

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Operation Delorean- Covid-19 Recovery Plan

Author: Sweety Sahani- Head of Private Office

Purpose of briefing

The purpose of this report is to brief the Police and Crime Commissioner about the Durham Constabulary response to Covid-19 Recovery.

Background

The global Corona Virus (Covid-19) Pandemic began to impact on the UK in January 2020 with “lockdown” restrictions from the 23rd March although Durham Constabulary had started to deploy some pre-planned measures prior to this date to reduce the risk of the virus on staff and officers.

Subsequently, Operation Talla was initiated countrywide to ensure effective management of the response to Covid 19 by the police service nationally and capture the learning to share between forces, led by the College of Policing.

Durham’s Constabulary’s tactical plan for Op Talla prioritised the operational delivery as follows:-

1. Maintain effective communications with the public.
2. Answer all 999 & 101 calls
3. Provide effective command and control of incidents
4. Provide an appropriate response to immediate and priority incidents.
5. Maintain the ability to deal with:
 - major, critical and emergency incidents
 - serious crime
 - firearms incidents
 - custody management
 - serious public order
 - fatal and serious accidents
6. Deal effectively with all matters which impact on:
 - community cohesion
7. Maintain a cadre of personnel with specialist knowledge, for example:
 - Firearms officers
 - Critical incident commanders
 - Search
 - Public Order
 - Investigation

Following “lockdown” restrictions beginning to be lifted in the UK the expectation was that forces would plan for recovery of services to business as usual but alongside this, the Chief Constable sought to retain good practice and efficiencies identified during this period rather than reverting solely to the way things previously were. Therefore, Operation Delorean was identified as the Durham Constabulary response to recovery, specifically taking account of:

- gaps in service

- learning and
- opportunities to retain new ways of working.

Current issues

The Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan is regularly managed and tracked by the Force with progress updates provided to the PCVC office. Any identified Efficiency savings falling out from the actions are also monitored and recorded.

In summary:

- Force has demonstrated its commitment to delivering a covid-19 effective model to ensure business as usual is achieved with communities and confidence is maintained.
- Force have engaged with the public and have consistently applied the 4 'Es' approach in the covid-19 enforcement plan and allowed for a flexible and immediate response to central government guidance.
- Force has fully embraced working digitally.
- Confidence in the police and criminal justice system remains a priority for the ODPCVC and Force and has continued to be tracked throughout covid-19.
- Force and Partners have embraced virtual working to maintain both community engagement and service delivery for the public.
- Force have adapted working practices to ensure safe systems of working during the pandemic.
- Force continue to monitor changing trends in crime and ASB during pandemic and respond flexibly and effectively.
- Force have adopted an appropriate approach to working with vulnerable people whilst the pandemic prevails.
 - Partnership focus on coercive and controlling behaviour.
 - Introduction of Safe Spaces
 - Media Campaigns
 - Regular monitoring of Domestic Abuse
- Force have adopted an appropriate response to custody management whilst the pandemic prevails.
- Force has planned and responded to fraud effectively over the course of the covid-19 emergency.

Force have a plethora of policies in place to maintain the mental and physical health of police officers, police staff and general population during the pandemic.

Decisions needed

None

People to meet

Supt Stephen Long- Constabulary Business Innovation Department (BID).