WELCOME TO THE BULLETIN
THE STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

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NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
It’s been an interesting few months since our last publication in December.

In January NABIS was pleased to be invited to attend the ten year anniversary event at Aston Villa Football Club to commemorate the lives of two Birmingham teenagers; Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare, brutally murdered in gang violence in Birmingham in 2003. The event gave the families an opportunity to celebrate the lives of the two girls and the work being done to combat gun crime across the UK.

The event highlighted a Birmingham charity supported by the families of Charlene and Letisha in collaboration with the Birmingham Mail, which supports local educational projects and the police to promote the message about the threat of gun crime to local schools and colleges. More on the event and the work of the charity is contained in this edition of Bulletin.

In other news NABIS featured on the BBC ‘OneShow’ in February as part of the BBC’s flagship ‘BBC Crimewatch’ show highlighting the forensic work of the unit and looking at the case of Michael Greenco who imported guns from the USA which was previously reported in the NABIS ‘BULLETIN’ in March 2012.

In March, NABIS attended the UK National Gangs Conference, a policing event intended to raise the profile of gang crime. NABIS gave a presentation on Firearms issues and hosted four specialist workshops dealing with Forensics and Firearms Intelligence.

And finally in April NABIS was awarded Chairmanship of the European Firearms Experts Committee. NABIS looks forward to working with its partners old and new to continue the fight against gun crime and we highlight what this entails in this issue.

Proceeds of crime funds pay for gun crime education.

As home to NABIS, West Midlands Police are at the forefront of tackling gun crime and are now using funds seized from criminals to deliver educational outreach programmes to schools in the West Midlands. Officers from the WM Operations Firearms Unit, Park Lane, Aston are leading the delivery of the programme ‘Guns & Knives Take Lives’.

The programme is helped by funds seized by police under the Proceeds of Crime Act targeting criminals involved in serious crime and drug trafficking. The money is given back to the community in projects like this aimed at reducing the harm to communities.

Working with the Communities Against Guns, Gangs & Knives (CAGGK) project and a local charity linked to the families of Charlene and Letisha; ‘The Letisha and Charlene Education Awards Scheme (LCEAS)’ together with the Birmingham Mail Newspaper the initiative has reached over 35,000 young people across the West Midlands.

Along with Marcia Shakespeare and her family, West Midlands Police visit local schools, Princes Trust programmes, Youth Offending teams, Pupil Referral Units and children in care to discuss the impact of gun crime and its effects on lives, families and communities in the region.

PC Robert Pedley, an officer involved in the CAGGK programme told NABIS: “The programme is in its third school year and we discuss life choices and the consequences of carrying weapons and associating with gangs and people in possession of weapons.”

Working with Marcia Shakespeare, the mother of Letisha who was tragically murdered in gang violence in Birmingham in 2003, the project is helping to reduce gang violence by helping schools and local communities working with the police to help de-glamorise guns, knives and gangs and educate youngsters about the consequences of carrying weapons.

The programme is leading the delivery of the ‘Guns & Knives Take Lives’ programme, which educates youngsters about the consequences of carrying weapons. The programme is helping to reduce gang violence by helping schools and local communities working with the police to help de-glamorise weapons.

“Just wanted to say this was the best assembly I have witnessed and very moving as well. Well done for organising this for the kids.”

The stories you told us made me think differently about life.
Ten years ago in Aston, Birmingham, two teenagers – Letisha Shakespeare and Charlene Ellis – were enjoying a night out when they were caught in the crossfire of a sub-machine gun used as part of an on-going drug turf war in the city. The two teenagers were tragically killed as part of a gang feud of which gun crime was becoming increasingly prevalent.

In 2002-3 there were 1,285 gun crimes recorded in the West Midlands – of which 722 were in Birmingham alone, an average of 6 per day. Ten years on, following a concerted effort by West Midlands Police and Birmingham’s council, community leaders, probation and youth services, West Midlands recorded 624 gun crimes in 2011-12, over a 50% decrease. Knife crime has also halved in the same period.

As the current “Criminal Use of Firearms” lead for the Association of Chief Police Officers, West Midlands Police, Deputy Chief Constable David Thompson is only too aware of the impact locally and nationally of the effects of gun crime.

“The tragic death of the two girls helped local communities to understand that it wasn’t simply gang members who were being shot and killed; working in schools and youth groups, the police, youth workers and community leaders looked at ways to offer young people an alternative gang lifestyle.”

