

## Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

### **Overarching Introduction and Performance**

The Metropolitan Police Service's West Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) incorporates the London Boroughs of Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow. As with all of London's 12 BCUs, West Area (WA) is segmented into five business areas: Response Teams, Neighbourhoods, Local Investigations (CID), Public Protection and HQ.

### **Response Teams**

Response Teams lead the immediate response to incidents across the Hillingdon area. Response also have an investigative capacity which aims to ensure investigations are taken over from the emergency response officers to keep as many officers out on the streets as possible and they also have responsibility for the initial risk assessments and investigations relating to persons reported missing.

### **Neighbourhoods**

The Neighbourhoods business area incorporates the local police (safer neighbourhoods) teams, including Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) for every ward. Unless there is a critical operational demand, DWO's are ring-fenced from abstraction into other duties (for example, covering Response shifts or aid in other parts of the capital). Neighbourhoods also incorporates: Safer School Officers, Youth Engagement and Diversions Teams, Faith Engagement Officers, Licensing and ASB Teams.

### **Local Investigations**

The Local Investigations strand oversees the more serious and complex crime types. It also has responsibility for delivering the BCU's work on offender management and how gang issues are addressed. This business area includes teams which deal reactively to crimes, as well as an important proactive unit; this strand also own and manage the BCU's approach to investigating and reducing violent crime across Hillingdon and Youth Offending Teams.

### **Public Protection**

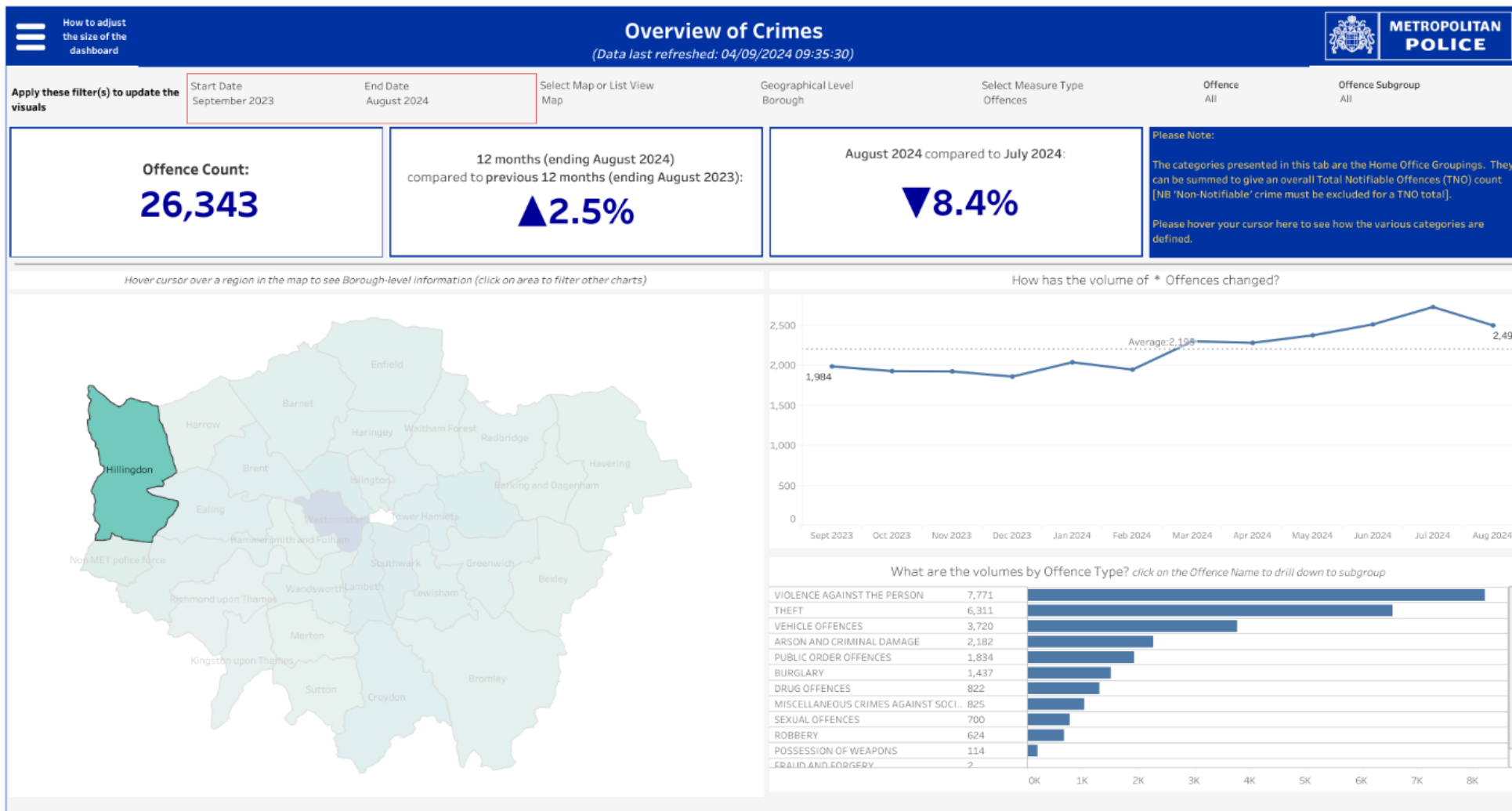
Public Protection have the responsibility for investigating child abuse, rape and domestic abuse offences. It also takes the lead on high risk missing person investigations and hate crime. Key to Public Protection's work is ensuring a more joined up and victim-focused service and officers are expected to work closely with the council and other partners to achieve this.

