the threat from this area of Organised Crime.

The focus of the workshop was very much focused on identifying the exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults by urban street gangs, along with tools and tactics that can be employed to safeguard the victims and disrupt the criminality.

As part of the day Daisy Orchard from the St Giles Trust gave an emotional and very impactful account of her experiences as a 14 year old child, being groomed and exploited by a London street gang for the purposes of transporting and running drugs. South Wales Police is the first force outside of London to work with St Giles Trust, who will be funding a full-time Gang Intervention Officer to work alongside custody suites to spot potential victims.



“The workshop was also an opportunity for South Wales Police to launch Operation Guardian, their overarching brand for county lines, which is designed to emphasise their commitment to protecting vulnerable people exploited by organised crime groups”.

ACC Drake said “by working together with partner agencies and taking this holistic and robust approach, I believe we can make South Wales a hostile environment for organised crime groups, thereby preventing all forms of harm associated with these enterprises”.

The workshop has been very well received, by the 100 attendees and forms part of the forces ongoing strategy to tackle the county lines threat.

For more information contact Lian.Penhale@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Crawley Serious and Organised Crime Hotel Seminar

Crawley & Mid Sussex Local Partnership SOC Group, through Crawley Borough Council's Senior Licensing Officer Mike Lyons, organised a seminar for local hoteliers to raise their awareness of specific serious and organised crime activities impacting in the area and of relevance to their industry.

Hosted at Crawley Civic Hall on the 14th July and opened by Chief Inspector Rosemary Ross, Chair of the Local SOC Group, the seminar attracted over 50 delegates, of which 26 were representatives of local hotels.

Representatives from local authorities, Home Office, Security Industry Authority, West Sussex County Council, Immigration

Enforcement and Sussex Police were also in attendance.

The morning included presentations by leading law enforcement agencies both from a national and local perspective. Presentations included:

- Serious Organised Crime Groups
- Prostitution, Human Trafficking
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Immigration, Modern Slavery
- Missing Persons

The event also served to remind licensees of their duties regarding licensing objectives. For more information contact:

Michael.Lyons@crawley.gov.uk or Guy.Pace@westsussex.gov.uk

