

**POLICE
& CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
THAMES VALLEY

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**Annual
Report**
2013-2014

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1. Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present my second Annual Report as Thames Valley's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It sets out how I have exercised my functions over the last year, highlighting progress against the key strategic objectives in my Police and Crime Plan 2013- 2017.

2013-14 was a challenging year which has culminated in some positive outcomes that have made a real difference for our communities in reducing crime and improving community safety. Key headlines include:

- Maintaining front-line, visible policing, despite the considerable reduction in funding for the police service
- Significant reductions in overall crime, including a 20% reduction in domestic burglary
- Tackled rural crime and focused on the impact that criminality has on communities and vulnerable individuals
- Engaged with a diverse range of groups and individuals on policing and crime issues, and supported crime reduction initiatives including domestic violence, online fraud and cyber crime
- I consulted residents on local policing issues through a significant number of 'Have Your Say' meetings and participated in other community events across Thames Valley
- I collaborated with other PCCs and police forces across the South East region, signing a landmark contract with BT to transform technology used by the forces, save money and enhance frontline service delivery

- I worked with the Chief Constable to set up a South East Regional Organised Crime Unit in which Thames Valley Police are the lead Force.

It was clear from my 'Have Your Say' public engagement events that Community Safety Partnerships play a vital role in ensuring local policing is delivered effectively to all our communities.

Therefore in 2014/15, I will continue to lay emphasis on my role between policing and partnerships to reduce crime in areas such as burglary and violence but also increase support for victims of other forms of priority crime such as domestic violence and sexual abuse. Further details of my revised priorities for 2014/15 will be published on my website in due course (www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk).

Anthony Stansfeld
Police and Crime
Commissioner for
Thames Valley

2. Twelve Months in Office

- PROGRESS IN MEETING MY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

This section highlights my achievements in 2013-14 through a range of overarching areas linked to the Police and Crime Plan

I. STATUTORY DUTIES

- I set a balanced budget for 2013/14
- I produced a Police and Crime Plan for the Thames Valley which reflects my election pledges, as well as the issues raised by members of the public, partners and other stakeholders
- I have held the Chief Constable to account for her leadership of Thames Valley Police (TVP) and delivery of an efficient and effective police service by scrutinising force performance and progress against the Force 'Annual Delivery Plan'
- I responded to relevant HMIC inspection reports on policing in Thames Valley and held the Chief Constable to account for the findings contained in those reports

- Together with the Chief Constable I have established a new 'Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel' in order to improve transparency and accountability, and to maintain public confidence in the police. We recruited local, independent, members of the public to become members of the Panel to oversee the way complaints, integrity and ethics issues are dealt with by TVP
- I have administered an effective Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.

II. POLICING AND CRIME

- I prioritised tackling rural crime in the Thames Valley. I highlighted the links between the theft of large, high value, agricultural plant and equipment and other serious organised crime, as well as the social and economic impact on isolated, vulnerable, rural communities. TVP now attends every significant incident of rural crime, showing a determination to tackle this type of crime.

- I actively promoted the 'Country Watch' messaging alert scheme for people who live and work in rural communities, as a means to prevent, disrupt and detect criminal activity across Thames Valley. So far over 7,500 people have signed up to this system and are receiving crime alerts. In addition, I signed up to the National Rural Crime Network to help tackle rural crime more effectively
- I oversaw significant reductions in crime in 2013/14. Overall crime in the Thames Valley fell by 3% and domestic burglary, which was one of my key priorities, dropped by 20%
- Since becoming PCC domestic burglary has dropped by over 35%. The Force has enhanced the way it gathers information and issued crime prevention advice in hotspot areas which has contributed to the overall reduction of burglary, especially in the rural areas
- I supported a number of key initiatives to reduce crime or highlight the impact on victims in Thames Valley, including:
 - Promoting Crimestoppers' initiatives to ensure the public can independently report crime
 - 'This is Abuse' campaign, aimed at 13-18 year olds, to highlight attitudes and behaviours in abusive relationships
 - 'Cyber Streetwise' campaign to protect people by falling victim to cyber criminality
 - Promoting Safer Internet Day to ensure responsible use of technology
 - Alcohol-harm campaign week.

III. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

I have funded a wide range of community safety activities across the Thames Valley. These are set out in more detail in Section 4 of this Report

Other examples of partnership work I have undertaken are:

- Continued to support the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Oxfordshire which responds to incidents of serious and organised child sexual exploitation and abuse. MASHs will be extended across Buckinghamshire and Berkshire during 2014/15
- Pro-actively explored opportunities between the 15 Community Safety Partnerships to collaborate or enhance joint working to improve service delivery across Thames Valley
- Provided over £3.5 million from my Community Safety Fund to local authorities and TVP to help reduce crime and improve community safety
- Signed up to the Mental Health Concordat for Thames Valley to improve the care of people with mental health problems
- Supported 'Working with Women in Criminal Justice' campaign
- My deputy chairs the Local Criminal Justice Board's (LCJB) 'Victims & Witnesses Commissioning Reference Group' which oversees and monitors the local commissioning of victims' services.

IV. ENGAGEMENT

- Held 16 'Have Your Say' public meetings across Thames Valley in which my deputy and I have engaged with residents on local policing issues
- Attended 12 community events across Thames Valley to engage with the public and obtain their views on policing and crime
- Attended 'Play Day' events in Abingdon and Banbury to find out the public's view on policing and crime
- Promoted rural crime initiatives at the Berkshire, Oxfordshire & Thame Shows
- Held quarterly liaison meetings with the Crown Prosecutor
- Met with all Councils across Thames Valley
- Attended various Community Safety Partnership meetings
- I met with a diverse range of groups and individuals to discuss and, where appropriate, drive forward topical policing and criminal justice issues, such as:
 - Ambulance Service
 - Business Partnerships
 - Charities
 - Children's Centres
 - Community Safety Partnerships
 - Crime Reduction Projects
 - Health Foundation Trusts
 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
 - Local Councillors
 - Local Criminal Justice Board
 - Local Police Area Commanders
 - MPs
 - National Farmers Union
 - Probation Service
 - Rape Crisis Centre
 - Schools, Colleges and Universities
 - Youth Trusts

V. VALUE FOR MONEY

- Despite the considerable reduction in government funding for the police service in recent years, I have worked with the Chief Constable to maintain Thames Valley Police's front-line visible policing. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary said of Thames Valley "It has limited the impact of the cuts on its frontline workforce in a way very few other forces have been able to achieve"
- I collaborated with the PCCs from two other South East forces - Hampshire and Surrey - to sign a landmark joint contract with BT. The 'South East Police Shared Network Services Agreement' (SEPSNSA), valued at £37.4m, will transform the telecoms technology used by the three Forces as well as delivering significant financial savings in the future
- I worked with all South East region PCCs and Chief Constables to align the South East's Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Units into one single operational command unit under the direction and control of the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police. The optimised use of shared intelligence and resources will facilitate a cohesive regional and national cross-border response to the threats of safety and security of our communities
- My staff successfully bid for £1.6 million from the Home Office 'precursor innovation fund' to improve the detection and investigation of crime through the use of technology
- I sold the outstanding claim with the Icelandic Bank, Landsbanki, which went into administration in 2008. In so doing I have recovered 96% of the original £5 million deposit.



3. Annual Performance 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

My policing objectives and associated performance targets for the 2013/14 financial year, together with actual performance for the year, are summarised below.	2013/14 Annual Target	2013/14 Actual Performance
Strategic Objective 1: 'To cut crimes that are of most concern to the community'		
Performance Targets:		
Reduce the level of violence against the person	-2%	0.5%
Reduce the level of domestic burglary	-2%	-19.8%
Increase the detection rate for violence against the person with injury	45%	47.8%
Increase the detection rate for domestic burglary	18%	20.4%
Maintain the detection rate for rape	23%	24.3%
Reduce persistent and resistant anti-social behaviour problems by dealing effectively with 50 such cases during 2013/14	50	78
Increase the level of enforcement activity targeted at those who steal metal and those who handle it. Carry out at least 24 operations against metal theft.	40	42
Strategic Objective 2: 'To increase the visible presence of the Police'		
Performance Target:		
Increase the hours of active duty worked by Special Constables	159,896	146,766
Strategic Objective 3: 'Protect our communities from the most serious harm'		
Performance Targets:		
Disrupt 20 problem and organised crime groups that prey on vulnerable people and isolated communities.	20	28
The number of cash detention orders to be a minimum of 160.	160	189
Strategic Objective 4: 'Improve communication with the public in order to build trust and confidence with our communities'		
(no performance targets set).	-	-
Strategic Objective 5: 'To tackle bureaucracy and develop the professional skills of all staff'		
(no performance targets set).	-	-
Strategic Objective 6: 'To reduce costs and protect the frontline'		
Performance Target:		
Reduce non-pay costs by £3,693m in 2013/14	£3.693M	£3.695m

The performance headlines for 2013/14 are summarised below.

