

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

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SUBMITTED TO:

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
6 MARCH 2020 (COVERING PERIOD JULY 2019 – DECEMBER 2019)**

SUBJECT:

**CRIME, SAFEGUARDING & INCIDENT MANAGEMENT
(CSIM)/COUNTY POLICING COMMAND - CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE UPDATE**

SUMMARY:

1. This report provides an update in relation to the Constabulary's approach to Children and Young Persons, it provides key performance information and highlights areas of significant organisational and operational development.
2. The demand on policing continues to increase in a number of areas including many related to children and young people. As previously reported, this places great strain upon policing resources engaged in the investigation of child abuse and safeguarding.
3. This report demonstrates the breadth of work being undertaken to engage with, and better understand children and young people.
4. Changes to legalisation governing local safeguarding arrangements will be implemented from 29 September 2019. This will see the replacement of the current Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) with the new Suffolk Safeguarding Children's board which places responsibility for delivery of safeguarding plans upon the three statutorily responsible agencies (Police, Health and Local Authority).
5. The Constabulary continues to work in partnership with a range of agencies to respond to the ongoing threat to Children and Young Persons from Urban Street Gangs and County Lines. Area based Community Safety Partnerships provide a multi-agency coordinated approach to delivering focussed education, awareness raising, intervention and enforcement work.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to note the content of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Child Safeguarding continues to be a priority for policing and for the public sector widely. A range of bodies apply extensive scrutiny including Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Rescue Service (HMICFRS), Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspection of Probation through the Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) framework. JTAs conduct "deep dive" investigations into how local services respond to children and their families when there are specific needs, thus holding the police and partners to account for the partnership approach, in line with their statutory responsibilities so ensuring they secure positive outcomes for children and young persons. To date, these inspections have focused on child exploitation and missing children, domestic abuse, the neglect of older children and most recently child sexual abuse in the family.
- 1.2 Strategic oversight of Children and Young Persons continues to be shared across two Superintendent roles – Detective Superintendent (Safeguarding and Crime investigation) and Western Area Commander (delivering policing services to children). A Strategic Governance Board chaired by Assistant Chief Constable provides leadership and oversight, supported by a Tactical Delivery Board chaired by the West NPT Inspector reporting into the Western Area County Policing Commander.
- 1.3 Previously reported activity included the adoption of problem orientated methodology by both NPT's and SNTs. This has gathered pace with the appointment of a Problem-Solving Policing Tactical Advisor and a recruitment programme for 14 POPS Ambassadors across the organisation. Whilst not exclusively directed at CYP, it is anticipated that the methodology will be highly applicable to many Policing issues for which the victim or suspect are Children or Young People.
- 1.4 Young Person Scrutiny – work continues to better engage with Young People, with the aspiration to improve the identification of what matters to this community, steering Policing Priorities, and helping to develop an effective Policing response. This report will highlight positive new engagement initiatives including youth attendance at the Strategic Governance Board, the roll-out of the Constabularies Schools engagement programme "OneCopStop" as well as closer working with Higher Education Institutes the West Suffolk College and "Suffolk One" in Ipswich.

2. CHILD SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) for Children

- 2.1 The SSP replaced old Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). This body is a statutory body with a wide remit to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Suffolk. The Police are one of three statutory organisations within the partnership, along with the Local Authority and Health.
- 2.2 The SSP came into effect on 29th September 2019. The appointed chair has made significant changes to the meetings that were in existence as well as the direction of the partnership. Several sub groups have been disbanded, and those that remain have renewed focus. There is far more emphasis on outcomes from the meetings to improve service provision and effective partnership working.
- 2.3 The sub-groups under the new SSP structure consist of the following groups:
 - Learning and Improvement Group (focussed on continual learning and contextualised safeguarding of children)

- Policy, Practice and Training Subgroup (joint children’s and adults – looks at whether Policy needs updating / rewriting, and ensuring the collective workforces are appropriately trained, as well as looking to coordinate new CPD events)
- Exploitation and On-line safety (joint children’s and adults – looks to ensure that initiatives are conducted around improving awareness and response to issues of exploitation and online contact, whether sexual or financial)
- Child Death Overview Panel (chaired by Public health – scrutinises all child deaths, regardless of reason – with a view to trying to improve and learn for the future – feeds into national group)
- Case review panel (Looks at individual cases in detail, and considers whether a serious case review is required, when they are – ensuring the learning from those reviews is implemented and actioned)

2.4 The restructure and development of these sub-groups reduces the number of meetings and has streamlined the structure to allow for improved working together between both the adults and children’s safeguarding boards. There has been a dramatic change in the number of partner events and practitioner learning events to arise from the new arrangements.

2.5 The SSP allows Suffolk Constabulary to improve its processes and performance in relation to dealing with children and young persons. It is the mechanism for ensuring continual improvement is achieved in this area of policing.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

2.6 The MASH has continued to experience high demand, with 6943 child contacts received between September 2019 to December 2019. The top referrers remain as police, education and health respectively, with predictable slight seasonal variation when schools are closed. The volume of referrals into the MASH in respect of Children and Young People has generally remained stable as have referrals linked to Domestic Abuse.

2.7 The table below illustrates the number of contacts by the top three enquiring agencies for information.

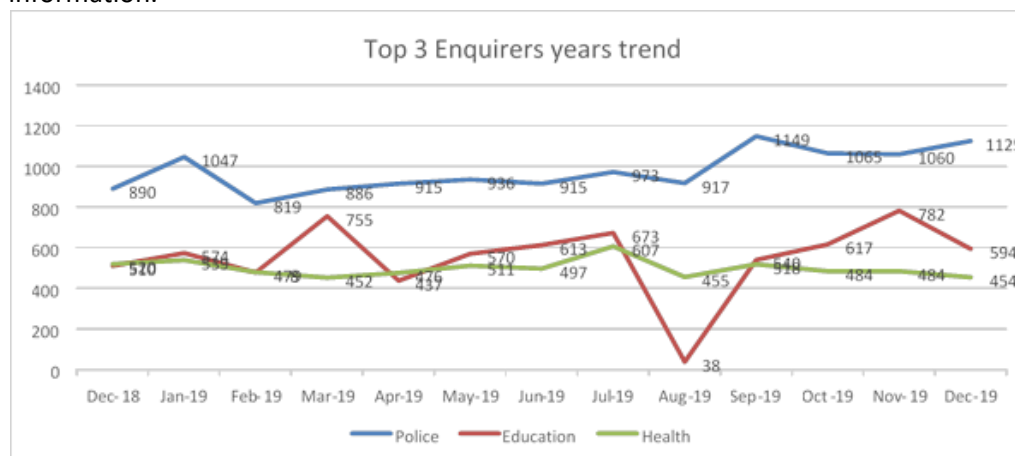


Table 1 – Top Agencies with Referrals to the MASH

2.8 The Children Act 1989, defines a child in need is “a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services, or the child is disabled”. The child in need’s local authority may decide to place the child on a protection plan. This is drawn up during a multi-agency child protection case conference, if the child is believed to be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm. The purpose of the child protection plan is to detail how the child is to be kept safe and what needs to be done to promote a child’s health and

development. Furthermore, the plan needs to detail the ways in which professionals can support the child's family, if involvement would be beneficial for the child's welfare. Table 2 below shows the number of children on child protection plans in Suffolk.