### **HQ**

The HQ business area has responsibility for the Basic command Unit (BCU) Ops Room, which is the local MPS control hub. This is responsible for joined up command and control 24 hours a day BCU wide. Other areas of HQ responsibility include: resourcing, professional standards, training fleet management, business continuity, Criminal Justice, finance and estates.

**Performance:**

Hillingdon is amongst the 10 safest boroughs in London. The overall crime rate in 2023 was 91 crimes per 1000. This compares favourably to London’s overall crime rate, coming in 13% lower than the London rate of 105 per 1000 daytime population.



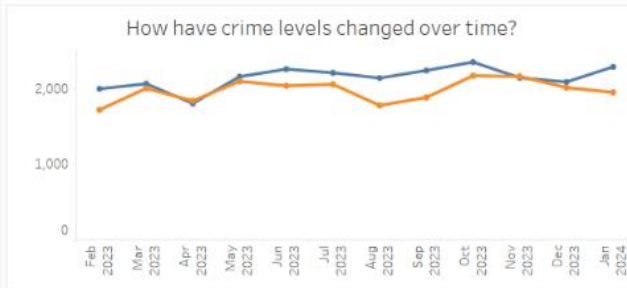
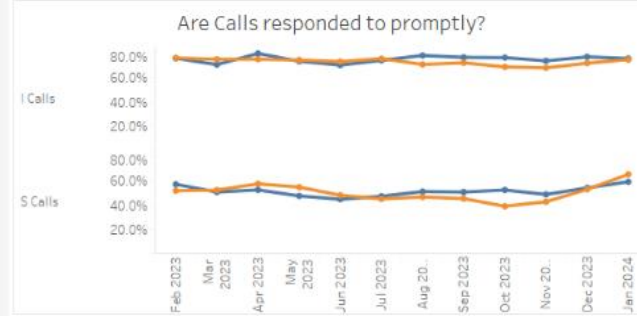
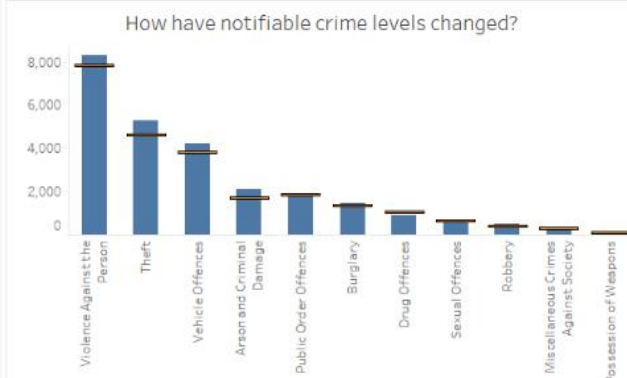
### Summary of Crimes in Hillingdon This Year

