

<b>Committee(s):</b> Economic and Cyber Crime Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 25 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b> National Lead Force (NLF) Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1- People are safe and feel safe
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police Pol 108-22	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> DI Kevin Ives, Staff Officer to AC O'Doherty	

### Summary

This report provides information on key activities delivered as part of the National Lead Force Plan. These activities include:

- Tackling Economic Crime Awards
- NFIB developments
- Key investigation outcomes
- National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Update

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

The National Lead Force Plan was approved by Police Authority Board in October 2020. Detail was given around new plans at the previous ECCC in September and further updates in October. This ECCC is much closer than usual to the previous committee and so updates necessarily shorter in length than would be usual. The new performance measures are now in place and present on the accompanying performance report.

#### **Outcome 1: Supporting and Safeguarding Victims.**

**NLF Role: We provide a service for victims that is accessible, user-friendly and easy to engage with, and we successfully support and safeguard victims.**

### **Next Generation service project update**

The Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis System (FCCRAS) Procurement Committee approved the Procurement Recommendations for FCCRAS on Wednesday 2nd November. Further approvals are progressing.

### **Action Fraud**

Action Fraud are thrilled and honoured to have been nominated for three awards in the upcoming Tackling Economic Crime Awards (TECAs). The TECAs are designed to recognise excellence and innovation in tackling all areas of economic crime from those working in the private, public and third sectors. Winners of the 2022 TECAs will be announced mid-November (post submission date) at a gala dinner and ceremony due taking place at the London Marriott Grosvenor Square.

### **NFIB**

- National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) crime assessment team has rolled out a new vulnerability assessment tool. This better identifies those victims of fraud and cyber-crime who are more vulnerable due their age (juveniles); or because their report indicates a link with domestic abuse (DA) or stalking or harassment (SH).
- The NFIB cyber team has also made improvements to their Enhanced Cyber Crime Reporting Service (ECCRS), reducing the time taken to review and disseminated all business related reports made to Action Fraud reports, from 7 days to 72 hours.
- On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November the first phase of the Action Fraud Christmas campaign was launched alongside with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), focussing specifically on online shopping safety in the run up to Black Friday and the festive season. The NCSC and Action Fraud are issuing joint press releases, to help drive awareness and engagement around shopping safely online. The release uses data from the Action Fraud / NFIB online shopping report as a compelling hook for the media. A social media schedule containing protect messaging and assets have been developed to support the campaign and will be circulated to partners and forces. The online shopping activity precedes Action Fraud's annual '12 Frauds of Christmas' campaign which is due to launch at the beginning of December.

### **Outcome 2: Disrupt Fraudsters.**

**NLF Role: We disrupt fraudsters that operate domestically and from overseas in order to make it harder for them to commit crime here in the UK.**

### **NFIB**

DCS Shaw met with representatives of OFCOM which is currently researching protocols that will support the Online Safety Bill when enacted.

OFCOM is particularly interested to understand NFIB's disruption work (with a focus on technology platforms and TELCOs). Further, there is a joint concern around the willingness of some platform providers such as Meta to engage in entity removal (e.g.

accounts / specific pages). This meeting was seen as the first stage of a regular dialogue – in preparation for the launch of FCCRAS in 2024.

### **Outcome 3: Investigate and Prosecute.**

**NLF Role: We successfully lead the local to national policing response in investigating and prosecuting fraudsters, ensuring better criminal justice outcomes for victims.**

#### **PIPCU - Operation Heartbeat**

Warrant executed in Southall, West London. Approximately 84,000 counterfeit items seized. Estimated value to industry is £200m. The watches were destined to supply criminal businesses all over the UK. This has seriously disrupted the counterfeit watches trade in the UK in the lead up to Christmas. Ongoing work continues to dismantle the OCG that sits behind the criminality.

#### **National Lead Force**

Op Corona - Conviction of 4 suspects in Op Corona. This was an investment fraud with 343 victims who were all supported to an exceptionally high standard by the Victim Care Unit (VCU). The Police Staff Investigator received a Judges Commendation 'in recognition of the high-quality work completed in bringing this case to court'.

In this same period a high-profile trial has begun, this is Op Adonis. This is an investment fraud prosecution centring on high-risk high-reward Binary options trades. There are 172 victims with a combined loss of £2.2M.

#### **DCPCU - Operation Quinn**

A Nat West bank related courier fraud. The team executed a warrant in Tower Hamlets and found a single subject alongside £100k in cash kept in a cardboard box in a wardrobe. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of designer clothing and goods which had been purchased using compromised details from victims were also found and seized. On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the defendant was sentenced to a total of 2 years 6 months imprisonment, having pleaded guilty to all offences.