An area of good work celebrated at the event at the Aston Villa Football Club on Friday January 11th, 2013, was a charity, the Letisha and Charlene Education Awards Scheme (LCEAS) which was set up in 2006. The charity supported by the Birmingham Mail and the families of the murdered teenagers, provides support and financial help to local youngsters further education and study whose personal circumstances are otherwise making it difficult for them to pursue a career.

The LCEAS Scheme; which was celebrated at the event; has so far awarded £100,000 of financial support and computer equipment to aid youngsters in fulfilling their educational dream. As a result, the scheme has helped produce doctors, teachers, fashion designers and many more professions – providing help and a positive alternative for Birmingham’s youngsters who could have easily turned to gangs and guns.

Details of the charity and its success are available at the Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation website at: [www.bbccf.org.uk](http://www.bbccf.org.uk)

So what has turned Birmingham’s seemingly gang and gun related culture around to reduce the number of incidents by over half?

Anniversary of tragic shooting provides positive reduction in gang and gun culture.
Trident trap identifies UK Soldiers trafficking guns from the EU.

In January, Woolwich Crown Court jailed five men, aged between 21 and 28, including one former soldier and three soldiers who were serving at the time of arrest, for a total of 50 years for variety of firearms and drug trafficking offences.

This follows on from an intelligence-led operation back in January 2012 by the Met’s Trident Gang Crime Command and the trial lasted over six weeks.

On 25 January 2012 at around 06:30hrs, officers from the Met’s Trident Gang Crime Command supported by armed officers from Kent Police stopped two vehicles as they got off a Euroshuttle train from Calais.

In the vehicle driven by serving soldier Trave Dyce together with former soldier Lemar Loveless, police found a total of five handguns. Each were three boxed BBM Self-loading pistols, each with a silencer and 20 rounds of ammunition. In addition were two Walther PPK 9mm self-loading pistols and 20 rounds of ammunition. In the boot of this vehicle police found a ball of black duct tape containing 500 grams of Cocaine impregnated with Curry powder to detract sniffer dogs.

Investigations focused on Loveless and Dyce’s mobile phones and identified a number of calls and text messages made whilst on route via mainland Europe to the UK. Messages making reference to the ‘firearms’, not only made whilst on route via mainland Europe to the UK. It is believed this man would have been responsible together with Loveless for the onward supply of such weapons to criminal networks within London.

Detective Inspector Chris Jones from Trident Gang Crime Command, North-East Team said: “The convictions of Loveless, Dyce, Marshalleck, Laurent and Wright are the culmination of a great deal of hard work by the Trident North-East Team, Kent Police, British Military and the CPS.

It has led to the removal of five lethal firearms and ammunition, weapons which would inevitably have been used to commit acts of serious violence on the streets of London. Trident operations, such as this one, demonstrate that it remains difficult for criminals to obtain guns and that police will use all means necessary to track down those responsible to arrest and place them before the courts.

Trident officers relentlessly target the suppliers of lethal firearms, protecting the public by removing guns from organised criminals and gangs. The MPS has seized over 3,400 firearms and a large amount of ammunition from the streets of London last year alone, whilst the number of shootings taking place in London has fallen significantly by over 18%, equating to 77 fewer incidents.”

Civilian Ramone Marshalleck was arrested in April 2012, having been identified as the individual who was due to receive the firearms from Loveless upon arrival in the UK. It is believed this man would have been responsible together with Loveless for the onward supply of such weapons to criminal networks within London.

National Gangs Conference

NABIS attended the National Gangs Conference at the end of March, hosted in the West Midlands. The conference included presentations and workshops from police representatives from around the country and focused on recent operations and operating models that are used to tackle the threat from Guns and Gangs across the UK.

The UK is an active partner in the group having recently produced the first EU standard glossary of firearms terms for use across Europe which will shortly be published on the NABIS website. This document is now likely to become the core firearms document for the EU.

The NABIS representative said: “I am very pleased to be taking on the role of the EFE Chairman. The outgoing representative Jme Joustra has done outstanding work for the group and I can only hope to carry on his good work.

This is recognition for the work that NABIS and the UK has done to support the group over the past five years; by taking on this key role in Europe, NABIS is helping to shape the international engagement of law enforcement and influence how Europe tackles gun crime.”

