

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Cyber Crime and Fraud

Author: Verna Fee, Policy and Commissioning Officer

Purpose of briefing

To brief the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on the current position and any associated issues relating to the Durham SARC.

Background

Fraud is one of the most prevalent crimes in the UK and can take the form of deception by telephone, on the doorstep, internet or post usually aimed at stealing money, valuables, or personal details. The impact on victims is often underestimated and crimes are often unreported because victims feel shame or embarrassment.

Current issues

COVID circumstances have led to increased opportunities for fraud. for fraudsters. Increased use of technology has created additional vulnerabilities in relation to cyber/digitally enabled fraud.

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. The service operates alongside the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) who have responsibility for assessing Action Fraud reports.

Victim support in cases reported to Action Fraud remains the responsibility of the host force where the victim lives and lists of victims are sent direct to VCAS from NFIB but there can be a delay in victims receiving support depending on the frequency of victim data being sent from Action Fraud/NFIB.

In April 2019, HMICFRS published their thematic report "Fraud: Time to Choose An inspection of the police response to fraud" which looked at the effectiveness and efficiency of the law enforcement response to fraud, including online fraud. The headline finding was that the response to fraud is often inconsistent and that a clearer strategy, less variation in service between forces and better communication with the public is required.

Decisions needed

None pending.

Partnership involvement

Fraud and Cybercrime are discussed at several internal and external meetings to pursue co-ordinated opportunities to collaborate and raise awareness of fraud

Police involvement:

The Force works in partnership with a range of regional, national, and sometimes international, agencies.

People to meet

Force Lead, VCAS Lead