<p><b>Offences h</b></p> <p><b>25,739</b></p> <p>offences recorded +1,580 (+6.5%) MORE than previous period</p>	<p><b>PO Rate i</b></p> <p><b>7.0%</b></p> <p>Positive Outcome Rate A DECREASE of -2.4% ppt</p>	<p><b>'I Calls' Calls in Target h</b></p> <p><b>75.4%</b></p> <p>in target AN INCREASE of +2.2% ppt</p>	<p><b>'S Calls' Calls in Target h</b></p> <p><b>51.4%</b></p> <p>in target AN INCREASE of +0.9% ppt</p>	<p><b>ASB Calls h</b></p> <p><b>6,502</b></p> <p>ASB calls received +63 (+1.0%) MORE</p>	<p><b>Stop &amp; Search i</b></p> <p><b>2,764</b></p> <p>Stop &amp; Search -1,362 (-33.0%) FEWER</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to go to the Stops dashboard</a></p>	<p>Named Suspects: <b>11,502</b></p> <p>Wanted Offenders: ...</p> <p>(last updated 08 May 2022)</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to go to the OMR</a></p>
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Click on a region in the map to filter charts and tables by region, and to see ward-level information



Offences are counted by 'owning' BCU/Borough: Some may be associated with a crime in ward outside of their borders. NB Only wards that have a count in the time period selected will appear.



#### What is driving ASB?

Category	ASB Calls	% of ASB Calls
Rowdy Or Inconsiderate Behaviour	3,425	52.7%
Rowdy _ Nuisance Neighbours	997	15.3%
Null	578	8.9%
Veh Nuisance _ Inappropriate Use	567	8.7%
Noise	285	4.4%
Trespass	164	2.5%

(12 months ending August 2024 compared to previous 12 months ending August 2023)

Robbery increased by 35% and Theft Offences by 17%. This was higher than London wide increases for these crime types which were at 11% and 15% respectively. This rise is accounted to new home office counting rules, whereby Violent shoplifting offences are falling into this category. Additionally the introduction of Connect to record crimes has paired Heathrow Airport figures into the Borough figures. We are in the process of amending this with our data office to remove Heathrow Airport crimes from our stats.

Tackling violent crime and a focus on addressing Male Violence Against Women and Girls were priorities of West Area BCU across 2023 and into 2024, which helped the Borough to experience a decrease in violence against the person crime of 2.5% and a 6% increase in sexual offences. The focus on tackling violent crime in Hillingdon has seen some notable achievements, including a 6% reduction in knife crime with injury, a 23% decrease in possession of weapons offences and within the age group of 1-24 years the number of knife crime injury victims reduced by 24%.

Sanction detection rate indicates the rate of offences that resolve with a formal sanction to the offender. This does not necessarily mean a *conviction*; it may include a range of other sanctions including:

- The suspect being charged or summonsed
- The suspect being cautioned, reprimanded or given a final warning
- The suspect receiving a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) or other Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)
- System was put in place to correctly record them as PNDs for the relevant offence

As with the Metropolitan Police Service area as a whole, Hillingdon's sanction detection rate had been in steady decline over a number of years. This sharp decline has been driven by a number of factors, most notably:

- The overall reduction in police numbers and resourcing per head of population
- Changes in recording process and the steady uplift in overall crime figures
- Changes in detection targets and actions taken by certain forces to meet these
- The increasing reliance on Police to 'fill the gap' for other services, such as in responding to clients in mental health crisis

### **Trust and Confidence:**

West Area Police recognise the scale of public concern following a number of cases involving MPS Officers which have involved behaviours which have truly been shocking and totally unacceptable to the Metropolitan Police Service and the public they serve. The scale of the challenge faced by the MPS is evidenced in the report of Baroness Casey. Significant reforms are already occurring, which will impact across London and locally in Hillingdon to ensure police improve trust with local communities and address the need to identify those officers who are unfit to be in the MPS.