There were 6,183 fewer crimes and over 3,500 fewer victims of crime in Thames Valley during the year 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014 compared to the previous year.

Annual figures showed that overall crime dropped by 5% compared to the same period the year before.

- The number of recorded crimes dropped from 133,680 to 127,497 and the number of recorded victim-based crimes dropped from 117,217 to 113,713
- Domestic burglaries were down by nearly 20% (target reduction: -2%) which meant that 1,401 fewer people had their homes broken into
- The detection rate for burglary dwelling increased from 15.8% to 20.4% (target level: 18%)
- The number of recorded personal robberies dropped from 1,174 to 940
- Unfortunately, the overall incidence of violence against the person was slightly up by 0.5% (target reduction: -2%), or an increase of 94 more offences

- However, the detection rate for violence against the person with injury increased from 46.9% last year to 47.8% (target level: 45%)
- The detection rate for rape has increased from 22.6% last year to 24.3% (target level: 23%)
- The number of Vehicle Thefts fell by 10% compared to the previous year.



4. Community safety activities 2013/14

I have provided over £3.5 million from my Community Safety Fund to local authorities and other partnerships to help implement crime reduction and community safety activities. This supports, amongst other things, activity undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams and Drug and Alcohol Teams across Thames Valley.

The initiatives and activity undertaken by local partnerships broadly fall into the following five categories:-

- i. **Crime prevention activity** undertaken by local authority partnerships involves engagement with the public using a variety of means to inform, educate and reduce fear of crime. Examples of programmes I have indirectly supported include:-
 - o The Junior Citizen programme run in West Oxfordshire which provides safety education through participatory workshops for year 6 children, covering themes such as stranger danger, road safety and cyber bullying
 - o Faringdon Community Mural and Graffiti projects
 - o A competition leading to a DVD and resource to warn and educate young people of the dangers of 'sexting' (i.e. sending intimate pictures via the internet or mobile phones)
 - o A taxi marshalling and 'Street Angel' scheme in Windsor to help support vulnerable young people and prevent disorder associated with the night-time economy
 - o Milton Keynes has employed two Engagement Officers specifically to engage with groups of young people that gather in the city centre and neighbouring estates.
- ii. **Services** are delivered directly by local partnerships, or commissioned by them, to key target groups, such as victims of crime, offenders, or those at risk of committing crime or anti-social behaviour. Examples of services I have indirectly supported include:-
 - o Reading's Criminal Justice Intervention Team have rolled out a range of new programmes for service users. These include accredited courses that aim to increase the likelihood of finding and sustaining employment
 - o The South and Vale Community Payback Project organises community-based projects for ex-offenders to undertake unpaid work, such as graffiti removal and other environmental improvements.

- ASPIRE is an Oxfordshire organisation providing training, work experience and support to help tackle re-offending linked to substance misuse
 - The Henley Regatta bus service to subsidise additional bus services to help alleviate weekend crowds unable to access public transport
 - The SMART bus which operates throughout Windsor & Maidenhead to provide accessible outreach drug and alcohol services.
- iii. **Operational Support** is largely given before, during or after Thames Valley Police operations, to increase the effectiveness of police enforcement or support those identified and in need of further intervention. Examples of operational support include:-
- The Cherwell Crime Partnership works alongside local councils, retailers and the police to reduce shoplifting through the use of banning orders
 - Operation Ladybird in Bracknell Forest which involves multi-agency engagement with offenders who cause the most harm to communities
 - Operation NightSafe which involves working with licensees to reduce town centre violence and promote responsible drinking across a number of local authority areas
 - Milton Keynes Joint Agency and Tasking Coordinating (JATAC) meeting is a monthly meeting based around the Police Tactical and Tasking Coordination Group, providing up to date information and relevant intelligence to all partners in Milton Keynes.
- iv. **Training** takes place to improve the skills and knowledge of professionals working in areas related to criminal justice, as well as other frontline workers such as teachers and parents. Examples of activity undertaken include:-
- A Rural Crime Conference delivered jointly by the Wokingham and Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Community Safety Partnerships
 - Multi-agency training on Child Sexual Exploitation and Hate Crime awareness training provided by Slough Community Safety Partnership
 - Domestic Abuse 'champions' training across a wide range of agencies in West Berkshire.
- v. **Evaluation, research and analysis** is undertaken by local partnerships to better understand the needs or views of local communities, patterns of anti-social behaviour, or to review existing services to inform how they should be developed or shaped to better meet demand. Examples of work I have indirectly supported include:-
- Evidence-based response plans through the Jill Dando Institute to examine and find solutions for a street drinking issue in Wycombe, leading to an over 50% decrease in complaints from residents
 - Needs assessment into the prevalence of 'legal highs' across Buckinghamshire
 - Research to help explain the absence of gangs in Milton Keynes
 - Bracknell Forest Community Nuisance & Disorder information System (CADIS) for recording and analysing anti-social behaviour data from police, local authority, housing providers, the ambulance and fire service.





