ETHICS AND APPEALS SUB COMMITTEE - 20 APRIL 2017

CRIME DATA QUALITY COMPLIANCE

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide members with a crime data quality compliance report for the period Oct-Dec 2016.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In order to facilitate a proactive approach to crime recording performance monitoring, this quarterly monitoring report has been developed for the Force to provide data quality reports to each meeting of this Committee.

1.2 The Force operates internal audit arrangements to ensure compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) and the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR).

1.3 Auditing is strategically directed around key risks and links to the operational priorities of the Policing Plan as identified in the priority and threat assessment.

1.4 The internal audit results are benchmarked by the following grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audit Threshold</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 95%</td>
<td>90% to 94.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80% to 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79.9% and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Audit results**

1.5 For reporting purposes, categories audited are reported by exception where compliance falls below an average of 80%. In order to maintain continuous improvement and to address any recurrent themes, audit failures are sent to the relevant business area managers for corrective action.
2. CALLS FOR SERVICE

2.1 These incidents were audited to assess whether they were closed correctly as a crime or not a crime in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCRS</th>
<th>Total number audited</th>
<th>Number of audit failures</th>
<th>Oct 16</th>
<th>Nov 16</th>
<th>Dec 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable Adults</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 The incidents audited were deemed to have failed due to one of the following reasons:

- lack of understanding of the National Crime Recording Standard, (whether and when to record a crime), or
- there was insufficient information on the incident log to determine if a crime had occurred, or
- the incident log did not contain sufficient justification to negate a crime being recorded under NCRS or
- Multiple victims have been identified during the investigation but only one crime has been recorded instead of one crime for each victim.

The remaining records were administration errors, whereby the incident had been closed under the incorrect code by FCC staff. In most cases a crime had been alleged so the incident should have been closed as crime related (and flagged as a Domestic Incident) instead of being closed as a Domestic incident.

MONITORING

3.1 The audit findings are presented to the Strategic Performance Board on a monthly basis which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, this meeting is also attended by the acting PCC.

3.2 The Force Crime and Incident Registrar has regular monthly meetings with DCC, the Head of Public Protection and the Head of CID to discuss the compliance issues and also attends regular meetings with the Head of Contact Management and the PCC.
4. **RISK/THREAT ASSESSMENT**

**Financial/Resource/Value for Money Implications**

4.1 The report has no financial / resource implications.

**Legal Implications**

4.2 There are no legal implications regarding this report. This is an internal audit to inform the Ethics Committee on Force compliance with regard to data quality.

**Implications for Policing Outcomes**

4.3 Accurate and ethical recorded crime data is essential to any meaningful crime reduction strategy to ensure effective and professional operational, tactical and strategic decisions are made and the best use of resources are assured. Consistent and comparable incident and crime data is at the heart of public accountability and effective mechanisms to demonstrate data quality is key to ensuring that the public has confidence in crime and incident data.

**Equality**

4.4 There are no implications in relation to the Equality Duty.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members are RECOMMENDED to note the report.

Emma Houston (6983)  
Force Crime & Incident Registrar  
Corporate Development  
April 2016

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