

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO: AP21/14

SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – 5 MARCH 2021

SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE PRIORITIES MONITORING REPORT – 1 JAN 2020 TO 31 DEC 2020

SUMMARY:

1. This report shows the Constabulary's performance between January 2020 and December 2020 against some of the Police and Crime Commissioner's performance priorities.
2. A summary of the actions being taken to improve or maintain performance is included for each priority area.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to consider the report and provide comments to inform future performance monitoring reports.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

General Overview

- 1.1. This report is based upon the performance priorities set within the Police and Crime Plan. It shows performance for the period from 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020 unless otherwise stated.
- 1.2. The paper details each priority in turn and makes an assessment of performance against the three-year average. In addition to this, and where appropriate, comparison is made with other police forces or national averages.
- 1.3. The report provides an overview against each priority and an outline of the action being taken to improve or maintain performance.

Executive Summary

- 1.4 Suffolk remains a safe county with low crime rates. Despite significant increases in policing demand, performance is being maintained in most areas. The public still have confidence to report, and a lot of work has gone into making this happen. Suffolk's performance is consistent when compared against similar forces (by size, demographic or demand profile), regional forces and nationally.
- 1.5 The Constabulary responded to more emergency incidents within target in the last year compared to the previous three-year average, with 91.8% of emergency incidents attended within target. The number of 999 calls also rose in the last 12 months (0.9%) compared to the previous three years. The average time to answer 999 calls is 6.1 seconds.
- 1.6 Police recorded domestic abuse in the last 12 months was 20.2% higher than the average of the previous three years. Rolling 12 months figures have breached the upper range of normal fluctuation since July 2020. Police recorded serious sexual offences in the last 12 months was 1.1% lower than the average of the previous three years. Both of these offence types are believed to be under-reported. Suffolk Constabulary has been actively encouraging victims to report crimes of domestic abuse and serious sexual offences either directly or via third parties. This and the implications of social restrictions are expected to have had an impact on the volume of domestic abuse.
- 1.7 Challenges remain in respect of solved rates in domestic abuse crimes (4.2 percentage points lower than the three-year average), Violence with Injury 3.4 percentage points lower than the three-year average) and Violence without Injury (3.9 percentage points lower than the three-year average). However, there has been a slight increase in the solved rate for serious sexual offences (1.0 percentage points higher than the three-year average).
- 1.8 In a number of crime types, a significant number of victims are not able, for a variety of reasons, to support the police investigation. This is particularly evident for domestic abuse and serious sexual offences where 50.3% and 57.9% are not ready to support the police investigation, respectively.
- 1.9 It is expected that the national lockdowns and changing social restrictions associated with Covid has impacted the volume of crime reported since April 2020.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. The performance of the Constabulary is largely dependent on the level of available resources to tackle each of the priority areas. In the current financial climate every effort is being made to maintain front line policing and ensure performance against these priorities can be maintained or improved.
- 2.2. The Constabulary has a robust financial planning process that ensures it is able to match resources to demand and prioritises towards threat, risk and harm. Recent changes to the local policing model and the additional resource arising from increases to the policing element of the council tax precept will increase capacity and capability to tackle those issues that are most important to our communities.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 3.1 Covid-19 has had an impact on demand within particular offence types. There has been an increase in police recorded domestic abuse. With the ongoing social restrictions, it is not known how long this will continue to impact offence volumes.