Children on Child Protection Plans (CPP)

	March 2019	March 2018	March 2017
No. of children currently subject to CPP	467	463	438
Rate per 10,000 of Suffolk population	30.2	30.2	29
% of children placed on CPP for the second or subsequent time	21%	20.1%	16.6%
Children ceasing to be subject of CPP	576	534	574

Table 2 - Number of children on child protection plans in Suffolk.

- 2.9 The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of 2019 is marginally higher than year end March 2018 however the rate per 10,000 is lower than our Statistical Neighbours or National figures.
- 2.10 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to investigate where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. This investigation includes an objective assessment of the child's needs, including the risk of abuse and need for protection as well as examining the family's ability to meet these needs. To agree that the threshold for this level of intervention is met, a multiagency strategy threshold discussion is held in MASH. Partners from CYPS, Police and Health take part as well as other relevant professionals involved with the child. If the threshold for S.47 inquiries to be commenced is met this can be conducted by CYPS as a single agency, or jointly with Police if a criminal investigation is necessary and proportionate.
- 2.11 The table below shows 311 cases discussed in MASH during 2019 resulted in an agreed outcome of joint police and CYPS S.47 Investigation. The total amount of child contacts entering MASH during this period was 35738, thus the conversion rate to joint police investigation was 0.87%.

January-June 2019	July – December 2019
129	182

Tables 3 - illustrating the number of joint S.47 Investigations agreed in MASH

- 2.12 In excess of 99% of contacts that arrive in MASH are resolved without the requirement for police investigation. Effective triage by skilled and experienced practitioners allows the appropriate level of intervention to be identified. This ensures the most concerning cases requiring scrutiny by Police and the Local Authority working together are passed to specialist safeguarding officers to investigate. The demand on police officers is therefore manageable due to the extremely low conversion rate of referrals to joint S.47 investigations.
- 2.13 The Missing Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TTCG) continues to focus and review children with frequent missing episodes and those vulnerable to exploitation. This helps to ensure tight coordination of multi-agency response, identification and management of risk. The group discusses ten children with most frequent missing episodes and at the highest risk of harm. Information from each agency is collated in advance to allow data rich and meaningful discussion to aid appropriate decision making.

- 2.14 The impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young persons is well evidenced. CYPS practitioners are aware and supportive of Suffolk Constabulary’s commitment to Positive Action in domestic abused (DA) cases. DA processes in the MASH ensure that these issues are identified and appropriately managed. Op Encompass is the process for informing schools when a DA incident has occurred at a location where a child is ordinarily resident. This allows schools to carefully monitor the children and provide additional support when required. Although many schools in Suffolk had signed the ISA and were receiving notifications, CYPS have recently relaunched a drive for additional subscribers, which has since resulted in over 96% of Suffolk schools receiving DA notifications.
- 2.15 The county’s Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) continue to be attended by CYPS partners to address child safeguarding concerns within cases discussed. Between 1 May 2019 and 31 December 2019, 59% of cases going to Southern MARAC were shown to have links to a child, 49% of cases at Northern MARAC and 51% of cases at Western MARAC. MASH have recently taken responsibility for reviewing MARAC referrals for external agencies in order to identify crimes and ensure Crime Data Integrity (CDI) compliance. The added benefit of this is these cases are now being referred to MASH partners to consider involvement. Work is also ongoing to enhance the DA incident information sharing between MASH police and Child Health, allowing Primary Healthcare Practitioners to carefully monitor and provide an enhanced service to those in need.

Suffolk MARAC Cases involving Children 1 May 2019 – 31 December 2019

	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Total cases	540	382	180
No. of children	679	418	201

Table 4 - Suffolk MARAC Cases involving Children 1 May 2019 – 31 December 2019

- 2.16 CYPS ICT system Liquid Logic is fully embedded in the MASH process, with all partners within the MASH having direct access. This allows access to live safeguarding information and facilitates information sharing via a single secure system. MASH performance data capture remains under review and is an evolving process. MASH police have provided feedback to enhance the value of performance reports in the future and provide meaningful, useful data.
- 2.17 The Constabulary remains the largest enquiring agency for child safeguarding concerns to the MASH accounting for over a third of referrals entering the MASH process. This is a reasonably static figure and is expected as police are frequently the first agency in attendance at the point of crisis. Skilled and experienced MASH police decision makers review each record to decide whether it is a safeguarding concern appropriate to share with CYPS. This initial screening and triage determine around 50% of records do not meet the threshold for CYPS intervention and creates capacity for the most concerning cases to be identified and addressed expeditiously.
- 2.18 Graph 1 below illustrates the number of police referrals into the MASH shared with CYPS and those retained by police. The blue portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which did not meet the threshold for sharing with CYPS as there was no safeguarding concern meeting their criteria for intervention. The red portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which met the threshold and were shared with CYPS as a safeguarding concern. Similarly, the green portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which met the threshold and were shared with ACS (Adult and Community Services) as a safeguarding

concern. As some young people remain open to CYPS services after the age of 18, it is relevant to include this figure.



Graph 1 – Number of police referrals into the MASH shared with CYPS and those retained by police.

- 2.19 Suffolk Constabulary are currently reviewing proven options around behaviour change work with perpetrators of domestic abuse. Once implemented, this would reduce the Adverse Childhood Experiences that so many children are exposed to and assist to keep family units together. The initiative involves working with perpetrators on a one-to-one basis to assist them with any unstable pathways (e.g. alcohol, housing, mental health) and then looks to address their abusive behaviours and the reason behind these behaviours. In the main, pilots in other forces have shown that DA from these perpetrators have ceased and as a result have allowed the family unit to remain together in a safer environment free from abuse.