#### **IFED**

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 three warrants were executed by IFED around the UK. This stemmed from a false motor insurance claim, valued at over £40k. At the time of the incident one of the suspects was a serving officer with West Midlands Police.

### **Outcome 4: Raise Awareness and Prevent Crime.**

**NLF Role: We raise awareness of the threat and prevent fraud impacting people and businesses.**

**NLF** – The Operation Broadway (Investment Fraud) intensification campaign ran into November and there was successful engagement with businesses and serviced offices to educate not only other serviced offices and other enablers of investment fraud but also to the public.

**NFIB** – The Christmas online shopping campaign launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> November. This work has included the National Cyber Security Centre and uses social media, websites and radio output. This campaign has used research to give targeted online Christmas shopping advice to help consumers avoid falling victim to scams.

**DCPCU** – The security minister, Tom Tugendhat MP MBE has requested a visit to DCPCU and this is likely to occur in November. Full details awaited at time of writing.

### **Outcome 5: Building Capacity and Capability.**

**NLF Role: As National Lead Force we work creatively and with partners to improve capacity and capability committed to fighting fraud, both across policing and the wider system.**

#### **National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)**

DCS Andrew Gould gave evidence to the Parliamentary Economic Crime & Corporate Transparency Bill Committee on 25th October in relation to its cryptocurrency provisions. We are supportive of the Bill and many of the new powers are there at our request.

National Cybercrime Governance Board was held on 25th October with all the Regional Chief Officer SROs. Discussions focused on the HMICFRS Recommendation and options for NPCC.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October the Cyber Resilience Centre network summit was hosted at Microsoft in London. This brought together the full team of national Cyber Ambassadors, these include KPMG, Cantrum, CGI (cyber security advisors), Accenture, Very Group, Natwest, Chainalysis and Microsoft. Also present were Cyber Resilience Centre leads and the national cybercrime programme team.

This was a very successful day and brought the network together for the first time as a whole and plans for the future were workshoped.

Each ambassador has now taken leadership to deliver an area of the plan and working groups have been established to progress the work.

The London Cyber Resilience Centre had its public launch at City Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. Commissioner Angela McLaren and Mr James Thomson, Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board, spoke at the event alongside the Deputy Mayor for Crime and Policing in London. The event was judged a success with a number of companies coming forward to support the centre and more work will be done to build upon this launch.

#### **National Coordinator's Office**

Visits around the country continue in this period,

Fri 4th Nov – Chief Officer engagement with Devon and Cornwall

Mon 7th Nov – Force Engagement with Surrey and Sussex

Mon 7th – Chief Officer engagement with Avon and Somerset

#### **Economic and Cyber Crime Academy - ECCA**

Representatives of the ECCA [Academy's] attended a HMICFRS round table workshop with Commander Nik Adams and Detective Supt Fraud Operations regarding fraud and training across the UK.

Academy representatives attended a knowledge sharing event regarding neurodiversity run by the College of Policing and Chaired by Vanessa Jardine, Deputy Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, and lead for Diversity & Inclusion in Armed

Policing. This was an opportunity to understand the National picture in regard to neurodiversity and a chance to introduce the Academy new neurodiversity course, being run by the Academy for the City of London Police in partnership with the NPCC Cyber Team.

Detective Chief Inspector for the Academy chaired a meeting with Directorate DCI leads to ensure that the newly design pathway for Police Staff Investigators would be able to secure cross unit pollination and learning. For PSIs to become qualified to PIP2 (Professionalising Investigation) level there is a need for those staff, like the Detective pathways, to move around on short attachments to learn all key areas of business. A pilot training model will now be implemented and lead by the NLF Fraud team.

**Proactive Economic Crime Teams (PECT)**

Recruitment is on-going and the teams are up and running. A current status update on recruitment is as below;

TOTAL ROCU & CoLP Police Uplift Programme & Spending Review	Recruited 2021-22	Target 2022-23	Recruited 2022-23	% 2022-23 Target Achieved (To end of financial year)
Total Officers	29	122	59	48%

There is confidence that targets will be met. In most regions recruitment is going very well and a number of posts are at the vetting stage or awaiting start dates.

The total case load so far is 126 cases, 82 are self-generated by the PECT teams and 46 were assigned from the City Police Intelligence Development team. the Eastern region are performing especially well in terms of PURSUE and Yorkshire and Humberside have seen some good early work on low level disruptions. It is hoped work will build rapidly over the coming months.

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