5. Summary Financial Performance 2013/14 Financial Year

PCC Direct Operating Costs		£000	2013/14 Actuals £000
PCC Direct Operating and Commissioning Costs			
	Democratic representation	162	
	Commissioning costs	3,525	
	Office of the PCC	683	
			4,370
Policing services provided by Thames Valley Police			
	Employees	365,862	
	Premises	22,993	
	Transport	16,490	
	Supplies & Services	52,323	
	3rd Party Payments	6,728	
	less: Force Income	-42,851	
			421,545
Capital Financing			
	Capital financing costs	5,592	
	less: Interest income on balances	-932	
			4,660
Planned Appropriations from Revenue Balances			1,867
Total Cost of Services			432,442
Funded by:			
	General Grant income	-236,319	
	Specific Grants	-68,611	
	Council Tax	-128,866	
	Total Funding		-433,796
Net Revenue Underspend 2012/13			-1,356

Figures shown in the above table are as per the Statement of Accounts 2013/14. They include all office costs and services commissioned by the PCC, and the cost of all activities carried out by Thames Valley Police (including the SE Counter Terrorism Unit and collaborative arrangements such as the Hampshire/TVP joint ICT unit and the Chiltern Transport Consortium).

The 2013/14 net annual underspend of £1.356m equates to just 0.3% of the approved net revenue budget of £434.414m, demonstrating effective financial management.

For further information about the summary finances reported above, please see the PCC website (www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk) for a copy of the full Statement of Accounts.

6. Emerging priorities for 2014/15

In producing my initial 4 year Police and Crime Plan covering the period 2013-2017, I undertook extensive consultation with statutory bodies such as Councils and MPs, with the public, and with a wide range of voluntary organisations. From this 4 year Plan the Chief Constable produces an Annual Delivery Plan which explains in detail the operational objectives for the police. I hold the Chief Constable to account for achieving the objectives and targets in the Annual Delivery Plan.

I am conscious that police budgets will continue to be cut for many years to come due to cutbacks in public sector finances. I am also alive to other changing circumstances that will impact on policing and crime. As such, I believe it is prudent to update my Police and Crime Plan. I have not changed the main priorities but I have addressed a number of areas in the updated plan.

■ **Female genital mutilation is now receiving the police action it requires.** However, nationally there have been (as at July 2014) no successful prosecutions for this crime. Together with Health and Well Being Boards, the NHS, and schools, which are the agencies best placed to deal with this crime, I expect TVP to take whatever action is required to tackle this practice in those communities in which it is perpetrated.

