



Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

Hosted by Somerset County Council Democratic Services



Link Member Report – Business Crime

Priority 4 – Working together effectively with other Police forces and key partners to provide better services

The Commissioner's Business Crime Forum took place on Friday 14th September in Bristol.

Representatives from the OPCC, the Constabulary and business crime partnerships were in attendance as was an officer from Nottinghamshire Police who was interested in how the Forum worked.

The Forum chair, Mark Simmonds (CFO OPCC), reported that there had been a marked increase in the numbers of online reports with 4,500 reports received resulting in 900 actions. Ben Moseley is the new Constabulary lead on Business Crime.

Discussion included community guarding trials in Brighton which will now be extended to Nottingham. This is where a team of security officers are employed to tackle ASB and Crime against businesses in the city centres funded by security and businesses.

Bristol was reported stable over last three months in theft and violence. There was a slight drop in ASB due to partnership working. Officers are offering bespoke work with stores that are heavily targeted to tackle their issues. The team visited Birmingham to see how rough sleeping was dealt with and submitted an additional resource bid.

The Broadmead BID reported positive engagement between Police and traders. ASB in Broadmead has increased, customer footfall has decreased and this is affecting business. There is a sense from businesses that Bristol City Council is not helping the traders with these issues and that they need to engage.

Neighbourhood Policing resources are being protected to focus on problem solving issues. Areas in Kingswood are problematic and they are developing a BID to hopefully address some of these issues. Bath BCRP queried discrepancies between Police statistics and their data. A review of Operation Heron was requested and it was agreed that it was a good idea to look at where it works and what improvements can be made. Subsequently, following the meeting,

the service and OPCC have agreed to conduct a review of Operation Heron. More to follow as this progresses.

Somerset topics covered the work of Yeovil Crime Reduction Team in their communities engaging with partners to target problematic individuals.

The issues concerning the outlier of business crime affecting Somerset West was requested. For almost two years, there has been no active BCRP which has led to an increase in crime and ASB. Police have requested additional resource to expand the Sedgemoor District Council radio and CCTV system. Taunton Deane Borough Council has started looking at alternative solutions.

Weston-Super-Mare has a new co-ordinator in post. The BID provide wardens who are filling the void of Police presence but the BID is reassessing the role of the wardens to protect the service.

The Association of Convenience Stores have written to OPCC seeking support for their pledge to tackle violence in convenience stores.

Craig Mackey, the National Lead on Business Crime, has written to Chief Constables requesting that every constabulary should have a lead in Business Crime and should ensure that all BCRPs or Watch Schemes have the new national accreditation.

In other news:

The new national standard has been launched. There are two organisations offering accreditation assessments which are then verified and approved by Secure By Design. The two organisations are Revive & Thrive and the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships.

Martin Blackwell has launched a campaign to ensure that every BID includes a Business Crime element. This is supported by police and retailers.

Glastonbury Town Council are considering employing private security to patrol the town centre following an increase in ASB and Crime.

Taunton Deane voted down a motion to create a Business Crime Unit to monitor CCTV, patrol the town and deliver BCRP work. The council heard that footfall in the town was down by 750,000 year on year and traders are attributing this to crime and ASB scaring customers away.

Below are the links to the South West Regional Cyber Crime Units Newsletters I referenced at the Panel meeting on 9th October 2018. The first is their regular newsletter and the bottom one is a more in-depth technical one, both really interesting and show the wide range of issues and work they encounter.

<https://swcybercrimeunit.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=e6b7db71ed9534fb8e793da56&id=fddbffe169>

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