Multi-Agency Governance – Gangs and Violence Board; Community Safety Partnerships; Gangs Panels

- 2.20 There is a partnership led Governance for the response to County Lines and Youth Gang Violence across Suffolk. The Gangs and Youth Violence Board ensures the coordination of activity delivering against a strategic action plan.
- 2.21 Local Area Community Safety Partnerships (CSP’s) continue to drive the area based multi-agency response to gangs and County Lines, with activity recorded within locally held tactical action plans in the South, West and East. Area Commanders (Superintendents) attend all CSP meetings as statutory partners.
- 2.22 In November 2019 the Western Area CSP held a multi-agency planning event to coordinate its priorities for the forthcoming year. County Lines and Gangs related violence was identified as the partnerships main focus for the next 12 months ensuring that coordinated activity continues and building on the excellent work delivered against the County Strategic Plan. The Southern and Eastern Areas have their CSP planning meetings in early 2020.
- 2.23 County Lines Panels are now in place across all three areas. During this reporting period the West Panel has sat on six occasions, the South on four and the East once. The number of meetings held is due to the fact that the West panel meeting was the first to be created, followed by the South and most recently the East.
- 2.24 Table 5 below indicates the number of occasions that the panels have met, how many cases have been discussed, and how many partner agencies have attended. At each meeting high vulnerability cases are discussed, an owner allocated and agencies required to research and share their information. Chairing the meetings is shared between senior Police Managers and the Gangs and County Lines Manager. The introduction of a national risk matrix to

provide a mechanism to prioritise caseload remains an area for future development subject to cost. Regular attendees at the panel meetings includes: Police, Integrated Offender Management, multi-agency public protection, Probation Service, Health Well-being & Children’s Services, Social Care, Youth Offending, Education and Borough and District Council (not exhaustive). Police involvement in the panels is: to provide an update on the County Lines profile within each area; provide an intelligence profile for each nominated person; consider police tactical options to assist with disruption, and adopt individuals where Police are deemed the most appropriate agency.

	East CLP	South CLP	West CLP
No. of meetings between July – December 2019	1	4	6
No. of cases discussed	10	40	113
Referrals	Social Care – 5 Leaving Care – 3 Others - 2	Social Care – 5 Other partners – 8 Police - 27	Social Care – 22 SYJS – 30 NHS – 6 Police 49 Other partners - 6
No. of closed cases	2	19	40
No. of attendees at meeting	October - 12	July – 15 September – 10 October – 16 November - 11	July – 19 August – 11 September – 15 October – 16 November – 13 December - 17

Table 5 - number of occasions that the County Lines Panels have met

- 2.25 A recent review of the County Lines Panel meetings has reported that the West panel (chaired by the Area Commander) has good partnership buy-in and consequently was deemed to be the most beneficial at dealing with cases that would have otherwise been missed or not discussed elsewhere. This encouraged a more cohesive, joined- up response, with clear actions being taken by one or more of the partners. In the South and East, it was felt that the County Lines Panels duplicate existing forums (e.g. CYP strategy meetings and ASB Case conference). The governance and attendance of the three panel meetings is under periodic review.
- 2.26 To complement the work of the County wide panels, the multi-agency Suffolk Against Gangs Team (SAGE) continues to invest dedicated and highly skilled staff as part of an holistic approach to diversion.
- 2.27 Since implementation the SAGE Team has identified a total of 39 Young People residing in geographical areas within Ipswich deemed to potentially vulnerable to exploitation by the “Nacton Crew” and “Jblock” gangs. All have been assessed as suitable for engagement and diversion activity with the intention to prevent them from actively participating in gangs and gang related activity. The team has employed a variety of tactical options for diversion: -
- 2 were included in the Trauma Recovery Model (TRM) pilot (ongoing)
 - 6 Young People from were included in Pilot 1 of FLATS (Families Learning About Thinking Skills) - (completed)
 - 6 Young People are included in Pilot 2 of FLATS (ongoing)
 - 25 are receiving other interventions (ongoing)

- 2.28 The SAGE team have engaged with this cohort of 39 young people through a persistent and consistent outreach model. The team spends time in the community as well as engaging young people in activities, such as go-carting & gym visits. This approach has the intention of gaining trust of the young person and their family, thereby achieving personal commitment to the programme. This approach means considerably more time is spent engaging with the young people, making interventions personal to the young person and likelihood of success improved. Anecdotal evidence achieved by the SAGE Team suggests that the majority of the SAGE cohort have fewer interactions or contact with the Police following their engagement with SAGE.
- 2.29 The Youth Engagement Team (YET) in Ipswich consists of one Sergeant and six Constables working in partnership with other agencies to engage with vulnerable and exploited young people involved in crime to improve their life choices and social integration, reduce associations with gangs, reduce incidences of serious youth violence & reduce demand on the Constabulary. The team commenced their role on 18 November 2019 and use the Vulnerability Assessment Tracker (VAT) to identify those young people most at risk of gang exploitation, working with partners to engage and mitigate those risks.
- 2.30 As an example of the work they carry out, during December the team issued two Disruption Notices to persons suspected of involvement in Drug dealing; conducted five criminal investigations into young people believed to be concerned in drug dealing; attended three joint agency strategy meetings; issued two Child Abduction Warning Notices; submitted 37 safeguarding referrals; visited four schools as part of ongoing engagement work; submitted 53 items of police intelligence; & reduced missing episodes amongst the VAT cohort by 51%.

Suffolk Youth Offending Service and Suffolk Constabulary Partnership

- 2.31 The Constabulary continues to work with the Suffolk Youth Offending Service (SYOS) to deliver the nationally recognised Youth Diversion scheme. The Diversion Programme focuses on early assessment of young people aged between 10-17 who have, or are, at risk of offending and provides effective intervention to prevent criminalisation. For the period of July 2019 to December 2019, Suffolk Youth Justice Service (SYJS) received 249 crime referrals from the police, 49 of which received a statutory out of court disposal (19.7%). In comparison, between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018, SYJS received 218 crime referrals, 25 of which received a statutory out of court disposal (11.5%). Reminders have been sent to all Suffolk Constabulary staff of the importance of engaging with SYJS at the earliest possible stage in order to reduce first time entrants to the criminal justice process.
- 2.32 The Suffolk Youth Offending Service (SYOS) Diversion programme is now well embedded within schools and is regularly employed by the Schools Liaison officers to refer young people to. Both the Schools Liaison Officers and YOS Police Officers attend a bi-monthly police CYP tactical meeting (Chaired by the NPT West Inspector) at which missed opportunities for diversion are raised. In addition, the NPT West Inspector, YOS officers and the deputy head of YJ services in Suffolk attend a bi-monthly peer benchmarking of cases referred to YOS. This ensures consistency across all three Youth Offending Teams and provides an invaluable platform for learning lessons and sharing best practice.
- 2.33 The Constabulary and SYOS have jointly developed a Protocol to reduce offending and criminalisation of children in care. The agreement has now been agreed by T/ACC Cutler and features within the CYP Delivery Plan.
- 2.34 Delivery of the Constabulary Children and Young People Strategy remains under the governance of the Children and Young People Board chaired by T/ACC Cutler. The meeting is planned on a bi-monthly basis, with participants including SYOS, Supt lead for CYP & the

voluntary sector. Future development is to include representatives from Youth Groups within the County.

