

As a result current crime demand within the Investigations Directorate is reducing. We have allocated some 2,800 fewer crimes to the directorate in the last 12 months (a 26.5% change). The offences investigated continue to be the most complex and time intensive notwithstanding. Many of the investigations involve vulnerable people and will often require engagement with other agencies to assist in safeguarding and offender management. Rape and serious sexual offence investigations account for 34% of the directorate's workload. Assault investigations account for 12%; child sexual abuse accounts for 8%; fraud and forgery 6% and drugs 5%. The average number of investigations per officer remains at 7.5, due to regular and robust supervisory oversight.

Other demand affecting the Directorate, such as joint visits with other agencies, remains stable.

Future demand

We anticipate crime trends will continue as described above with further small reductions in acquisitive crime and a relatively stable position for more complex crimes such as serious violence, sexual offending, child abuse and domestic abuse. However, it is important to note the complexity of these specialist investigations will increase creating further demands for specialist investigators. Increased scrutiny concerning Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act (CPIA) matters is lengthening the time taken to investigate complex cases coupled with the additional volume of digital material that investigators are required to consider.

We continue to use crime complexity analysis as part of our predictive analytics capability to understand this and to deploy our resources to best effect. We are able to analyse demand, volume and complexity at individual officer level.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) still represents the highest graded risk in Avon and Somerset. Our use of predictive analysis warns us to expect a continuing increase in the number of victims and offenders. In order to reduce the investigative burden and at the same time safeguard victims earlier in the cycle of victimisation, we have developed an early intervention approach to tackling CSEA. Operation Topaz focuses upon perpetrator disruption, without the need for an initial complaint from the victim. Early evaluation has shown a reduction in investigative demand whilst safeguarding victims and future victims. We are now using this model to manage Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), particularly linked to County Lines in order to safeguard young people. The charity Barnados has secured funds to support CCE victims. We expect this approach to identify and increase demand over the next 12 months. We will carry out a full evaluation in Autumn 2019.

We also anticipate that following the roll out of the College of Policing's vulnerability training, later this year, there will be a greater awareness of vulnerability among all frontline staff and we are more likely to see the identification of hidden harm crime. This will build upon the BRAG risk assessment training already delivered, which has led to a 20% increase in the number of recorded investigations relating to adults at risk. We expect to continue to see rises in this particular area.

Cyber enabled crime will also increase in line with advancements in technology. In 2018, 78.3% of fraud reports were cyber enabled. There has been a 17.2% increase in cyber dependent crime in the last six months and this equates to approximately an additional 116 offences per annum. There is an emergence of public interest connected to allegations of Banking Fraud, and we therefore expect demand in this area to rise. We continue to develop our understanding and response to cybercrime. We cover this in more detail in section 4b.

An improved funding position is enabling us to build our proactive capability in the form of Operation Remedy. The operation has knife crime, drugs and