The New Met for London Plan is directly aimed at improving public trust and confidence in London policing and will see additional investment into Neighbourhood Policing including uplifts in Sergeant and PCSO numbers

### **Emergency Response Policing Teams 2024:**

ERPTs respond to emergency calls and deal with ongoing incidents. They also undertake scheduled visits to members of the public reporting crime. ERPT provide a deterrent in response to crime trends by patrolling identified crime 'hot spots' and are a Met-wide flexible resource to respond to central Public Order Aid and force mobilisation. ERPT also investigate higher volume, non-complex crimes, offering immediate victim / Police contact to improve victim care and provide clear ownership of investigations.

The West Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) response teams are located in three patrol bases, one in each borough, with the Hillingdon Patrol Base situated in Uxbridge. Due to a number of significant central policing events over 2024 (volume of protests and sporting events), resourcing has been a challenge.

### **Neighbourhoods and Partnership:**

Neighbourhoods is at the heart of the mission to deliver less crime, more trust and high standards. We need to reconnect with local people, truly listen to their crime and ASB concerns, and take effective action. Community crime fighting plans will be pivotal in achieving this and is a key strategy priority.

The plans are fundamentally shaped by our principles. They will help ensure we are putting communities first – the process of building the plans from ward priorities will mean they are genuinely co-produced. By listening to our communities, particularly those whom we might have failed to engage effectively in the past, the plans will be inclusive, and will help give our officers and staff clear direction.

Our community safety partners will be key stakeholders but so will other parts of the Met who might not necessary have worked in communities before. Collaboration will be vital, as will the use of data and insight to ensure we use our time and resources effectively.

Our approach to community crime fighting are determined by a number of key commitments outlined in a New Met for London, including having at least 2 DWOs and 1 PCSO in every ward, maintaining a bespoke set of crime priorities for each ward, and that we will do more to support neighbourhoods blighted by crime – Clear Hold Build.

The manner in which we deliver our Community Crime Fighting plans is as important as the tactics we employ. For instance, ensuring our ward priorities consider the widest range of local perspectives will be key to showing that we respect and care for all our communities. We recognise that at times we might have to either refer complaints to other more suitable agencies or have to prioritise more pressing issues. However, by caring for our communities, listening and taking the time to explain decisions, and doing the right thing we will bring people with us.

Fundamentally, our teams, led by their Neighbourhood Superintendent, will be accountable for reducing crime (via the borough objectives) and therefore increasing confidence in the MPS.

### **Stop and Search:**

West Area police recognise the importance of working hard to address any disproportionality issues regarding stop and search on Hillingdon Borough and provide assurances that they have proper review mechanisms in place to ensure this policing power is used appropriately. To this end a number of work streams have been progressed and developed in including:

### **Youth Scrutiny Panels (YSPs):**

This platform is used to raise awareness amongst young people of their rights when stopped by police and the mandatory information (GO WISELY) that the officer will provide before the search is conducted. This platform also assists officers in understanding the lived experiences faced by young persons in Hillingdon through poor use of stop and search powers.

### **Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs):**

We share information with our CMGs for each borough and there are 24 meetings planned every year. CMGs view the data of stop and search and how many were conducted within the last 3 month period, positive outcomes and most used section by officers. CMGs also attend police stations to view Body Worn Video (BWV) footage together with police. This is to ensure our powers and force used is reasonable and justified. Any concerns in relation to a stop and search encounter is reviewed and officers are spoken to.

