

Committee: Economic and Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 11 th May 2023
Subject: National Lead Force and Cyber Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	NA
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	NA
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 60-23	For Information
Report author: 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:

- Continuing National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (NECVCU) success.
- Good results in fraud and Intellectual Property (IP) cases.
- Strong campaigns across fraud and cyber.
- Economic Crime Academy maintaining strong performance.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members note the contents of this report.

MAIN 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.

NECVCU

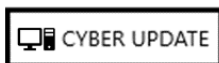
- The Unit goes live with expansion of service. From 37 forces using the level 1 service there will now be 41 and at level 2 there will be six forces to 34. These include Surrey and Sussex Police that have recognised the successes of the system. The unit will also now have a footprint in every Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) in England and Wales. Since 2018 the unit has now supported a total of **310, 360** vulnerable and non-vulnerable victims. This financial year it has supported **113, 356** victims (108, 774 non-vulnerable and 4, 582 vulnerable).

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)

- Late in 2022 (referenced at the last ECCC) there was a new vulnerable victim process implemented. This has proved very successful and after being tested by the NFIB Triage Team and it is now fully implemented by the remaining NFIB desks which include cyber and Fraud Review Team (FRT). It has proven very successful without any issues at all and as a result is now broadened to include vulnerable victims who may be included in domestic violence, stalking/harassment, modern slavery and human trafficking.

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.



Cyber Alarm¹

- A training session on the Cyber Alarm system for 60 officers and staff took place in February.

NFIB and local policing

- Intelligence was received regarding a potential ransomware attack and Cyber Griffin was deployed to the intended target company. The target hardening carried out prevented the ransomware attack and saved the victim company from huge losses. While specific details cannot be shared, this is a great example of cross agency collaboration all the way down to deploying crime prevention teams into potential cyber victims.

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.

Lead Force Operations Room

Op Beech Baron

- This case involved a suspect who obtained a COVID bounce back loan in order to pay off a court confiscation order. They had been prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office(SFO) in 2006 for a £34 million fraud and issued with a confiscation order for £40 million, and later breached this 3 times. The SFO found further offending and called in CoLP to assist. Charges have now been secured in respect of fraud and money laundering. A real example of Fraud Operations successfully targeting the “big players”.

National lead Force teams

Op Adonis

¹ [Police CyberAlarm](#)

- Investment fraud investigation for fraudulent high-risk high-reward Binary options trades. 172 victims lost a combined £2.2M. The trial lasted 5 weeks and the jury took 2 hours to find both suspects guilty of fraud and money laundering. Sentencing took place on the 3rd February 2023.
- One suspect received almost 9 years imprisonment and a 15 year company directorship ban. A second suspect received 2 years, suspended for 2 years and a 5 year directorship ban.

Op Denab

- Sentencing – The defendant is former professional footballer. There is significant press interest. He was convicted of a £15million investment fraud. He claimed to be operating an investment scheme for friends and family, which was a Ponzi scheme. The defendant received a 7.5 year custodial sentence.

Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU)

Operation Wade

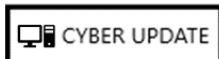
- This involved a multi-national investigation across Europe and America. The Organised Crime Group (OCG) was returning counterfeit goods to genuine companies, claiming they were faulty. The fake items were so good on their exterior appearance that the companies would replace them with genuine working items. This criminal activity was worth 1.1million and at the time of Police intervention the method was growing across several OCGs.

NFIB

- Recent good work from the NFIB Triage Team has seen a production increase of over double regarding reports being reviewed and disseminated by the team. In February, the Triage team reviewed 622 reports and disseminated 562, whereas March saw the team review 1,582 reports, with 1,361 being disseminated.

Outcome 4: Raise Awareness and Prevent Crime.

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



NFIB

- City of London Police and the NFIB have worked with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to release a communications toolkit which will support organisations when giving out protect messaging to citizens. This has been endorsed by the Security Minister and released in February and will ensure consistent and coherent messaging across UK government and public and private sector outputs.
- The CoLP is running a campaign targeting small businesses to enhance their cyber security using two tools a 'cyber action plan' and a vulnerability scan named 'Check your cyber Security'. These are now being branded as

Government, NFIB and Action Fraud supported, which is not only raising awareness and preventing crime but also raising the profile of the City of London brands. The campaign has utilised £1.1million of funding from central government, meaning the campaigns will have longevity and be sustainable.

Cyber protect

- On 7 February 2023, City of London Police's Cyber Protect team took part in 'Safer Internet Day' to produce social media assets which promote the importance of using two-step verification (2SV). The campaign achieved over 13.4 million impressions and reached approximately 8.4m people on social media. It was supported by partners across government and policing. Notable contributors included GOV.UK, GCHQ, NCSC, as well as 20 other police forces.

Action fraud

- Action Fraud launched its ticket fraud campaign which has so far been featured in Yahoo, MSN, Northern Echo and numerous regional titles.

Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED)

- The team's work publicising a new scam "clip for cash", which involves fraudsters faking damage to car wing mirrors then demanding cash at the scene, featured in The Sun, Sky News, Yahoo, The Star and across numerous regional titles. This gives crucial advice to potential victims across a wide audience.

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.



NPCC Cyber

- The 'Team Cyber UK' (TCUK) conference events took place. This involved two events, ending in March in Birmingham with 460 delegates across Cyber industry. As part of this event a meeting took place with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) concerning Cyber Resilience Centres (CRCs), assurance standards and Cyber Path services

National Coordinator's Office (NCO)

- The ATOS² Power BI project has started – This is software which is to be used to enhance the NCOs existing Excel platform to hold forces to account for Home Office recorded crime outcomes from the packages sent out by the NFIB, and also to then enable each force to better manage their performance within their local performance meetings.

² ATOS is a European multinational information technology (IT) service and consulting company

- Whilst the National force visits had previously been completed, the work has continued with a secondary visit to Bedfordshire Police, at their request, in March 2023 to assist them in maintaining momentum in the progress they are making. The Metropolitan Police Service were also visited in February 2023.

Economic and Cyber Crime Academy – ECCA

- The academy has now taken course bookings from Ghanaian officers after the engagement visit carried out by Commander Adams. The courses are cyber related and there will be more courses booked with Ghanaian officers flying to the UK. The indication from Ghana is that they intend for this to be the start of a meaningful working relationship.
- As part of the Academy ongoing support to Protect the UK from the Threat of harm from Economic and Cyber Crime, the ECCA held a meeting with the National Coordinators Office to design a bespoke 'protect course' for all protect regional officers. The aim of the course is to provide current and emerging threats, harm & risks that can be cascade onwards to front line colleagues. The next stage is to hold a workshop with regional partners, the ECVCU and Action Fraud to have one consistent message and to understand the gaps. This work will increase capacity nationwide to deal with fraud cases appropriately and increase capacity.

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