

Committee: Economic and Cyber Crime Committee	Dated: 19 February 2024
Subject: National Lead Force and Cyber Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,10, 12
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 18-24	For Discussion
Report author: Alistair Malone, Staff Officer, National Lead Force	

SUMMARY

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

- Launch of the Online Fraud Charter.
- Launch of the National Policing Strategy for Fraud, Economic and Cyber Crime
- Project EMMA targeting international money launders.
- Significant international collaboration to safeguard victims money by the National Co-ordinators office & Intelligence Development Team.
- Successful Media Christmas messaging campaign warning of frauds over the festive period.

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.

Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis System (FCCRAS)

Next year will see the launch of two big system changes in the fight against fraud. The Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service (FCCRAS) will deliver a huge improvement in the victim journey and reactive response to fraud reports coming into policing. In addition to this the Fraud Targeting Cell (FTC) is a multi agency 'intelligence brain' which is being led by the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) with substantial support from CoLP. This will deliver a new proactive intelligence led response to fraud, identifying high harm offenders through data and intelligence and developing target led packages for the Regional and National teams under the National Fraud Squad to action. It is anticipated that a combination of these two system improvements and changes will enable policing to better target criminals and protect victims in the UK.

National Lead Force

On the 30th November 2023, CoLP attended the launch of the Online Fraud Charter at Lancaster House in company with the Home Secretary, Rt Hon James Cleverly MP. In attendance were also eleven of the largest technology companies in the United Kingdom. The Online Fraud Charter is a voluntary public / private sector initiative promoting shared ownership and collaborative working to identify and disrupt cyber enable fraud. This is a world first agreement to tackle online fraud and safeguard victims.

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.

Lead Force Operations Room

European Money Mules Action (EMMA) concluded at the end of November 2023. This is an action co-ordinated by Europol specifically to target cross border money mules. The project promotes partnership working during the EMMA period between law enforcement agencies and the private sector. Lead Force Operations Room (LFOR) co-ordinated the United Kingdom's response which resulted in a number of phases of executive action which included arrests, safeguarding visits, cease & desist notices and account freezing orders.

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) identified a spoof email address being used to contact customers purporting to be from a Crypto Currency webservice (blockchain.com). Proactive research identified that a further forty two web domains had been registered including "actionfraud.info" & "department-fraud.com". NFIB has arranged for the web domains to be blocked.

National Co-ordinators Office

The National Co-ordinator's Office through the Joint Fraud Taskforce Collective Response (JFTCR) and with the assistance of UK Finance, was able to ring fence \$50m linked to 6,500 bank accounts. This was in relation to an HMRC fraud.

Intelligence Development Team

The Intelligence Development Team (IDT) were notified by the Garda of €600,000 at risk, having been transferred from a hospital in Dublin to a UK account following a payment diversion fraud. IDT worked to identify the recipient account held by Banking Circle and under the Interpol initiated IGRIP protocol had the funds stopped and returned to the victim.

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.

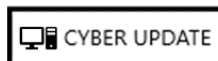
Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED)

The Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED) Sponsored Services Agreement (SSA) for 2024-2026 was signed by the ABI and Corporation of London acting in its capacity as the Police Authority on 20th December 2023. The approach will ensure that IFED is able to continue to deliver the important work in tackling insurance fraud.

A defendant involved in insurance fraud who fled was located in France and returned to the UK in November 2023. He was sentenced at Inner London Crown Court on 21 November 2023 to a total of 19 month imprisonment. He was found guilty of deliberately causing a collision on a busy road, which saw an innocent driver plough into the back of a car at around 50 miles per hour.

Fraud Operations

The fraud operations department completed a trial regarding an investment fraud and money laundering case with £20m losses. All three of the defendants pled guilty during the first week of trial. They pleaded to laundering proceeds of fraud and benefiting £3.3mn, £240k and £60k, respectively. Sentencing is due on 9th February 2024. The proceeds of crime timetable is set and due to last at least a year.



Outcome 4: Raise Awareness and Prevent Crime.

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

Engagement events

The SOCEX (Serious Organised Crime Economic Exchange) conference was a huge success with over 400 delegates from policing and economic crime law enforcement partner in attendance. The conference was opened and closed by T/AC Nik Adams and was a great opportunity to showcase some of the work and improvements undertaken and planned by the force and partners.

In January, CoLP's, Head of Economic Crime Strategy and Government Affairs, presented at the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee in relation to money laundering. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how partners, such as the Metropolitan Police, the City of London Police, the National Crime Agency, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Government are working together to tackle money laundering. Respective leads from each of the aforementioned organisations were present, with CoLP able to provide expert input on the national landscape.

Media Communications

Throughout December 2023, positive national reporting of NFIB's PROTECT warning about Christmas shopping frauds ("The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year for cybercriminals"). Activity has achieved 33m impressions (number of timeline deliveries) and 15m reach (number of unique users who have seen the content). The campaign has been shared by multiple forces, partners and individuals including television personality Martin Lewis who helped contribute to the highest single day of engagement on Action Fraud social media of the year on Wednesday 6th December. Taken as a whole, impressions were up 62% for the month of December.

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 Lead Force

National Lead Force launched the National Policing Strategy for Fraud, Economic and Cyber Crime in November 2023 from the Serious Organised Crime Economic Exchange (SOCEX) conference. The strategy sets out cross cutting objectives and commitments for policing to improve the response to fraud, economic and cyber crime in a '4 P' action plan for forces and regions to integrate into their internal plans. Measurables have been set within this and a performance framework will be designed to reflect force and regional progress against them.

A number of engagement visits have been completed with police services nationally promoting the new National Policing Strategy for Fraud, Economic and Cyber Crime. Forces have sought guidance from the expertise offered by CoLP under their National Lead Force responsibilities in how to implement it.

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

On the 30th November 2023 the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) hosted the National User Group at the Barbican conference centre. This event was attended by over one hundred representatives from across UK Policing. NFIB demonstrated the latest build of the Foundry platform that will replace the Action Fraud service. The event was well received by visiting Police services, with positive feedback received.

Economic Crime Academy

The Economic Crime Academy travelled to Mauritius to meet with the Investigation Directorate of The Mauritius Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) to undertake a Training Needs Analysis. Mauritian authorities are keen for the ECCA to potentially provide anti-corruption training.

T/Assistant Commissioner Adams met with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service to discuss training and providing operational support as they look to develop their fraud investigation services. Every UK overseas territory is twinned with a UK Police Force whom they can request support and advice from. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service is twinned with the City of London Police.

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