

Emergency Services Roundup

20 September 2018 – 3 October 2018

Welcome to the Emergency Services bi-weekly news bulletin.

The aim is to provide all those involved in delivering emergency services sector with a snap-shot of some of the latest news affecting the sector. We hope you find it useful. If you require further information on any of the articles mentioned, do please contact us.

Your feedback and comments will always be welcome.

GENERAL NEWS

[Ambulances and fire engines 'should go electric'](#)

Times; 21 September 2018

Draft guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has said that public sector organisations - including the fire, ambulance and police services - should consider replacing their vehicles with low-emission alternatives at the end of their working lives. It also suggested sending drivers on courses to make their driving smoother and more fuel-efficient. A consultation on the draft guidelines will close on 9 October. Full details are [here](#).

[New strategic direction for the Emergency Services Network \(ESN\)](#)

Home Office; 21 September 2018

The Home Office has announced a new strategic direction for the Emergency Services Networks (ESN) after an in-depth review. The Home Office stated that after the programme replaces the existing radio-based network, it will save £200m in public money per year. The programme will enable police, fire and rescue services, ambulance services and other users to use data services through the network starting in early 2019; voice capabilities will follow soon after.

[Collaborations and takeovers](#)

[Merger bid for south west forces could be scrapped as PCC drops support](#)

Police Oracle; 26 September 2018


The merger of **Devon and Cornwall Police** and **Dorset Police** could be cancelled, as **Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner** Alison Hernandez no longer supports making a business case for it. She claims that the Home Office has said that forces will not be able to create 430 extra officer posts as a result of the move.

[Shropshire fire service alliance plan moves forward](#)

Shropshire; 20 September 2018

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Birmingham B3 3PU

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Leeds LS1 2HJ

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Winchester

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Winchester, SO23 8SR

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Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's strategy and resources committee has approved the strategic alliance plan between it and **Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service**. It has agreed to recommend that Service adopts the plan for 2018 to 2022. There are no plans for a merger. **West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner** John Campion has criticised details of the alliance. He was granted permission in March to take over Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, but **Shropshire and Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority** announced in June that it was planning a legal challenge to the move.

[PCC: 'Change in governance is not the answer' to enhance fire and police collaboration](#)

Police Professional; 20 September 2018

The **Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner** (PCC) has decided against a change of governance for **Surrey Fire and Rescue**. David Munro said that he does not believe that any change would benefit local residents, but confirmed that he will continue to explore other options to better collaborate the fire service.

[Police and fire teams join forces in collaboration milestone](#)

Emergency Services Times; 13 September 2018

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and **South Yorkshire Police** have joined forces to create a joint community safety department.

AMBULANCE

[Twelve out of 13 ambulance crews were on their break when grandmother, 68, suffered fatal head injuries in a fall outside a birthday party, inquest hears](#)

Daily Mail; 1 October 2018

A coroner has ruled that the death of a grandmother who waited an hour for an ambulance because 12 out of 13 in the area were on a break was not down to paramedic delays. The coroner found that her death was not the direct result of the ambulance delay and that she would have succumbed to her head injuries anyway.

[Ambulance service needs 'renewed emphasis' on innovation](#)

Digital Health; 1 October 2018

A review into the ambulance service has suggested that there needs to be a 'renewed emphasis' on technological innovation. Lord Carter of Coles, a non-executive director at **NHS Improvement**, conducted the review, which looks at how operational productivity and performance can be improved within NHS ambulance trusts in England. One of three primary areas where he says operational improvement must be made is technological innovation. A copy of the review is [here](#). Further details of the review are in the story below. **NHS Providers** has published a summary of the review [here](#).

[eLearning platform to aid ambulance service](#)

Prolific North; 28 September 2018

North West Ambulance Service has partnered with Digital Training Solutions to develop a first of its kind e-Learning platform. The software has been developed in response to **NHS England's** recommendations for improvements to the ambulance service and standards.

[Ambulances not an A&E taxi service, NHS warned](#)

BBC News; 27 September 2018

A review carried out by Lord Carter of Coles has found that an ageing fleet, high sickness rates and slow uptake of technology is hampering the ability of the NHS to answer 999 calls quickly. He warned that if the problems are not addressed, it will be more difficult for ambulances to hit their targets. A copy of the review is [here](#). Further details of the review are in the story above. **NHS Providers** has published a summary of the review [here](#).

[South Western Ambulance Service \(NHS\) Foundation Trust receives favourable CQC report](#)

County Gazette; 27 September 2018

The Care Quality Commission has given **South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust** an overall 'Good' rating in their latest inspection. The Trust received an 'Outstanding' rating in the 'caring' category. Full details are [here](#) (CQC).

[South East Coast Ambulance Service buys second-hand ambulances](#)

BBC News; 20 September 2018

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The **South East Coast Ambulance Service** has bought 30 second-hand ambulances to cope with winter demand. It said that the second-hand ambulances would not be used for emergencies, but would free up its existing ambulances to respond to urgent calls. It also plans to purchase 101 new ambulances over three years and recruit 300 new staff.