### **Section 60s:**

West Area has introduced post S60 briefing which includes the local CMG and Hillingdon Local Authority partners attending a 30 minute post S60 debrief session. During this, the group monitor the duration, geographical area and whether a Superintendent was informed of this or not. If the duration or area covered by the S60 is beyond what the intelligence/information would suggest is proportionate then the authorising officer is spoken to and asked for an explanation and any learning disseminated accordingly.

### **Police Officer Training:**

Young Persons now attend training sessions for New West Area police officers with social workers to observe stop and search training by West Areas Learning and Development team. This takes place every 5 weeks subject to availability of social workers and young persons. These sessions have also benefited new officers as they had input from young persons on previous stop and search which impacted the trust and confidence of the community. New officers learn directly from the input given by young persons.

### **Disproportionality / Quality Assurance:**

To ensure West Area police on Hillingdon are not misusing this power, police supervisors dip sample around 100 stop and search encounters every month. This is ongoing and any concerns are addressed with officers/supervisors. As with every BCU, Hillingdon's stop and search data is updated and published regularly, making it available to all. As with previous years, most of the stops in Hillingdon during 2024 were conducted on males (over 90%). 14% of those stopped were under 18 years old.

In 2024, regarding stops by ethnic appearance, more white people were stopped in Hillingdon than any other ethnic group classed by ethnic appearance with this group accounting for 39% of stops. 27% were of black individuals and 26% of Asian appearance. In terms of

proportionality, stops by ethnic appearance by 1,000 of the population broke down as: 0.34 for persons defined as white, 0.88 for persons defined as black and 0.59 for persons classed as Asian.

Conversely, there was under-representation in the stops on people in other ethnic groupings. While the proportion of stops of Asian individuals was broadly in line with Borough demographics, white people were stopped only 0.73 times than would have been proportionate based on the Borough's population, and those in 'other' ethnic categories were stopped only 0.56 times than the proportionate level. There was a lower positive outcome rate for stops of Black and Asian people.

Looking at outcomes, 64% of stops led to no further action with 17% leading to arrest.

### **Neighbourhood Team Activity Highlights:**

**Op Nightingale:** This operation is focused in Uxbridge and was initiated in 2022 but will continue through 2024, with Hayes Town now also being included. Op Nightingale essentially aims to increase uniform policing presence in key demand locations whilst also enacting longer-term problem solving. As part of this, the BCU obtained over £100,000 for initiatives.

**Ask for Angela:** An ongoing operation providing education to local town centres / night time economy. Teaching the local community and businesses how a VAWG victim can ask for help "by asking for Angela". Teams are continuing to attend local pubs and clubs (in plain cloths) completing test visits "asking for Angela". This information is then recorded as a pass or fail by the venue and education again provided to the businesses.

**Neighbourhood Policing Week of Action:** This week of action took place across Hillingdon which aimed to highlight the work undertaken by neighbourhood policing, to drive crime down, engage with the local communities and bring offenders to justice. This saw activity including:

- Walk and Talk initiatives
- Licencing Visits to Pubs, Off licences and any problematic premises
- Visiting rough sleepers / homeless persons.
- Weapon sweeps with members of the public in open space areas

Targeting our outstanding and wanted offenders.

### **Op Retail:**

Most prolific retail theft offenders and venues identified. Local officers have built relationships with the venues, identifying the most prolific offenders, target hardening and working together to reduce offending.

Over the last 12 months the MPS has a positive outcome rate of 6% for business crime, which is trending down during the period. Hillingdon has a positive outcome rate of over 7%, showing a steady increase since Op retail started at the beginning of 2024 from 40 positive outcomes per month to 166 in August 24.

For offenders, one CBO has been issued at court, four are going through the court process, and three more are ready to be issued.