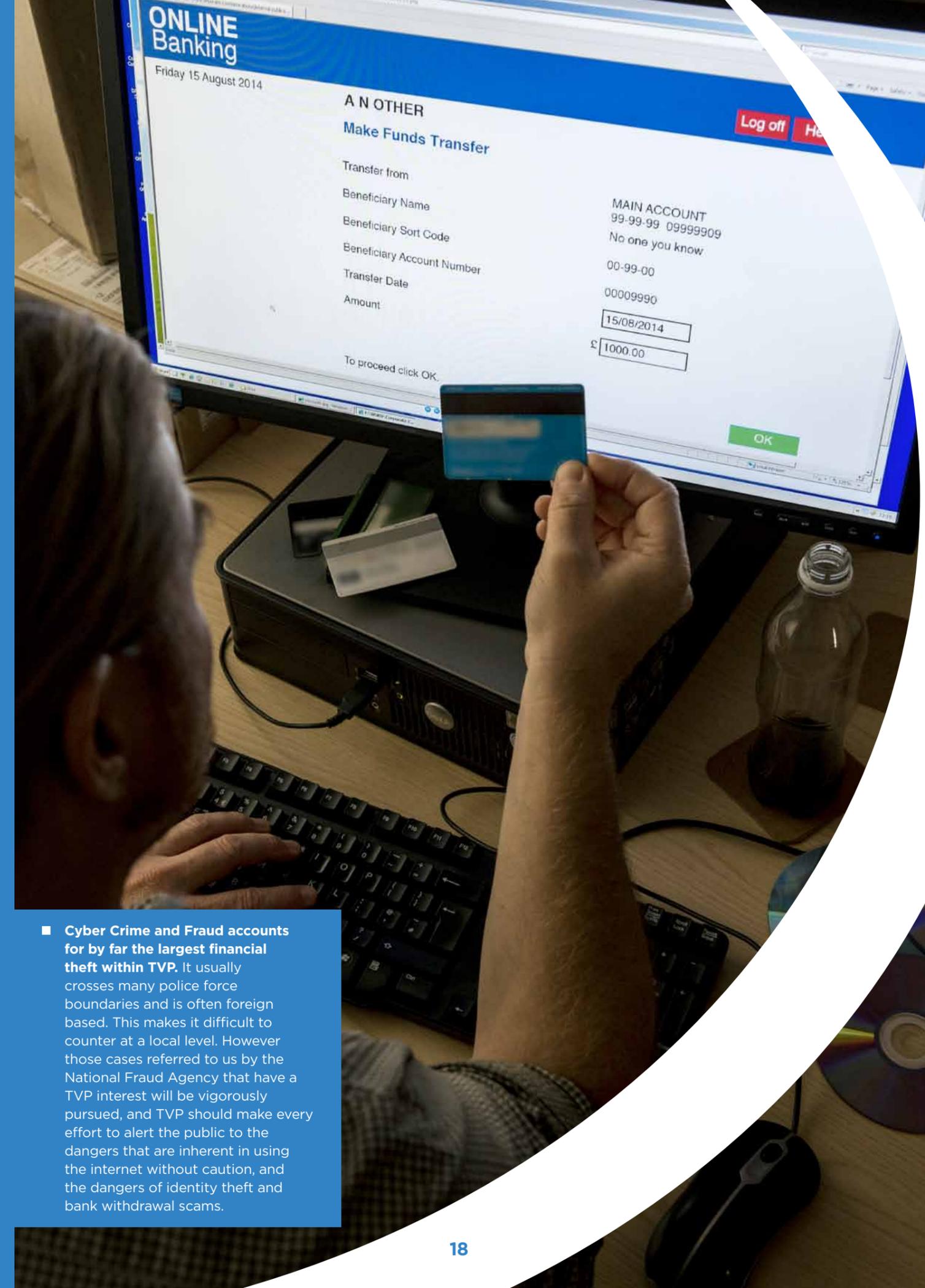
■ **Police/Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) File Quality.** It is the responsibility of the Police to provide the CPS with files that allow the CPS to successfully prosecute cases. It is the responsibility of the CPS to review these files in a timely fashion. It is unacceptable to turn down cases at the last moment before a case enters court because the case file is inadequate. It is damaging to the victims, to the witnesses and to police morale.

I am reluctant to set a specific target on this, but I expect to see an improvement in the time taken for files to be reviewed by the CPS and, if the files are inadequate, the police to correct and return them to the CPS.

■ **The protection of vulnerable people is still an issue that requires considerable police effort.** The setting up of multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASHs) across the Thames Valley will greatly assist in countering child sexual abuse. Human Trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable adults take place not only in our major towns but also in the countryside where it is coupled with rural crime. I expect the police and partners to be aware of these issues and, where it is suspected, to take all means available to bring this crime to justice.

■ **Later this year I take responsibility for commissioning victims' support services and restorative justice services.** Both of these new responsibilities will require considerable work. Preparatory work is already underway and I am confident that the Office of the PCC will have the necessary expertise and staff to take on this extra work and deliver an excellent service.

■ **There has been considerable national public disquiet about a number of high profile cases in which the Police have acted inappropriately.** These cases have not happened within TVP but nevertheless I and the Chief Constable believed it was necessary to set up a Complaints, Integrity and Ethic Panel comprising independent members of the public. The Panel will establish itself more over the next 12 months and will report its findings and recommendations to both me and the Chief Constable. Its work will also help me to hold the Chief Constable to account for the way the Force deals with complaints made against it, and so will help improve policing transparency and accountability.



■ **Cyber Crime and Fraud accounts for by far the largest financial theft within TVP.** It usually crosses many police force boundaries and is often foreign based. This makes it difficult to counter at a local level. However those cases referred to us by the National Fraud Agency that have a TVP interest will be vigorously pursued, and TVP should make every effort to alert the public to the dangers that are inherent in using the internet without caution, and the dangers of identity theft and bank withdrawal scams.



For further information about the PCC get in touch with us using the contact details below or visit www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

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