FIRE

[Fire service announce new 'rapid' vehicles](#)

Radio Exe; 28 September 2018

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is reshaping its fleet of emergency response vehicles to meet the changing needs of the local community. New smaller, more agile Rapid Intervention Vehicles are being introduced at fire stations across the Service to complement the fleet of more traditional fire engines.

[North Wales fire service asks councils to plug £1.9m budget gap](#)

BBC News; 27 September 2018

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority has asked local councils to plug a £1.9m budget hole to safeguard firefighters' jobs.

[Rise in calls for West Sussex's fire service](#)

Spirit FM; 26 September 2018

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service attended almost 400 more emergency calls in 2017/18 than it did the year before, including more than 700 critical fires. The Service is due for a week-long visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors in November 2018, with a report expected in May 2019.

[MP raises concerns over future of Norfolk's fire service](#)

Eastern daily Press; 26 September 2018

North Norfolk MP Norman Lamb has raised concerns over proposed changes to the **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service**. Under the changes, the Service, which is currently run by the county council, would be taken over by **Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner**, Lorne Green.

[Deadline looms for public consultation over Solent fire service plans](#)

Daily Echo; 25 September 2018

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) is consulting over the creation of a new combined fire authority for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. Responses are due by 26 October. After this, the feedback will go back to HFRA and Isle of Wight Council for consideration on whether or not to submit an application to the Government to form a new combined authority. The final decision will rest with the Home Secretary.

[Consultation into West Yorkshire Fire Service management shake-up](#)

Bradford Telegraph and Argus; 22 September 2018

A consultation on plans to cut £2.4m from the **West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service** budget will run until 16 November. At a meeting of the **West Yorkshire Fire Authority**, members agreed to start a consultation on plans to "flatten management structures" across the force to reduce costs.

POLICE

[Legal news](#)

[Judge hits out at prosecutors after a senior counter-terror police officer was put on trial accused of assault after 'shoulder barging' a female colleague at a networking event](#)

Daily Mail; 28 September 2018

A court has criticised prosecutors after a senior **Metropolitan Police** officer was put on trial accused of 'shoulder barging' a female colleague at a networking event. Chief Inspector Andrew Johnstone was acquitted of assault by battery on his colleague Penny Mills.

[Child spies: judicial review sought to challenge May's government](#)

Guardian; 27 September 2018

Human rights lawyers have been crowdfunding for a judicial review to challenge the Government's use of child spies, arguing that the tactic was incompatible with the UN convention on the rights of the child.

[General news](#)

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[Mentally ill held without charge for lack of NHS beds](#)

Daily Telegraph; 30 September 2018

An unpublished inquiry by the Cabinet Office has revealed that police are illegally detaining 4,500 vulnerable mentally ill people in custody a year because of a lack of NHS beds. Chief constable Mark Collins, the **National Police Chiefs' Council** lead on mental health, has said that between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of demands on police time were now being taken up with mental health-related problems and crime linked to them.

[Policing 4.0: Deciding the Future of Policing in the UK](#)

Deloitte; 19 September 2018

A new report by Deloitte provides a new framework for thinking about key policing choices and a set of ideas and case studies of success to support decision making while sharing a vision for the future of policing. *Police Professional* said that it found that senior officers and staff view technology-enabled crime as the biggest challenge (rated as nine out of ten), but rated police 'readiness' to deal with it as just two out of ten – click [here](#). The full report is [here](#).

Employment issues

[Officers failing to receive bare minimum mental health training, says College](#)

Police Oracle; 28 September 2018

According to the **College of Policing**, some police chiefs are failing to provide officers with the bare minimum of mental health training. The College said that a majority of chief constables are unwilling to accept its recommendations of a two-day mental health training course. It said that only the **British Transport Police** and a "couple of others" have complied.

New appointments

[New Deputy Chief Constable for North Yorkshire Police](#)

Northern Echo; 26 September 2018

Assistant Chief Constable Phil Cain has been promoted to Deputy Chief Constable for **North Yorkshire Police**.

[New Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex Police](#)

The Argus; 22 September 2018

Jo Shiner is to become the new Deputy Chief Constable for **Sussex Police**. She is currently Assistant Chief Constable at **Kent Police**.

Contracts

[Uncertain future for staff as Cleveland Police announce plans to end contract with Sopra Steria](#)

Gazette Live; 18 September 2018

Cleveland Police has announced plans to stop working with business Services organisation Sopra Steria, a private company which provides a host of services, including HR functions, estates, learning and development, control room functions and ICT. The current contract ends in 2020.

Misconduct

[PC dismissed for 'feeding gossip' about colleague to relatives of suspect](#)

Police Oracle; 2 October 2018

A misconduct panel has ruled that a **Metropolitan Police** officer persuaded a young man he did not need a solicitor for a criminal interview and then phoned his father about "rumours" he had been falsely accused in a bid to rectify the damage.

[Thames Valley police officer warned over death in custody](#)

Guardian; 20 September 2018

A **Thames Valley Police** constable has received a written warning after he was found guilty of misconduct for failing to properly observe Leroy Junior Medford, who died in custody last year from an overdose of heroin.

