

## SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

### Preventing Cyber-Crime in Surrey 21 April 2015

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on work being undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner to help prevent Surrey residents and businesses becoming victims of cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crime.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The development of the internet has radically altered the way in which we work, communicate, shop and interact. The latest data from the ONS indicates that 76% of adults in Great Britain access the internet every day and 74% use the internet to buy goods or services. At the same time, access to the internet using mobile phones more than doubled between 2010 and 2014, from 24% to 58%.

Whilst the internet has created numerous opportunities for both individuals and businesses, it has also provided new opportunities for criminals. Sometimes this takes the form of cyber-enabled crime, defined by the Home Office as traditional crimes which can be increased in their scale or reach by use of computers, computer networks or other forms of ICT. Examples include fraud, sexual offending, harassment and commercial damage. Conversely, cyber-dependent crime is defined as offences that can only be committed by using a computer, computer networks, or other forms of ICT. These acts include the spread of viruses and other malicious software, hacking, and distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks.

Whilst there is continued debate around the true cost of cybercrime to the UK economy, government estimates put it in the region of £27bn.

#### **NATIONAL RESPONSE**

There is growing national attention being placed on tackling cybercrime, but no one agency is responsible. Nationally, the Central e-Crime Unit at the Metropolitan Police, supported by three regional hubs, and the NCA tackle serious criminality such as major fraud, service disruption activity and organised on-line child exploitation gangs. The South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU) also has some cyber-crime enforcement capabilities although lower value crime against business and individuals, as well as on-line bullying, stalking and harassment is down to local police forces to investigate. Action Fraud has also been set-up to centrally record on-line fraud and identity theft.

With regards to preventative work, a number of national services have been launched over the last few years although these have not always been well sign-posted. Notable examples include the Government's 'Cyber Streetwise' programme, a public-private sector partnership known as 'Get Safe Online', and the Cyber-security Information Sharing Partnership (CiSP), a joint industry government initiative to share cyber threat and vulnerability information in order to increase overall situational awareness of the cyber threat and therefore reduce the impact on UK business.

## **LOCAL RESPONSE**

In November 2014 Surrey and Sussex Police launched a joint Cyber Crime Unit (CCU). The CCU was implemented in order to tackle the ever increasing threat that cyber-crime poses. Based in Haywards Heath, those working within the CCU are equipped with the necessary training and technical facilities to carry out investigations into cyber-dependent and complex cyber-enabled crime within Surrey and Sussex.

However, the scale and complexity of cyber-crime requires more than just a law enforcement response and, since his appointment, the DPCC has taken steps to establish a partnership which brings together the police, local councils, the voluntary sector, academics and private industry to work together in order to prevent residents and local businesses becoming victims of cyber and cyber enabled crime. Whilst criminals using the internet don't operate within or recognise geographical boundaries, crime prevention messages and education can be effectively delivered in a geographic area.

The intended outcomes of the partnership have been to ensure:

- A better educated Surrey business community to protect against fraud and service disruption ultimately leading to reduction in costs to business from cybercrime.
- Better educated Surrey public to protect against identity fraud, leading to less financial loss and personal distress.
- Better educated Surrey public – of all ages - on personal on-line safety leading to reduced personal online crimes and distress
- Better co-ordination of cybercrime prevention activity to reduce duplication and maximise coverage within available resources.
- Identification and promotion of good practice and up to date information.

However, current demand for preventative work is outstripping the capacity of the OPCC to resource the partnership's efforts and a dedicated resource is therefore being established to support this new area of work.

## **CYBER CRIME PREVENTION TEAM**

In light of these capacity issues, the PCC has agreed to establish a small team of two officers responsible for preventing and reducing cyber and cyber-enabled crime in Surrey. The two posts are:

- Policy Lead for Cyber-Crime Prevention
- Policy Support Officer for Cyber-Crime Prevention

Reporting into the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the team will be responsible for developing new and building upon existing partnership capacity in Surrey and beyond to allow for improved coordination of local cyber-crime prevention activity.

Staff will provide strategic direction and policy support to the emerging partnership through the provision of research, planning and advice, as well as developing new and existing communication channels so that preventative messages can be communicated to the widest possible audience including businesses and individuals. The team will also

administer a small funding pot that will be made available to support local projects and activity that supports the cyber-crime prevention agenda.

The job profiles for the two roles are attached as Annexes A and B to this report and provide greater detail.

## **FUNDING**

In the two years before the PCC took up office, monies had been put aside by Surrey Police and Surrey Police Authority to fund the Surrey Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). The DAAT was responsible for commissioning treatment services for drug and alcohol in Surrey and was hosted by the Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT). On closure of the PCT at the end of March 2013, the responsibilities for drug and alcohol abuse services passed to Public Health based at Surrey County Council.

On the PCC's accounts for Surrey Police there is a balance sheet item of £430,000 entitled "The DAAT fund". In 2014/15 the PCC requested that internal audit carry out an audit of this sum of money to look at the funding of the DAAT and to seek to establish what should happen to the £430,000 which is contained within the balance sheet of the PCC and appears to relate to grant funding that was to be paid over to the DAAT. This audit did not find any clear partnership arrangement in place or owner for the funds. They therefore have remained unspent on the Surrey Police Group Balance Sheet.

In light of the audit, it has been agreed that the PCC uses this money to fund activity aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse and cyber-crime prevention work. With regards to the latter, the OPCC attempted to supplement funding with a bid to the Home Office Innovation Fund but this was not successful.

Whilst there is sufficient funding to support two years of preventative work at the cost of approximately £100,000 per annum, a key objective of the team will be to ensure that the partnership model developed is financially sustainable in the long-term. This is likely to involve the identification of alternative funding options and encourage the 'mainstreaming' of cybercrime prevention activity into the work of other partners.

## **CONSULTATION**

In developing the team the OPCC consulted with a number of organisations including Surrey Police, Surrey County Council, University of Surrey, Surrey Chambers of Commerce and GetSafeOnline, receiving significant support.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members of the Police and Crime Panel are asked to note the attached.

## **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None arising.

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