3. OPERATIONAL DELIVERY & PREVENTATIVE INITIATIVES

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Missing Children

- 3.1 As has previously been reported, Suffolk Constabulary continues to work closely with the Regional Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Coordinator, the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) and across a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies resulting in a number of proactive operations targeting perpetrators of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child sexual abuse (CSA). Current proactive operations (including Op Ascent locally and Op Aident regionally) actively target perpetrators and are set to be maintained again throughout the year. These link to internal operational activities to identify victims of CSE and provide safeguarding support and assistance whilst targeting suspects.
- 3.2 Since November 2018 to February 2020 Op Ascent has made 36 visits to Sex Workers in relation to their safeguarding and submitted Duty to Notify referrals for 5 adult sex workers who we believe are at risk of exploitation, as all 5 have stated they have no concerns and declined to agree to the National Referral Mechanism. To date we have not encountered or identified any under 18 years sex workers.
- 3.3 From 3 January 2019 to 19 January 2020 the Constabulary has engaged in 21 covert operations, alongside the region (OP Excalibur), where adults have attempted to engage in sexual communication with a child. To date, there have been five court convictions and 10 investigations are on-going.
- 3.4 Op Bane is another covert operation within Norfolk and Suffolk, used to target those who share Indecent Images of Children. In 2019 there were 12 investigations involving persons located by this method in Suffolk, of those 2 have been charged, 8 investigations are on-going and 2 were No Further Action.
- 3.5 Between 1 February 2019 and 26 January 2020 there were 3527 recorded missing reports. The reports related to 1788 different persons, 843 of which were children. Should this current trend continue it is an increase yearly of missing records in their entirety and those involving children. It is widely recognised by professionals and through review of high profile CSE cases that missing episodes increase the risk of sexual exploitation for the children involved. There has been a partnership wide investment in the completion of 'return to home interviews' which has seen much higher completion rates and analysis of the information has provided a richer understanding of the issues than has previously been achieved. The details of these interviews are now attached to the relevant compact record. Furthermore, the sharing of information between the police and CYPS continues to improve and police now see the content of a CYPS Return interview. Records of the return home interviews are kept by Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) and can be seen below in table 6.

01 April 2019 – 31-01-2020:

To date of the Return Home Interviews offered to young people 76% have been completed. 11% of young people refused a Return Home Interview offered to them.

Return Home Interview completed	1025
Return Home Interview completed by Independent Agency (ACT)	90
Child refused to engage with Return Home Interview	155

Return Home Interview not offered due to child placed in Suffolk by another Local Authority	195
Return Home Interview not offered following review/assessment by MASH	191
Return Home Interview not offered following review/assessment by Practice Manager	327
No Return Home Interview completed on Liquid Logic	201
Total	2184

Table 6 – Return Home Interviews undertaken by CYPs

3.6 Operation Hydrant is the national coordinating response to historic allegations of child sexual abuse linked to prominent individuals or institutions. The Constabulary continues to receive referrals from Operation Hydrant. For the period 1 January 2019 to 1 July 2019 eighteen new referrals were received. From 2 July to 31 December 2019 nine further referrals were received with 5 in August.

3.7 Both through the Safer and Stronger Communities Group (SSCG) and the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP), the Constabulary is engaging with partners to tackle child and vulnerable adult exploitation, particularly relating to gangs and groups involving drugs and County Lines. These groups are working with the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre who have developed a new County Lines Vulnerability Tool (CLVT) which helps in identifying and assessing new information relating to children and vulnerable adults who are criminally exploited for use in county lines or local drug dealing. The tool creates a single vulnerable cohort repository which Suffolk Constabulary and partners can use to inform a coordinated safeguarding response, and also better understand their strategic picture of County Lines vulnerability.

3.8 The ‘disruption toolkit’ continues to be used to good effect by front line police officers and professionals as a directory of available tactical options for dealing with CSE. This includes advice and guidance of several pieces of rarely used legislation that can be used in tackling this criminality. This has recently been amended to incorporate best practice from other national documents.

Child Sexual Abuse and Online Investigation

3.9 As previously reported it should be noted that numbers of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) offences reported to police continues to increase year on year in Suffolk. This is believed to be due to increased confidence of victims to report based on media coverage of a number of high-profile cases. The increases correspond with the start of Operation Yewtree (Saville investigation), and continue to spike with further national/international news (FA coaches/Harvey Weinstein). This position is replicated nationally. However, this may have started to plateau as Suffolk has seen a slight (-3%) reduction in CSA over the last 12 months.

3.10 From 1 January to 30 June 2019 there were 677 reported investigations that carry a child abuse flag. From 1 July to 31 December 2019 there were 530, the total for the year being 1207.

3.11 In respect of full criminal investigations, including Indecent Images of Children (IIOC), over the same period there have been 401 investigations leading to 111 arrests.

3.12 From 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 there have been 73 Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) investigations undertaken, an increase of nearly 50% on the previous year for the same period. At least 95% of these investigations resulted in a court case and conviction.

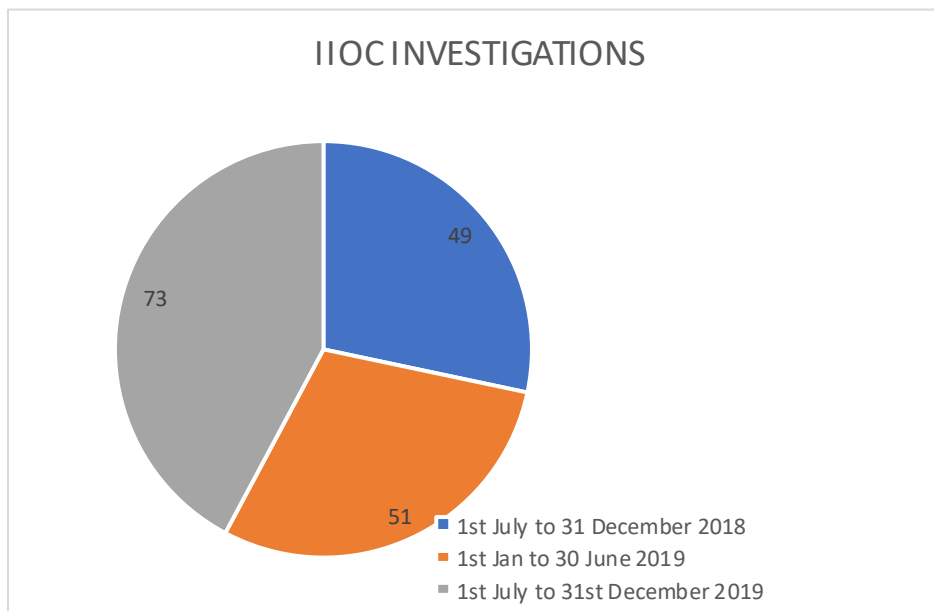


Chart 1 – Number of Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) Investigations

