

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY – 15 APRIL 2010

SOUTH EAST COLLABORATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TREASURER

Background

- 1.1 The purpose of collaboration between police forces and police authorities is to achieve more effective and efficient delivery of policing service. This process is governed by Section 23 of the Police Act 1996, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- 1.2 The South East Region Collaboration Programme involves the forces of Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley. Although Kent are a member force of the south east ACPO region, they continue to pursue collaborative opportunities with Essex and remain partially involved with the South East in respect of developing a new model to tackle Serious and Organised Crime.
- 1.3 Programme governance structures are fully in place within the region. Executive lead is provided by the Oversight Board involving police authority Chairs and Chief Executives, the Chief Constables and Deputy Chief Constables and any other lead officer representation as required.
- 1.4 This board is supported by the Enabling Board which consists of the DCCs and the ACC Board which consists of the ACC's with responsibility for protective services and specialist operational resources. A number of other heads of service regional boards support this structure including; Directors of Finance, Human resources and Heads of IS.
- 1.5 The Central Programme Team are jointly funded by the four forces. The team base is at Slaugham, where five staff (including a Surrey officer) are based with a further two full time field officers in Hampshire and Thames Valley. In addition to these seven staff, a Director of Forensic Services has been appointed; working from Thames Valley with an NPIA funded ISIS Delivery Manager starting in April. Other staff are seconded only when necessary to support the CPT and generally on a part time basis.
- 1.6 The individual collaborative projects are governed on a lead force basis. A lead force and chief officer is identified to lead the collaboration options through to a business case and eventual Section 23 agreement. The Section 23 agreement is the legal document that needs to be signed by each Police Authority Chair and Chief Executive before the recommendations can be implemented. Following sign off an implementation manager within the lead force will then take the project to delivery and realise the benefits.
- 1.7 Monitoring arrangements will be through the Oversight Board with regular reports to Police Authority monitoring and scrutiny committees.

South East Region Response to Level 2 Serious and Organised Crime/ SERIU/RART

- 2.1 Following the publication of the Home Office report "Extending Our Reach: A comprehensive approach to tackling Serious and Organised Crime" and subsequent letter from the Home Secretary dated 5 November 2009, police forces are required to establish a Serious and Organised Crime model in their region, capable of providing a permanent response to organised crime. One-off funding of £1.1 million has been made available to the South East. This is to incorporate the setting up of a Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART).
- 2.2 At the South East ACPO Meeting on 8 October 2009 it was agreed to set up a Serious and Organised Crime model, incorporating an extended South East Regional Intelligence Unit (SERIU) and new RART. This would be based on a Task Force model with an aspiration to develop in the future to a dedicated unit.
- 2.3 Detective Superintendent Jacqui Griffiths (Sussex) has been identified as regional lead for developing the new South East Serious and Organised Crime model, supported by the Central Programme Team. This work will be co-ordinated by ACC Olivia Pinkney (Sussex) as lead Chief Officer for SOC in the South East region.
- 2.4 Good progress in relation to the RART is being made. Interim accommodation has been identified. A small project team are progressing the setting up of the RART. Supervisors have been appointed. The unit will have five police staff, five police officers and a financial intelligence officer, most of whom have now been chosen from the rigorous recruitment process and await start dates pending vetting and release from their current force/organisation. In addition, the CPS has been appointed a lawyer for the RART.
- 2.5 Further options are being developed to consider how the enforcement element of the SOC response will be progressed. This is likely to require further investment and a costed business case is being prepared.

Witness Protection/Covert Unit/Technical Support

- 3.1 The Oversight Board on 14 January 2010 signed the first Section 23 agreements, giving approval for the implementation of a regional Witness Protection Unit, led by Hampshire Police, regional Covert Unit, led by Surrey Police and a regional Technical Support Unit, led by Thames Valley Police.
- 3.2 The funding of these agreements is aligned to the Home Office funding formula while ensuring that all partner forces are at least 'cost neutral' during the first three years. There is an expectation of significant savings across the region by the end of year three and the business cases show overall savings in year one.
- 3.3 Lead force governance of the regional units went live on 1 April and full implementation is progressing well with detailed work on finance and HR protocols still progressing. Funding and cross charging procedures are being firmed up and developed with Heads of Finance.

Forensic Services

- 4.1 Regional collaboration opportunities, for the provision of forensic science services, are being led by the Director of Regional Forensic Services, Mr Gareth Bryon, with Thames Valley as the lead force.
- 4.2 The collective spend on forensic services by the four SERCP forces is in the region of £40 million, this includes £15 million spent on outsourced forensic laboratory services. The early scoping work has identified that as much as 15% may be saved from this combined spend.
- 4.3 The next stage is the development of options papers and costed business cases for consideration by the Oversight Board. The target date will be the July and October Oversight Boards to ensure Police Authorities can fully consider as part of 2011/12 budget preparation. As work progresses shared good practice has already identified cash saving benefits such as in house blood trace evidence retrieval, saving the region approximately £400,000 per annum.

Air Support

- 5.1 The Oversight Board in July 2009 agreed to progress the development of a detailed business case for Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex to enter into a collaborative venture in relation to Air Support, in line with the National Air Operations Strategy. Thames Valley, have an existing agreement in place with the Chiltern Air Support group.
- 5.2 Sussex Police are leading on this work and together with the Central Programme Team (CPT) produced a detailed 15 options paper. Following the January Oversight Board, it was agreed to develop a full business case which considered a consortium model encompassing two phases; the first phase to establish a bilateral model between Surrey and Sussex; whilst Hampshire retain its own fixed wing capability and provide support under agreement and then to progress to the second phase for a three force, two airframe model for Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex, using the fixed wing and one helicopter.
- 5.3 The creation of a South East Air Support Unit has the potential to save up to £8m over five years for the region. The full business case will be considered by police authorities and the Oversight Board in the forthcoming meetings.

Information Technology

- 6.1 The regional response to the Information Systems Improvement Strategy (ISIS) programme detailing the current status of the region with respect to ISIS has been approved and submitted to the ISIS Ops centre. Resources have been requested from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to review the bi-lateral force ICT plans in a similar way to the support being provided to Kent and Essex. It is intended that a blueprint for bilateral collaboration be identified with the TVP/Hampshire work which can be replicated elsewhere in the region if required and can also be a staged process to a wider collaboration across the region.

- 6.2 Five system applications are being considered for collaboration, this includes Command and Control. It should be noted that any application sharing opportunities are dependant on convergence of business processes between forces.
- 6.3 Five Infrastructure systems and support functions are also being considered, including networks, storage and airwave radio.
- 6.4 Mr Jerry Ward from Hampshire Constabulary has been appointed as the new regional ISIS Delivery Manager. Funding and the role profile for this important post has been provided by the NPIA. He will report to Amanda Cooper, Thames Valley who is Chair of South East Information Technology meeting and will work closely with the SERCP. The primary function of this role will be to develop and implement the regional ICT strategy and programme in line with the ISIS programme.

Legal Services

- 7. The Central Programme Team is working with Guy Lemon, Head of Legal Services (Thames Valley) to scope the collaboration opportunities with regard to the provision of legal services. Discussions will continue to take place regarding the opportunities to identify cashable savings and improved efficiency in the shared provision of legal services between forces.

Recommended – that

the progress being made on collaboration between police authorities and forces in the South East be welcomed.

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