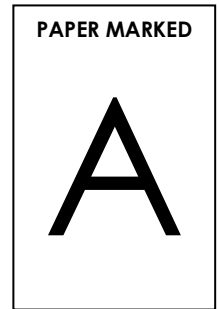


**POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND
COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE**



Report of	THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE DELIVERY OF OPERATIONAL POLICING & THE ETHICAL ISSUES RAISED
Date	FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021 – 2:00 p.m.
Author	SERGEANT MARK BRENNAN, STAFF OFFICER TO CHIEF CONSTABLE

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to highlight the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the delivery of operational policing and to highlight the ethical issues raised.

Recommendation

2. The Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee are asked to discuss the contents of the report and respond to the ethical issues outlined in the report.

The Impact of the Pandemic on Operational Policing

3. Since March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic has brought new and additional demands to operational policing. This includes:
 - 25,076 Covid-19 related incidents since March 2020. This has contributed to a 13% increase in priority response incidents between March 2020 - March 2021 compared to the same period the year before. In April and May 2020 priority incidents were between 33-36% higher than the same period in the previous year.
 - Requirement to police over 300 different COVID-19 related regulations which in turn have been amended a total of 16 times since enactment.
 - Police recorded crime initially dropping but more recently returning to normal levels.
 - Domestic abuse crime and incidents increasing by 10.8% in the year since March 2020.
 - A total cost of Covid-19 to Leicestershire Police of over £1.9 million (all of this cost will be covered by government therefore protecting our budget position).

The Delivery of Operational Policing During the Pandemic

4. The policing response has involved:
- Continuing with our pre-existing plans to implement a new target operating model which has reshaped the delivery of front-line policing around 9 Neighbourhood Policing Areas.
 - Identifying a command structure, convening a gold group and creating a Covid-19 Delivery Cell who inform the policing response.
 - Working as part of the local Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) taking multi-agency responsibility for the management of the local response.
 - Utilising technology to maintain and improve service delivery.
 - Utilising College of Policing Guidance to take a '4 Es approach' where officers engage, explain, encourage and as a last resort enforce in response to clear breaches ([COVID-19 | College of Policing](#)). As of 1st March 2021, 2,582 fixed penalty notices have been given with 37.5% paid within 28 days.

The Ethical Issues Raised

5. The committee are invited to note and discuss the following ethical issues raised:
- How should Leicestershire Police prioritise additional reports of COVID-19 regulation breaches without impacting existing services to protect vulnerable people, prevent crime & anti-social behaviour and maintain public engagement and visibility?
 - What degree of discretion should Leicestershire Police apply when taking a '4 E' approach? Should the discretion applied vary in emotive situations such as during public vigils, demonstrations and funerals.

The Impact on Policing Delivery and Community Safety

6. The response to Covid-19 as well as the implementation of the new target operating model has led to a number of improved public outcomes between this year to the year previous including:
- 30,000 online reports being taken.
 - 101 calls being answered 25 seconds faster between 2019 and 2020.
 - Average response times for emergency incidents reducing by almost 3 minutes and priority incidents by almost 45 minutes.
 - Positive crime outcomes improving by 2.2%.
 - Overall victim satisfaction improving by 6.9%.
 - 75% of respondents to our January 2021 Neighbourhood Link survey reporting that we did a good or excellent job which was an improvement of 3% since May 2020.
 - National research by Crest Advisory ([Policing the COVID lockdown - what the public thinks nine months on | Crest Advisory](#)) shows that the national policing approach has maintained public support with over 60% of the public surveyed in support on the whole.

Implications

Financial:	Contained within the report
Legal:	None
Equality Impact Assessment:	None
Risks and Impact:	None
Link to Police and Crime Plan:	None
Communications:	None

List of Appendices

Not applicable.

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