3.13 Significant work has been undertaken in the area of IIOC to assist in dealing with increased demand. The unit itself has been re branded to become the Internet Child Abuse Investigation Team (ICAIT) to better reflect the investigative role played by the staff on the team. Having created a dedicated supervisor post work has been completed to recruit two additional police staff posts within the ICAIT team to assist with the grading of IIOC, conducting the Victim Identification role and completing more of the grading of IIOC for the Constabulary. The victim identification officers will:

- view and categorise IIOC, in line with the national grading policy;
- Work to identify persons in first generation images or images believed to have been taken by the suspect or their associates;
- This will entail identifying the victims from facial or distinctive marks, scars or any other method to enable the victim to be traced;
- Working to identify the location and premises the picture has been taken in;
- Identifying other persons in the images by using the same means as in identifying the victim;
- Maintaining close liaison and cooperation with other forces and external agencies in relation to the gathering and preparation of evidence, interviewing witnesses and supporting the safety of victims.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

3.14 The increased capacity of two child clinics a week allows the SARC to provide medical examination for approximately 100 children aged below 13, every year. The environment has been designed to be as welcoming as possible, features a distraction unit in the medical room, along with an exceptionally well stocked playroom that also includes specialist sensory items for those with additional needs. The uptake of referral into the child SARC has remained static at 14 (under 13's) during both this and the previous half year, despite the extra clinical provision. This is a concern, as overall, referrals into the SARC have increased. These figures equate to only 5.69% of total referrals into the SARC, a decrease of 1.75% on the previous half year. It is believed this may be attributable to professionals being confused by the referral pathway. This is being addressed with a new, simpler format for child referrals and a series of training events to social care teams, delivered by the SARC manager and Mountain Healthcare.

- 3.15 The uptake of young people aged 13 to 17 has however increased by 22% on the previous six months. The introduction of a non-restrictive referral criteria to the ISVA service has resulted in an increase in such referrals of 62.48% on the previous year. Each of the 9 ISVAs support both adult and child cases whilst also actively engaging in preventative work such as providing workshops at schools and youth groups. The relationship between the SARC and Voluntary sector partners is progressing positively. The Operational Group is at full complement and together with the newly formed Stakeholder Group, will be instrumental in forming services that reflect the demand of children and young people within Suffolk

Schools Liaison & CYP engagement

- 3.16 School Liaison PCSOs have increased in establishment by 1.5 posts providing an extra position in the South where the demands are the highest, with an additional 0.5 post earmarked for the West yet to be recruited to. Supervision is coordinated on a shared basis between the individual's line manager and the West NPT Sgt and Inspector. The Schools Officers meet with the NPT West Inspector on a bi-monthly basis to share best practice and ensure that activity is coordinated and aligned with CYP strategic Delivery.
- 3.17 The Schools engagement strategy was launched in September under the banner of "OneCopStop". The initial proposal to focus on secondary schools has since been expanded to include all Primary schools in Suffolk. Marketing material has been designed and produced and the school visits are underway. At the time of writing the following number of schools have been visited under the OneCopStop initiative –

- West – 81 visits
- South - 161 visits
- East – 15 visits*

*It should be noted that at present not all visits are being recorded by the SLO's/SNT staff and therefore the numbers above are less than the reality. Accurate record keeping is being addressed.

- 3.18 In order to maximise the effective focus of police resources to those schools with the highest prevalence of vulnerable young people, a review of the Constabularies initial RAG rating is being conducted in partnership with Suffolk County Council. This will be an evolving process thus reflecting the changing risks often associated with schools. It is anticipated that the latest assessment will be completed by March 2020.
- 3.19 New guidance has been circulated to all schools in Suffolk. The guidance covers areas which have been reported by schools as confusing such as the difference between "crime" and "intelligence". The guidance has been very well received with positive feedback provided. The guidance includes flow charts to assist schools in understanding reporting processes whilst also offering an opportunity to mitigate unnecessary demands upon both the Police and Schools. This guidance pre-dates new 2020 national guidance which will be assessed and circulated at an appropriate point in the future.
- 3.20 A new two-way intelligence sharing process has been instigated by the Constabularies Intelligence Directorate. Responding to feedback from local schools it was identified that on occasion schools do not pass intelligence on to Police and equally the Constabulary are not always effective at sharing information of suspicious activity occurring within the geographical area of more than one school. Consequently, the intelligence directorate have shared their contact details with all Suffolk schools and the directorate are now sharing relevant intelligence with schools.

- 3.21 Op Mario is a new joint Police and Suffolk County Council initiative introduced in the West. It is focussed on young people who are elective home educated or absent from school due to exclusion. These young people are identified as more vulnerable to County Lines exploitation. This initiative is currently exploring how to identify such young people and to put in place effective mechanisms to protect them from exploitation. In due course, this will be rolled out to the South and East.
- 3.22 Suffolk Constabulary have now met for the first of several planned meetings with the County Council and Schools representatives to move four key Police messages onto the PSHE curriculum – County Lines; Knife Crime; Online safety and Healthy Relationships. This initiative will deliver the benefit of reducing police delivery and therefore less demand on police resources, whilst also making discussions more regular and meaningful within the educational environment. This piece of work is being delivered by the West NPT Inspector.
- 3.23 However, until the work at 3.24 is delivered, as an interim measure the Constabulary recognises the importance of providing our staff with the correct skills to deliver inputs to students. A “presenter” training package based on College of Policing best practice has been developed by the Constabularies Learning and Development Department. Two training sessions have thus far equipped 16 staff with these valuable additional skills, with a further two sessions planned for January and February 2020.
- 3.24 To support the important work of raising awareness amongst young people of the risks of County Lines, and to provide local relevance to Suffolk, the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) for the murder investigation which convicted Kieran Hayward (Operation Kirkley) is currently working in collaboration with Insp Martin to develop a learning package from an SIO’s perspective. It is anticipated that the package will be completed and ready for delivery to schools in Suffolk within the next reporting period.
- 3.25 An excellent opportunity is underway to promote improved engagement with children and young people. The Western Assembly of Youth (WAY) is a network of 30 High Schools within West Suffolk. The Assembly meet on a bi-monthly basis with an appointed chair and deputy. Collectively they have identified broad thematic areas of concern and to which they would like to focus collective energy and action (such as mental health and the environment). One such area relates to personal safety and violence linked to knife crime and County Lines.
- 3.26 The Western Area Commander has met with the chair and vice chair of WAY with a view to developing improved engagement opportunities between the Constabulary and Children and Young People in Suffolk. The chair and vice chair have been offered a place at the Constabularies CYP Governance Board giving them the opportunity to have the voice of young people heard. In addition, they have agreed to develop a survey to be sent to representatives across the 30 schools, and covering a variety of topics. Whilst the intention is for the young people to steer the conversation into areas they are interested in, suggested areas for exploration include - “What makes you feel safe in your community?”; “Does increased Police presence increase or decrease your feeling of safety?”; “How can the Police better engage and communicate with CYP?”; “What factors would increase or decrease your confidence in the Police?”; “What impact do you think Stop Search has on crime?”; “How can the police effectively prevent young people carrying knives?”; “How can the Police better communicate the message of the dangers of County Lines?”. Once the survey is concluded the Chair and Vice Chair will attend the CYP Board and present their findings.
- 3.27 In addition, the WAY group are keen to work on developing a Child Friendly version of the current Suffolk Constabulary CYP Strategy. It is anticipated that this will be completed within the next reporting period.