NABIS Head of Intelligence selected to Chair the European Firearms Experts Committee

The European Firearms Experts (EFE) group, part of the law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) which reports directly to the European Union (EU) recently selected the Head of Intelligence for NABIS as the EFE Chairman.

The EFE is one of 18 groups that report directly to the LEWP and includes representatives from all 27 member states helping to facilitate the exchange of information and coordination of policing operations across Europe; ensuring common investigative support and escalation through EU channels.

NABIS presented two workshops, beginning with a forensic focus dealing with latest gun crime forensic techniques, scene management, trace evidence recovery and recent improvements in gun crime DNA profiling. The second workshop focused on gun crime intelligence; risk management and the unique challenges of managing fast time integrated ballistic intelligence linked to gun crime series.

The conference proved to be an interesting insight into how law enforcement agencies are constantly striving to keep one step ahead of the gangs in the UK.
In July 2011 the Association of Chief Police Officers [ACPO] and the National Ballistics Intelligence Service [NABIS] signed a Memorandum of Understanding which primarily sought to define a minimum operating framework in relation to the recording and submission for forensic examination of recovered ballistic material. The Memorandum of Understanding applies to all Police Forces across England & Wales with the exception of the Metropolitan Police who operate under separate arrangements.

As part of the process of reviewing the effectiveness of the Memorandum of Understanding, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary [HMIC] is currently assessing the level of engagement and compliance between ten Police Forces and NABIS. As part of this work they have recently completed an inspection in the following forces; Merseyside, Northumbria, West Yorkshire, Cumbria, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, South Wales, Avon & Somerset, Surrey and Suffolk.

The inspection is now complete and HMIC will report individually to NABIS and each force directly involved in the inspection on its findings, as well as producing an overall report for the public and police forces across the country sometime in May 2013, when NABIS will review its impact and recommendations.

Kevin Bradford
NABIS Liaison Officer

NABIS (firearms) submissions criteria

We are always grateful for feedback from our customers and stakeholders; and over the past few months customers have asked us to clarify the NABIS firearms submissions criteria. Our Lead Scientist Martin Parker offers the following advice;

“Local Clearing Houses should submit the following ballistic items to the local NABIS hubs for examination”:

- any firearm where the recovery is suspicious;
- any firearm that is suspected of having been used in crime;
- any firearm that has been ‘shortened’, e.g. Sawn-off shotgun;
- any handgun;
- any selective-fire or fully automatic weapon such as sub-machine guns, assault rifles;
- any pressure bearing components of a firearm (excluding air weapons), e.g. barrel, revolver cylinder, receiver;
- any disguised firearm;
- any centre-fire weapon that has been fitted with a sound moderator, or where the barrel has been threaded to accept a sound moderator;
- any replica/imitation firearm, blank-firing gun, air gun or de-activated firearm that appears to have been modified to discharge a projectile(s);
- any blank-firing weapon where there is specific intelligence of it having been discharged when used in crime, and where a cartridge case or projectile was recovered from the crime scene;
- any air weapon where there is specific intelligence of it having been discharged when used in a crime, and where a projectile was recovered from that crime scene;
- any metallic centre-fire cartridge case recovered, unless the area is a recognised firing range;
- any fired bullet or bullet fragment found at the scene of a crime or in suspicious circumstances;
- any shotgun cartridge cases recovered in urban areas;
- any firearm, ammunition or related components flagged as being of interest by the submitting force’s Intelligence Bureau.

HMIC Inspection of Police Forces & NABIS

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NABIS demonstrates capabilities on prime time TV

On the 13th February, Martin Parker, NABIS Lead Scientist, appeared on the BBC’s One Show as part of a Crimewatch feature with presenter and ex-police officer, Martin Bayfield.

The feature focused on the work being done in the NABIS labs and how weapons are test fired and forensically examined using state of the art equipment used by NABIS on a daily basis. The case of Steven Greenoe, the ex-marine who smuggled gun parts in suitcases from America into the UK, was given as a fantastic example of the importance of the NABIS database in relation to the recording and tracking of illegal firearms that have been sold and used by different criminal perpetrators throughout the whole of the UK.

The One Show feature highlighted the fantastic work that NABIS does on a daily basis and its importance in helping to fight gun crime criminality within this country.

As Martin’s closing quote states,

“Every time a gun is used it leaves a trace. There really is no escaping … this technology.”
Got something to say about NABIS?

We want to hear from you about the service provided by NABIS.

If you have feedback on any aspect of NABIS work please send your comments to:

nabis.support@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk