



SOUTH WEST POLICE COLLABORATION PROGRAMME

The South West police region covers five forces, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, and Dorset.

The current collaborative arrangements between forces have evolved over time, and exist at a variety of different levels. There are strategic alliances (which are outside the scope of this paper) between Devon & Cornwall and Dorset, and Wiltshire and Avon & Somerset, as well as three, four and five force collaborations.

The South West Police Collaboration Programme Board brings together, directs and co-ordinates a diverse range of regional collaboration projects involving police forces. By bringing these together in service planning and delivery, the Programme ensures our approach is as cost effective as possible and anchored in benefits for and service to the public. It is a decision making board and includes representatives from forces and offices of police and crime commissioners across the region. It meets each month and is chaired by Suzette Davenport, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire. It reports to the South West Police Collaboration Commissioning Board which comprises of each Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Chief Executive in the region. A number of collaborations are already delivered and a number of projects are underway:

Existing Operational Collaborations

Major Crime *Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset*

The major crime collaboration is a tri force Major Crime Investigation Team. Its remit is to investigate all homicides, and to provide support when tasked to other serious crime investigations. Wiltshire and Avon & Somerset have been collaborating in this area of service provision for several years. Gloucestershire joined in December 2015. Work is ongoing to explore opportunities to further enhance the collaborations efficiencies and interoperability.

Forensics *Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset*

The South West forensics collaboration has brought together the forensic services and staff across Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Wiltshire, and Dorset police forces. The collaboration is being delivered in a staged three phased approach, commencing in October 2014, with the final phase going live in January 2016. The collaboration includes - Identification Services, Digital Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation. There are forensic laboratories and fingerprint bureaux located in Devon & Cornwall and Avon & Somerset, and each force has a submission unit, a Hi-Tech Crime Unit and a Digital Video Unit. There is also a central imaging hub located in Devon & Cornwall. Crime Scene Investigators operate in each force area. Work is ongoing to explore opportunities to further enhance the collaborations efficiencies and interoperability.

Tri- Force *Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset*

The Tri Force Specialist Operations Unit covers three forces, Gloucester, Wiltshire and Avon & Somerset and came into being in April 2014.

The aim of the collaboration is to create a centrally managed specialist policing unit which is intelligence led and able to flex to meet demand at any time or place across the three forces.

The Unit provides firearms, dogs and roads policing capabilities, increasing efficiency and interoperability between forces. The Unit is supported by a tri force collaborated specialist training centre in Avon & Somerset.

Regional Organised Crime Unit *Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset*

The South West regional organised crime unit is known as Zephyr, and is one of nine ROCUs in England and Wales. It was established in 2010 to identify, disrupt and dismantle organised crime groups impacting on the South West. The unit brings additional specialist capability across the region through effective partnership and collaboration to make the area a place hostile to organised crime.

It brings together the capability and funding to gather intelligence, tackle serious and organised crime networks and seize the assets of the criminals involved.

Its vision is to protect the communities within the South West from serious and organised crime. To achieve this, the unit consists of a number of specialists, along with embedded partners from the National Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the United Kingdom Border Force, the National Offender Management Service and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Specialist areas include:- Regional Intelligence Unit, Regional Prison Intelligence Unit, Operations Team, Regional Asset Recovery Team, Regional Fraud Team,

Regional Cyber Crime Unit, Government Agencies Intelligence Network, Protected Persons Service, and Regional Child Sexual Exploitation.

Special Branch *Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset*

A four force special branch collaboration providing a specialist capability to maintain national security across the region

Collaborations in Development

Digital Evidence Storage and Management Solution *Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset*

A project exploring collaborative opportunities with regard to digital evidence capture, for example through body worn video cameras, and for digital evidence storage.

Ongoing

STORM *Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset*

STORM is the name of the command and control software solution which is used by each of the three forces. The project will deliver a tri force STORM software package and aligned related business processes in order to enhance interoperability and cross border service provision between the three forces. This will be a further enabler to operational collaborations, for example the Tri Force Specialist Operations collaboration.

Ongoing

Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP)

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset

ESMCP is a nationally Home Office driven programme to replace the current TETRA (terrestrial trunked radio) based emergency services communication system with a new emergency services network (ESN) utilising 4G as the platform. This will be for fire and rescue, ambulance, coastguard, as well as the police service.

The South West forces have adopted a regional approach to ESMCP, and are also linking in with colleagues from the region's other emergency services.

Forces are currently in the mobilisation and planning phase with the national rollout programme due to commence in the latter half of 2017, with the South West commencing transition in 2018.

Ongoing

Collaborative Service Platform (CSP)

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset

A regional bid has been submitted to the 2016/17 Police Innovation Fund for the funding of resources to develop a Full Business Case to inform an implementation bid for a South West Collaborative Service Platform (SWCSP).

The SWCSP would provide a regional ICT infrastructure, and a foundation for delivering further regional interoperability, services and benefits.

Ongoing



Prepared by the South West Police Collaboration Programme Team

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