- 3.28 Under development is a Suffolk Child Centred Conference to be hosted at Suffolk Police Headquarters, with primary attendance aimed at Young People, as well as Police and partner agencies. The intention is to take the results of the survey referred to at 3.21 above and have a combination of plenary sessions and presentations, concluding with a question and answer forum hosted by young people. It is suggested that the panel might include; the Chief Constable; the Police Crime Commissioner; a senior leader from NSFT; a senior leader from within Suffolk County Council; the Chief Executive of one of Suffolk's District Councils and a senior leader from within Education. The panel will provide Young People in Suffolk with the opportunity to hold senior leaders to task over their delivery of services aimed at Young People, whilst offering service providers an engagement opportunity.
- 3.29 The liaison posts & SNT youth Link Officers continue to develop, support and engage with a number of initiatives around youth and knife crime including 'Crucial Crew' and support of the Constabulary Operation Sceptre (knife amnesty). 2019 "Crucial Crew" has now been completed in all three command areas capturing every year 6 child in the County (estimated at approximately 7000 – 8000 children). Material delivered has focussed on raising awareness and safety messages associated with County Lines & Knife Crime and feedback regarding the Police involvement has been overwhelmingly positive. Suffolk Constabulary will continue to support this extremely important youth education programme in 2020.
- 3.30 Work is underway to enhance the collaborative arrangements between the Constabulary and Higher Education Institutes in Suffolk. An internship programme in partnership with the University of Suffolk has been agreed with the first cohort planned for 2020.
- 3.31 Closer working relationships are being developed with West Suffolk College and the One College in Ipswich. These two colleges have a student population of approximately 17,000 – 20,000. An initial scoping meeting has taken place between Superintendent West and the Vice Principal at which numerous potential areas of mutual working have been identified including (not exhaustive) –
- Improved engagement with young people, building on the Suffolk Constabulary in-house "OneCopStop" initiative which is being rolled out across all schools in Suffolk.
 - Developing opportunities for young people to influence policing priorities by making their voice heard via forums and Student Councils. Incorporating those opinions within operations, force policy and engagement strategies thus developing our legitimacy.
 - Engaging with teaching staff at the College and obtaining advice as to the most effective means for Police to engage with young people thereby increasing Police legitimacy.
 - Increased accessibility & visibility of the Suffolk Constabulary within West Suffolk College (WSC) & associated premises. This will include exploration of part/fully funded PCSO posts (note – to include options of moving away from the historic atypical purpose of a PCSO i.e. maximising visibility to more innovative roles).
 - Provision of Police surgeries within WSC premises providing advice, guidance and driving crime prevention initiatives (see below).
 - Support the WSC in crime prevention initiatives such as passive drugs dog & anti-knife crime operations (amnesties/knife arch/stop search/intelligence sharing).
 - Attendance at Uniform Services courses, to enrich the education delivered, whilst maximising the opportunity for publicising recruitment into the Suffolk Constabulary as either Police Officer, Police Staff or volunteer.
 - Provision of Police seized vehicles to assist with College apprentice training programmes such as motor mechanics.
 - Early identification of young people at risk of exploitation to drugs, county lines and broader criminality via close engagement between Police and College Pastoral Support Teams and effective intelligence and information sharing. Sign-posting vulnerable persons to third party prevention programmes such as "Turning Point".

- Develop the College’s participation in wider crime prevention collaborative working such as the Western Area Community Safety Partnership and the County Lines Education programme being delivered in collaboration with High Schools, Police and partner agencies.

Next steps – the Western Area Commander and Deputy Principal of the College will meet regularly to develop each of the strands above, whilst also looking at what is being delivered elsewhere nationally and adopting additional work streams if necessary. It is proposed that the most appropriate governance structure for overseeing the above is via the Constabularies internal CYP Board currently chaired by T/ACC Cutler, with the majority of the work being delivered via the West NPT (Inspector Martin and Sgt Webster), with an audit trail of activity captured via the Constabulary’s CYP delivery plan.

- 3.32 The national document ‘Police in the classroom: a handbook for the police and PSHE teachers has been disseminated across the Schools Liaison Officers and Neighbourhood partnership team and provides guidance on working with schools.