[Police officer found not guilty of kneeling Leeds man in face](#)

Leeds Live; 26 September 2018

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Two **West Yorkshire Police** officers have been cleared following a gross misconduct hearing. They had been accused of using excessive force when arresting a man. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC).

Inquests and investigations

[West Midlands Police Officer charged with assault after tasing suspect](#)

Birmingham Mail; 26 September 2018

A **West Midlands Police** officer is to appear in court after a man was tasered and injured. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC).

[Police 'aware' undercover officer was in relationship](#)

BBC; 21 September 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** has admitted for the first time that an undercover officer had a sexual relationship with an environmental activist with the knowledge of his managers.

[Cleveland Police death bite dog 'was frustrated'](#)

BBC; 21 September 2018

An Inquest has heard that a police dog which repeatedly bit a grandmother may have been frustrated after mistaking an officer for a suspect. The dog attacked Irene Collins, 73, after she let police look for an escaped drug dealer in her garden in 2014. She died four days after the attack. Full details of the findings are [here](#) (IOPC).

Performance

[Police custody in Norfolk and Suffolk – positive, though with some concerns, say inspectors](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue; 2 October 2018

An inspection of custody facilities run in a collaboration between **Norfolk Constabulary** and **Suffolk Constabulary** was "positive overall", though inspectors identified some causes of concern.

[Policing inspectorate grades Cheshire Constabulary 'outstanding' at recording crime](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue; 2 October 2018

According to a report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, **Cheshire Constabulary** has significantly improved how it records reported crimes.

[Despite improvements, Nottinghamshire Police still failing to record some 'complex crimes'](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue; 2 October 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has published an assessment on the accuracy of crime recording in **Nottinghamshire Police**, which found that the force accurately records around 87 per cent of crimes reported to it.

[Inspectors praise Surrey Police's crime recording as 'good', but say there is still room for improvement](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue; 2 October 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has published an assessment on the accuracy of crime recording in **Surrey Police**, which found that the force accurately records around 93 per cent of crimes reported to it.

Finance and funding

[More than £160 million wiped from budgets through new pension calculation](#)

Police Professional; 27 September 2018

Police leaders have issued "stark" warnings after a revaluation of the police pension is set to have a "significant impact" on the future funding for police forces across the country - potentially wiping out most of the latest increases gained through rises in Council Tax precepts.

['Policing services will disappear in some rural areas'](#)

Police Professional; 25 September 2018

The Chief Constable of **Lincolnshire Police** has warned that cuts will have to be made to officer and staff numbers if it does not receive additional funding in 2019. The Force will have a shortfall of £3.5m next year and almost £7m in the following years.

Policy and regulation

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[Forces change lost property policy to reduce demand](#)

Police Professional; 28 September 2018

Following a national Government review and consultation with police forces across the country, the **National Police Chiefs' Council** has decided that forces will stop recording reports of lost property in order to reduce the demand it adds to policing. From 1 October, all forces will only accept certain items, including mobile phones and tablets.

[Force relaxes tattoo policy to attract 2,000 young recruits](#)

Police Professional; 28 September 2018

The **Metropolitan Police Service** has confirmed that it will relax its policy on visible tattoos. The Force is seeking to recruit more than 2,000 officers, taking the total workforce up to 30,750.

Crime

[Traffic policing powers given to PCSOs](#)

Police Oracle; 2 October 2018

Lincolnshire Police has announced that it is using the *Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014* to give uniformed police staff more powers. The Force will also be assigning its 118 police community support officers to record statements around low level crimes like shop theft.

[Police super-database prompts Liberty warning on privacy](#)

Guardian; 1 October 2018

The human rights group Liberty has said that a new super-database being built for the police represents a "grave" risk to privacy.

[Police demands for potential rape victims' data spark privacy fears](#)

Guardian; 25 September 2018

Police forces have been accused of demanding almost unfettered access to highly personal records and data from potential rape victims before pressing ahead with their cases.

[Police solve less than 1 in 20 fraud cases](#)

Times; 24 September 2018

Research by consumer group *Which?* Has revealed that more than 96 per cent of crimes reported to Action Fraud are unsolved. This compares with 84 per cent of thefts, 80 per cent of robberies and 73 per cent of violent crime in 2016-17. The figures, obtained through freedom of information requests, also show some police forces are solving 40 per cent fewer fraud cases than they were in 2014.

[National police unit starts work on 'county lines' drug gangs](#)

Guardian; 21 September 2018

A Birmingham-based team of 38 investigators has begun a national crackdown on county lines drugs gangs, which aims to develop a national intelligence picture of the drugs networks.

For more information please contact [Hugh Giles](#), [Andrew Rowland](#) or [Alessandra Gettins](#).



[Hugh Giles](#)


Partner

020 8780 4575

hugh.giles@capsticks.com

Capsticks

www.capsticks.com

 @capstickslp

London

1 St George's Road,
London SW19 4DR

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F +44 (0)20 8780 1141

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F +44 (0)1962 678 311

DX 2532 - Winchester



[Andrew Rowland](#)
Partner
020 8780 4760
andrew.rowland@capsticks.com



[Alessandra Gettins](#)
Associate
020 8780 6972
alessandra.gettins@capsticks.com