

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Performance Management Committee

30 January 2008

Open for the purpose of FOIA

Report of Lynne Dunn, Independent Member

NCRS/ NSIR Update

Notes from NCRS (National Crime Recording Standard) / NSIR (National Standard of Incident Recording) meetings December 2007 and January 2008

Since the last performance Management Committee I have had the following meetings in connection with my lead member role for NCRS and NSIR:

- 10 December with Graham Oakden the Force Crime & Incident Registrar
- 16 January with Tony Melville and Graham Oakden
- 22 January NCRS/NSIR Compliance Group meeting

10 December – an interim report re NCRS and NSIR performance as October – December 07 quarterly report not due until early January 08.

Indications were good especially for an improvement in NSIR. One of the main amendments being that there is no longer a 'miscellaneous' category, hence logs must be coded accurately.

I went through the IT based training programme undertaken by those closing logs with Stephen Williams which was very helpful.

16 January – meeting with Tony Melville and Graham Oakden. Full quarter report for October to December 07 was discussed. OIS Incidents show overall a 5.1% decrease in log creation over the 9 month period (April – December 07) representing 21,207 fewer logs.

CIS Crime Reports – third quarter of 2007 shows reduction of 5% on all crime and non crime reports. This represents 4216 fewer reports created.

The Force's actual crime figure shows a decrease of 10.3% over the same 9 month period which is on a par with the national average. There has also been a reduction in call demand.

The current weak link in NCRS is Sexual Offences with only 88% compliance in December 07. Every sexual offence log is audited with the aim of assessing 40 logs per BCU. However this is not always possible and the total for December 07 was 142.

Officers failing to crime with the 72 hour period are compromising NCRS compliance. Given that the current NCRS regulations are for a victim focussed approach, as opposed to an evidential approach, all crime related incident logs which have a victim and are alleging a crime must have a crime recorded within 72 hours or the incident log should be endorsed with the reason why 'no offence' has occurred. NCRS does not make provision for continuing enquiries prior to criming over 72 hours.

NSIR performance has seen a considerable improvement and for the first time the overall average for November and December was over 90%. We are without doubt the best in the region currently, with Dorset at 85% and Avon & Somerset finding it difficult to implement. The

main weakness is 'minimum data entry' and this was discussed in detail at the 22 January meeting.

Compared year over year the improvement is:

	Incidents closed by CMCD		Incidents closed by BCU	
	2005-6	2006-7	2005-6	2006-7
October	76.8	86.5	77	90.1
November	83.4	88.5	91	90.5
December	64	88.5	84.6	94

Update re mobile data.

This is in the Force Development Programme and will need to stand as a business case when analysed. A bid has been made for demonstrator force funding as part of the Government's initiative. ACC Sharon Taylor is also looking at how mobile data can support the vision.

22 January – meeting with Compliance Group covered NCRS and NSIR performance, issues arising and some of the difficulties experienced by the Force.

Changes in NSIR coding categories from April 2008 were discussed in detail so that this could be implemented as smoothly as possible.

The view was expressed that, although it is now a victim centred process for recording a crime, the Force does not always have the resources to provide a victim centred detection process. There is the possibility of simply moving the bottleneck from one place to another.

Where a witness / victim cannot be contacted it was suggested that Officers make 3 calls to the address, at reasonable intervals, followed by a letter.

The next meeting is to be 22 April. I am planning to attend.

Lynne Dunn
Independent Member
22 January 2008