Area Command Highlight Report

South

- 3.33 The Ipswich West Safer Neighbourhood Team have been working in partnership with the Co-op, Suffolk County Council, and Ipswich Borough Council over the past 3 years on a summer project to combat ASB in the Chantry estate. The project is sports & engagement focussed and has brought together 43 children who have been identified as at risk of causing Anti-Social Behaviour. The children have received intensive resources including; specialist support, engagement with a variety of agencies, education material and sign posting to broader multi-agency family support where necessary. This initiative has been hugely successful - during the summer of 2019 it led to 72% reduction in ASB in the Chantry Estate, and indeed it has been so successful that opportunities for roll-out elsewhere in Suffolk and also in Essex, are being explored.
- 3.34 The Southern Area Schools Link PC Lori Harvey has been involved with a mock court project involving young people. The aim is to provide young people with skills in advocacy, building confidence and self-esteem whilst improving their knowledge of the court and legal system. Additional benefits include de-mystifying the court process, leading to greater witness participation in adulthood and a reduction in victims withdrawing their support for police prosecution. The court competition is scripted and run by Judge Overbury and has been attended by 22 Suffolk Schools to date. The students are allocated parts, learning it before their day in the crown court which is overseen by the clerks and the Judge, with a “final” to be held in March 2020. The lead for CYP will be developing this initiative with a view to increasing school participation.
- 3.35 The hugely successful national Kickoff@3 event will be supported by Suffolk Constabulary again in 2020 with the next event planned for Saturday 25th April at Whitton Sports Centre. It is anticipated that attendance this year will improve on the previous event which attracted approximately 140 young people between the ages of 13-16, supported by family, friends, school teachers and a range of individuals from public sector and community organisations. Police, members of the RAF, local businesses, youth organisations, Council representatives, Suffolk FA staff members, referees, staff from Positive Futures steering group and VIP guests will all be invited. The NPT will also be exploring opportunities for invitational teams from across the County, especially from areas of social deprivation.
- 3.36 Another excellent initiative which is being co-ordinated in the South is “Jab-Not-Stab.” The concept is to identify young people assessed as at risk of exploitation by gangs via the application of the vulnerability assessment index. Those young people are offered weekly

Thai boxing classes providing them with self-discipline, determination, commitment and improved self-esteem. The first course has recently concluded with 4 young people attending 12 weekly sessions. Whilst this appears to be a very modest number, it is important to note that the initial course uptake was 8 young people, and the view of those that coordinated the sessions was that a 50% completion rate was very positive. A certificate of attendance was given to each candidate as recognition of their commitment. The results of this initiative are exceptional - one example cited that there was a reported significant reduction in missing episodes leading to a significant reduction in demand for the Constabulary & reduced risk for the young person. In addition, Social Services have reported that following recent involvement from the police and several Safeguarding Referrals one of the young people was deemed to be at very high risk of grooming and exploitation by criminal gangs. He was reluctant to accept any support from Children and Young People Services and would present as unwilling to converse with professionals or parents and following several disruptive behaviours in school he was permanently excluded. This young person successfully completed the "Jab-Not-Stab" programme. He reportedly engaged, and took great enjoyment from each session, improved his self-confidence and cut ties with the criminal gang. He now engages with professionals and, most importantly he has been eager to return to school. This young person now enjoys talking about his future and demonstrates as a more mature young person. 2 of the 4 students have since joined a boxing club on a full-time basis with unlimited access to the club for 3 months (their first session 20/01/2020) which has been funded by Social Services. This initiative has much scope for wider roll-out across the County and this will be explored during 2020.

- 3.37 Ipswich Cycle Project - cycling is one of the most popular and fast developing sports in the country with many different disciplines which include road, mountain, BMX, cyclo-cross and many more. Recognising this as an opportunity for improved youth engagement, the Ipswich SNT and Youth Gang Team are trialling an initiative focussing on cycling. The team have approached a new bike park called Twisted Oaks in Brightwell. The team have purchased 4 memberships at the park and the Constabulary have provided 2 cycles for the young people to use. The team identified a young person who was frequently going missing deemed at high risk of gang exploitation, but who appeared to have an interest in bikes. The young person agreed to participate. The officer and young person have attended the venue twice so far under supervised cycle sessions with further visits planned. The team have also negotiated with a local cycle shop to facilitate voluntary work amounting to 4 hours per week. The team have provided cycles seized by the police to allow the young person to develop their cycle mechanic skills, stripping and building a cycle for him to use in a cycle event. This has provided the young person with invaluable skills for possible future employment. In summary, it is suggested that by broadening this initiative there are multiple potential benefits including; breaking down barriers between the young person and the police, developing life skills, building relationships between the officer and the young person and improving trust and confidence amongst a hard to reach group within our community. Due to the success of this initial limited trial, plans are underway to expand, initially within Ipswich, but potentially across the County, exploring funding opportunities, and seeking to persuade companies to donate their services for discounted fees or free. Of note – the team have established contact with the Lee Valley Olympic Park with a view to exploring mutual collaboration, as well as British Cycling (East) who are looking at potential redevelopment work in the east of Ipswich. Anecdotally, the team have reported that they have seen a genuine improvement in this young man's attitude towards life, and he is learning to control his anger in a more positive manner.

West

- 3.38 As part of the wider engagement programme coordinated by the Western Area Community Safety Partnership it became clear that whilst there is excellent coordinated activity to educate young people in West Suffolk in respect of gangs and county lines, this information

is often not shared by the young people with their parents. Consequently, a parents' briefing session was organised at West Suffolk College attracting significant media and public interest. This resulted in over 400 parents attending and being provided with a County Lines briefing, followed by an update as to the local impact and finally a Question and Answer session hosted by the Western Area Superintendent. Feedback was extremely positive and due to the huge demand a further session was organised in January 2020 at which a further 300 parents attended. Further sessions are planned in Newmarket, Haverhill, Sudbury and Stowmarket throughout 2020. This model of delivery will be shared with all of Suffolk's Community Safety Partnerships with a view to delivering across Suffolk.

- 3.39 Between July – December 2019 44 young people were referred into the Western Area County Lines Panel meeting. Each case was researched by all agencies and an assessment made as to whether the Child or Young Persons was deemed as at risk of being involved in County Lines. For those cases where a direct link was made the chair (Western Area Superintendent) allocates to the lead agency, and all present agree the most appropriate tactical options. Whilst the County Lines Panel is still relatively new in creation the overwhelming feedback of partner agencies is that it provides an invaluable opportunity to mitigate the risk to young people and fills a current gap which is not addressed in existing partnership arrangements. Next steps for the West panel include receiving training as to multi-agency tactical options to better target resources, and a visit is planned to an out of force area to review their gangs panel arrangement with a view to improving our own. The West panel will continue to meet monthly during 2020.
- 3.40 Since the previous report, locally commissioned operations to tackle youth related anti-social behaviour with links to drugs and violence have proved very successful with the majority being de-commissioned due to significant reductions in crime and ASB. Examples of recently de-commissioned operations include Operation Manville (Haverhill) and Operation Romsley (Stowmarket). The blueprint for these operations remains available for future use with increased police activity able to be stood up at short notice.
- 3.41 Anti-social behaviour linked to CYP has also improved significantly in Newmarket Town Centre. However, this operation was commissioned as a result of the activation of a community trigger by the town council. Whilst massive improvements have been made, ASB is not yet at a level which would justify reducing direct police activity and consequently, Operation Brendon remains in place. This operation consists of an increase in high visibility foot patrols in the town centre with officers engaging with local businesses and young people alike, and taking positive action to disrupt and deter. In December 2019 officers dedicated 50 hours to these patrols and 10 young people involved in ASB have been referred to the West Gangs panel for multi-agency intervention. Activities have included; early referral to Youth Offending Services providing opportunity for prevention and diversion; family support via social services; educational support to encourage attendance at school. 6 Young People have either been prosecuted or have cases pending with the CPS. As a result of this activity the Community Trigger, due for review in March, is likely to be closed. The team have reported that local businesses, politicians & the Community are all satisfied with the positive police approach and that ASB in the town centre and specifically the Guineas shopping centre, has returned to normal.
- 3.42 The use of Pulse patrols throughout the West has escalated and is now well imbedded as a police tactic. Each locality has a designated area typically linked to higher than usual incidents of significant crime and disorder such as robbery and burglary, and such areas receive much increased visible policing and targeted use of tactics such as stop and search. Whilst not exclusively focussed on Children and Young People this cohort frequently feature within such intelligence and therefore are subject of police activity. In December officers in the West delivered 216 hours of targeted patrol within pulse patrol areas.

- 3.43 A new Police and Partner agency Schools Safeguarding meeting has been created in West Suffolk with Police as a key agency. The meeting is designed to build effective working relationships between Police and DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) enabling the Constabulary to share current trends in terms of County Lines activity, and foster the sharing of good practice amongst the schools themselves. This initiative will be evaluated with a view to establishing the merit of wider roll-out across the County.

East

- 3.44 The East Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) are currently working in partnership with the East Suffolk Communities Team (Waveney District Council) in rolling out Crucial Crew Plus to all 9 High Schools for years 9-11 and looking to expand into 6th Forms. The inputs are designed to be hard-hitting and involves partners and those in the third and voluntary sectors. The initial feedback from High schools and pupils has been very positive and will also overlap with Op Sceptre as the focus for delivery is a compelling input around knives and county lines. Raising awareness and helping young people to feel safer in their community.
- 3.45 The NPT & Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are working with the Lowestoft Communities Team and running a series of events over half-term for youth diversion around music making and boxing. These were really positively received at the previous event they held on the Whitton Estate in response to the issues of ASB with rising community tension and concerns resulting from youths causing criminal damage, assaults, and thefts from shops. Initial tactics involved identification and prosecution/YOT referrals, engagement with the offenders, and use of Community Protection Notices (CPNs) supplemented with the community music making and boxing initiative.
- 3.46 The East NPT Inspector is attending the Waveney Youth Parliament with a view to establishing closer working & to identify issues for young people which lead to fear of crime as this was highlighted as one of the Youth Parliaments main areas of concerns in 2019. This work will feed into the CYP Governance Board and the Children and Young People Conference referred to above.
- 3.47 The East NPT are also providing a positive presence at up and coming Careers Fair's in Lowestoft, providing recruitment and crime prevention advice to young people and their families.

Volunteer Police Cadet and Emergency Services Cadet Scheme

- 3.48 The Volunteer Police and Emergency Services Cadet scheme currently has 154 cadets across the county and a waiting list of 78 potential new recruits. There is still a need for further Police Officer Cadet Leaders and ongoing recruitment campaign is in place. There are currently 8 active Cadet Units throughout the county, made up of 5 Police Cadet Units and 3 Emergency Services Cadet Units.
- 3.49 There are currently 59 Leaders supporting Suffolk Emergency Services Cadets, some working occasionally within their set shift patterns and some volunteering weekly. There are 30 Police Officer/Staff Cadet Leaders who volunteer their time to support the Cadet Scheme, and 18 Specials/PSV Cadet Leaders, 11 of these being ex Cadets who have returned to the Scheme as Volunteers, wishing to give something back to a scheme which for themselves provided a safe and fun environment to develop as a young person. Our 3 Joint Emergency Services Units are also supported by 11 Fire Cadet Leaders in addition to the Police Cadet Leaders.
- 3.50 The Suffolk Police Cadets have continued to attend engagement activities across the county during this reporting period. Events attended include the Suffolk Show, Latitude music

festival, The Constabulary family fun day, Ed Sheeran, Bury Christmas Fayre, several town Carnivals and the Suffolk County Show and there was a large attendance of Cadets at the recent PRIDE march. The Ipswich & Martlesham Cadets recently completed the 'Ring Campaign' in the Ipswich area, supplying and fitting Specialist domestic alarms for the vulnerable and elderly giving crime reduction advice. All cadet units have provided support to their local community with social action projects such as crime prevention advice, bike tagging, litter pick, visiting the elderly, gardening projects and more. They Cadets continue to support local charity fund raising, such as 'My Wish' through the Soapbox race. There is an additional focus on safeguarding arrangements within cadet groups nationally and the Constabulary is working to ensure it is fully compliant with national guidance. The Cadets annual camp was held at Police Headquarters on 13th and 14th July 2019. All units came together to learn further valuable policing skills, formulated in workshops, competitions and challenges and then enjoyed an overnight camp with a formal parade for Parents to finalise the event.

- 3.51 The majority of the cadet units took part in summer camps, with several visiting Thorpe Woodlands. The Ipswich and Martlesham Unit took their cadets to Wales and climbed Snowdon. The cadets gained skills of map reading, mountain climbing, team work, cooking and life skills. The camps and many other activities ran in the cadet sessions has helped overcome any fears such as heights, confidence and anxiety.
- 3.52 In 2019 the High Sherriff nominated 2 of our Ipswich cadets as her High Sherriff Cadets, who then accompanied her on events across the County. The High Sherriff and other Local Dignities along with Chief Officers attended the Cadets Annual Parade in January at Woodbridge School awarding Merit awards to those outstanding cadets.
- 3.53 The Constabulary is maintaining support for enrolments onto the free qualification, BTEC Level 2 in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community, making this available to all of the Cadets aged 16 and over, thus ensuring the educational value of the scheme. The cadets also receive first aid training within their time as a cadet, dementia friends training and Public Awareness training which has recently been introduced this year. In addition to this there has also been a focus on leader training to help support and provide leaders with additional skills. Suffolk Constabulary hosted the regional cadet conference in November and plan to hold further training events for leaders.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The potential financial implications, referenced in the September 2018 APP paper, in relation to the restructure of local safeguarding arrangements remain. At this time there has been no further request for funding, and current funding arrangements remain the same. Financial implication connected to the Domestic Abuse hub model also remain unknown.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 5.1 Demand relating to child protection and CSE continues to rise in keeping with national trends. It is anticipated this will continue to be the case as more hidden harm is identified and professionals become more experienced in the recognition of CSE/ CSA. The increase will provide ongoing challenges to the managers and practitioners charged with providing a service to this most vulnerable group of the community.