

Committee(s): Police Economic Crime Board	Date(s): 13 th June 2012
Subject: Fraud Training Academy	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police POL 39/12	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report provides an update to previous reports to the Police Committee in July 2011 (Pol 40/11) and December 2011 (Pol 75/11).</p> <p>The development of the Fraud Training Academy is one of the three distinct pillars of the City of London Police Lead Force strategy for combating fraud and economic crime nationally. It has a key role to play in developing knowledge and building capability across both law enforcement agencies and industry sectors in order to improve national standards of fraud investigation.</p> <p>The vision for the Fraud Academy is for it to become the UK's leading provider of skills base training in economic crime globally. Its role will include the setting of new national standards.</p> <p>In partnership with an industry consultant the Force is progressing options for a new operating model that provides the optimum balance between sustainable growth and significant income generation with the aim of off-setting the impact of recent budget cuts to policing nationally.</p> <p>Further trainers are currently being recruited in order to meet demand and feedback from those attending current Academy courses shows 100% of attendees are overall "very satisfied" with the quality and the content of the courses.</p> <p>Other key areas of work currently being undertaken by the Academy include the development of a National Fraud Doctrine. This work is being undertaken in partnership with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). In addition the Academy is also engaged in the scoping of different options regarding the potential accreditation of its training across both the public and private sectors.</p>	

Recommendations

Members receive this report and note its contents.

Main Report

Background

1. This report provides an update to previous Committee reports in July 2011 (Pol 40/11) and December 2011 (Pol 75/11).
2. With the challenges of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and the need for the City of London Police to make savings of 20% over four years, identifying and developing income generation opportunities is key to the Force's vision of increasing fraud resources and maintaining the standard of its service delivery. The Fraud Academy is one of the three National Lead Force strategy pillars and offers significant opportunities to generate income for the Force.
3. During 2011 a business case was developed to identify options for enhancing the Force's Fraud Centre of Excellence, now rebranded as the Fraud Training Academy. The objective was for the Academy to become the leading provider in the UK for professional skills based training for fraud. The Academy will set national standards for counter fraud, corruption and financial investigation with the aim of it becoming self funding and a significant income generator for the Force within three years. The business case clearly articulated how the Academy was uniquely placed to deliver fraud training on a national scale across both the public and private sector, as well as provide accreditation and professional registration in the future. Input was received in the development of this business case by the former Committee Lead for Economic Crime, Mark Boleat.
4. The business case outlined four models for consideration: 1) An enhanced business as usual model 2) A model where CoLP undertake all the roles and responsibilities for training, management and marketing themselves 3) A model where CoLP provide the training but with limited support from a commercial partner and 4) A model whereby CoLP provide training in partnership with a commercial partner who assumes the financial risk through upfront funding in return for a percentage of the revenue.

5. The recommendation agreed by the Commissioner was for model four, as it provides the greatest opportunity for sustainable growth and income generation; whilst at the same time removing the need for CoLP set up costs and passing the financial risk to a commercial partner.
6. In December 2011, the CoLP website was updated with a profile of the new Fraud Academy with its training prospectus available for download. The CoLP also launched a marketing campaign to coincide with this new prospectus where electronic copies of it were emailed to approximately 50 existing and prospective clients across the public and private sector in the UK and overseas.

Current Position

7. As the business case for Model Four has now been approved, an independent consultant has been contracted to identify a range of options within the parameters of that model in order to articulate more precise details of the partnership agreement. This work is on schedule and is to be completed by mid June 2012. This will be followed by a period of engagement with the Corporation of London, which once complete will then form the basis of a formal proposal to be brought before Police Committee for consideration.
8. As of the beginning of May 2012 the Fraud Academy has two trainers in post plus one admin officer, although it should be noted that trainers currently also undertake some management responsibilities. In order to enhance their capability three further trainers have been recruited and are currently undergoing the recruitment process. In addition, because of the growth in demand, there are plans to recruit another two trainers internally as soon as possible. Eight training courses have so far been completed in 2012, but with this increased capacity it is anticipated that a total of 141 courses will be completed by April 2013. Feedback from attendees of these courses is regularly sought to ensure the quality of the content is of an appropriately high standard. The Academy has a target; Key Performance Area four (KPA4) to achieve 85% overall satisfaction for the quality of courses run. To date this target has been exceeded with 100% overall satisfaction.
9. With the imminent arrival of the new resources work is also underway preparing for the production of a new National Fraud Doctrine accompanied by standard operating procedures for its national implementation. The Force's plans for a comprehensive network of

regional fraud teams and intelligence officers will be enhanced by the completion of this work in 2013.

10. CoLP has also recruited an income generation officer who is currently prioritising work with the Fraud Academy to maximise its potential income opportunities. The individual is in the early stages of developing an interim business development plan which includes details of business drivers, potential new clients, geographical markets, business benefits, targets and a bespoke action plan.
11. A dedicated Project Manager has now been recruited to assist in co-ordinating the implementation of all these plans to ensure their successful delivery and take forward for the next steps.

Next Steps

12. The Force will consider the recommendations made by the consultant, specifically in relation to developing and agreeing a fair arrangement under Model four.
13. Further work will be undertaken to scope academic options for providing various forms of accreditation for those attending Academy courses. Although primarily looking at the accreditation of police officers in the first instance, it is anticipated that this work will develop to include the accreditation of other attendees.
14. The Academy will continue to work to identify the most effective means of capturing and disseminating best practice in fraud investigations nationally. This work will be reflected in the creation of the National Doctrine and authorised professional practice where appropriate.
15. The Force will accelerate the recruitment of further trainers with the necessary and appropriate skills background as a priority and the Income Generation Officer will continue to develop the interim Business Plan on behalf of the Academy.

Conclusion

16. There is significant potential for the Fraud Academy to become the national and indeed an international leader for providing fraud related training. The Academy has a key role to play in raising and maintaining clear standards for the investigation of fraud across the country, and there

is an opportunity for this vision to be realised through the provision of a self funding Academy.

17. The Academy has over time achieved considerable national recognition for the quality of its courses and a it is essential to keep up this momentum to meet growing demand. Currently, demand for courses remains high and all feedback received is extremely positive.

Background Papers:

Pol 40/11 – July Committee 2011

Pol 75/11 – December committee 2011

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