### **Local Investigations (LI)**

West Area Local Investigations (LI) strands throughout the MPS hold responsibility for the investigation of serious and complex crime, utilising proactive and reactive asset to explore disruption, enforcement, engagement, diversion and rehabilitation opportunities. In accordance with Met Direction and MOPAC, performance is focussed towards MPS operational priorities:

#### **1. Focus on what matters to Londoners**

Violent crime tops public concerns and includes, terrorism, knife and gun crime, sexual offending, domestic abuse and safeguarding vulnerable people from predatory behaviour.

#### **2. Work more closely with partners and the public**

Safety requires action and intervention beyond the police service and revolves around developing key relationships with partners and communities, to keep communities safe and prevent crime from taking place.

#### **3. Achieve the best outcomes in the pursuit of justice and in the support of victims**

Ensure victims receive the best possible outcome by proactively managing offenders and delivering justice and support to victims.

#### **Weekly Violence Meeting**

This Pan-BCU meeting takes place every Thursday and includes representation from all policing strands and from Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow local authorities. Hillingdon are represented by senior management from safer communities, as well as the Violence Reduction Coordinator and CCTV manager. The forum is primarily focussed on reviewing and addressing serious violence, violence against women and girls, burglary and robbery, with the flexibility to amend agenda according to operational need. Analytical products provide an overview of the previous seven days and examine common themes, trends and hotspots, allowing forward facing strategic planning and effective multi-agency risk management.

#### **Detective Growth and Experience:**

As an organisation, the MPS continues to experience challenges in terms of the level of Detective experience within its Criminal Investigation Departments (both within the LI and PP strands). The MPS has introduced a number of schemes to increase the growth numbers of Detectives within the organisation such as the direct entry detective scheme. However, the levels of experience in the detective constable rank still possess a challenge for LI.

#### **Public Protection:**

Public Protection covers a range of serious and complex crimes that often affect the most vulnerable in a community. Within WA BCU, Public Protection encompasses multiple strands, including child abuse; domestic abuse, stalking and harassment; exploitation (CSE and CCE), harmful practices, hate crime, mental health, missing people, online child sex abuse and exploitation, rape and serious sexual offences and abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. It also incorporates our child abuse referrals team and our MASH desks. Supporting our



investigation teams is our Predatory Offender Unit. WA Public Protection teams cover three London Boroughs; Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow.

### **Domestic Abuse:**

Hillingdon, like many other London boroughs, has seen increases in recorded domestic abuse crime in recent years – a crime we know disproportionately affects women. WA has continued to see the highest volume of both domestic abuse incidents and domestic abuse offences across the Met.

Despite recent yearly increases, Hillingdon Borough recorded 3,577 domestic abuse offences in the 2023/2024 year, which was a reduction of 11% on the previous year.

### **Child Exploitation Team:**

Throughout 2024, we have continued to work closely with partners to ensure child exploitation (both sexual and criminal exploitation) is identified and investigated, and that those children and young people who are affected by predatory behaviour are supported and kept safe. Our Child Exploitation Team work alongside other policing teams, including WA's Gangs Unit and Missing Persons, and engage with partners at the Multi-Agency Vulnerability and Exploitation (MAVES), including Children's Social Care, Health, Education, Youth Offending Services and Safer Communities as well as third sector partners.

### **Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation team (OCSAE):**

The demands placed on the investigation team are significant, both in terms of volume and the impact such crime types can have on their own welfare. The team have achieved some excellent results, executing warrants and securing charges against individuals who are accused of possession and often distributing hundreds of indecent images of children, of the most serious category.

### **Criminal Justice**

The Criminal Justice Unit are responsible for ensuring that Case Files are completed by Officers and that these files are of a sufficient standard.

One of the main challenges for the Criminal Justice locally and across the MPS is the introduction of Connect, which is a new system for the preparation of Case Papers. This is one of the biggest IT uplifts undertaken by the MPS and as expected implementation has been challenging but will deliver longer-term benefits in relation to workflow efficiency and intelligence collation.

The aim over the next 12 months for the Criminal Justice department will be to build on the opportunities presented by Connect to improve the standard of case files to ensure the right court outcomes.