

Knife Crime Prevention Orders

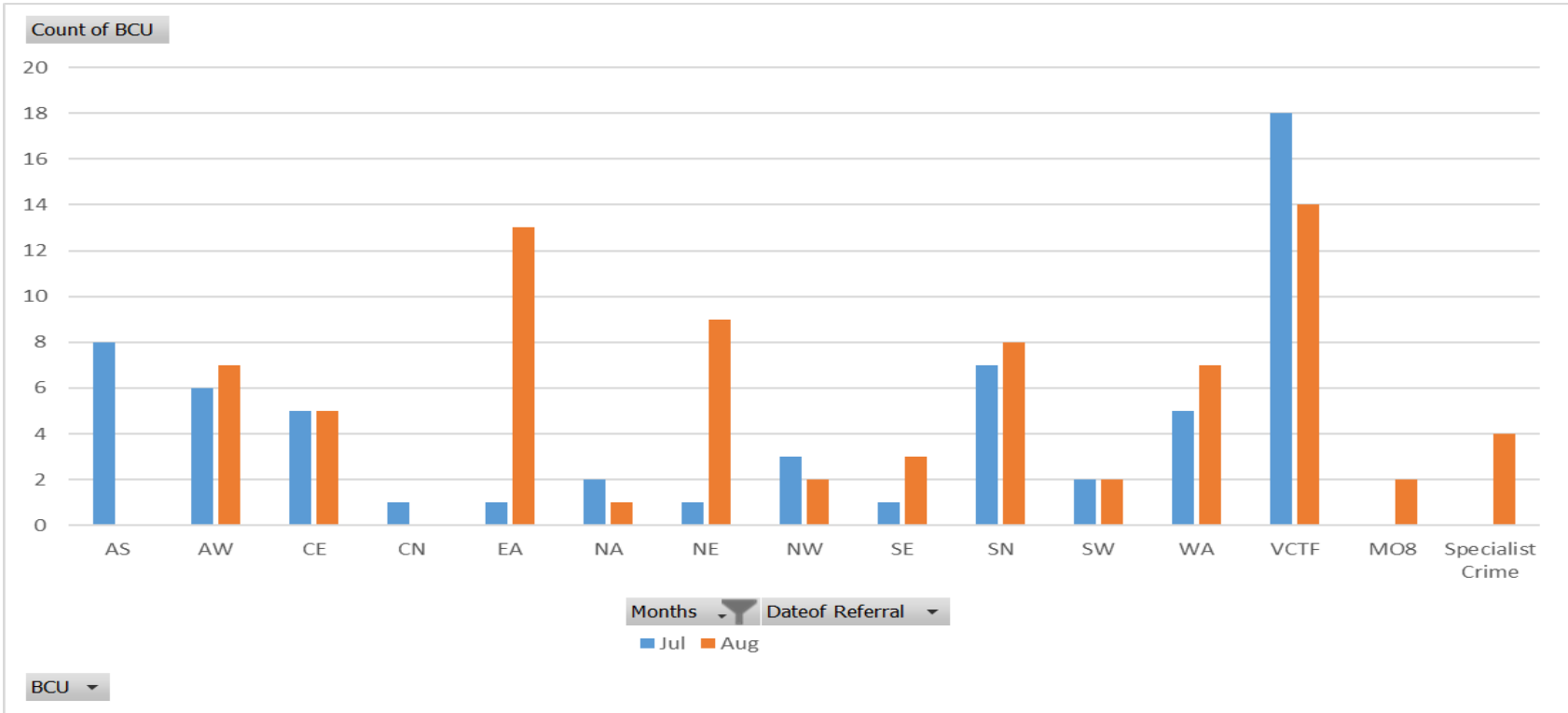
Brief Guide for Partners

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Introduction

- Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs) are a new type of Court order being piloted in the MPS for 14 months starting from 5th July 2021.
- The purpose of the orders is to divert offenders from committing crime, and protecting them and the public.
- Two types of orders: On conviction for an offence involving a knife, or otherwise than on conviction where there is evidence the offender has carried a knife on two or more occasions.
- Approach for children is particularly focused on diversion and engagement – the order **must** include positive requirements, not just prohibitions.
- Orders do not require the subject to have any previous criminal history – this may in fact be preferable as an early opportunity to prevent future offending.



KCPO Requirements

Any requirement and prohibition can be suggested to the court in the order, the legislation guides what they *could* be but is it not exhaustive, and any requirement or prohibition could be proposed.

Requirements:

- Be at a particular place between particular times on particular days,
- Be at a particular place between particular times on any day,
- Present themselves to a particular person at a place where they are required to be between particular times on particular days,
- Participate in particular activities between particular times on particular days

Under 18s must have requirements implemented as part of a KCPO, not just prohibitions.

KCPO Prohibitions

- Being in a particular place,
 - Being with particular persons,
 - Participating in particular activities,
 - Using particular articles or having particular articles with them,
 - Using the internet to facilitate or encourage crime involving bladed articles
- These lists are not exhaustive.

KCPO Conditions should:

- Take into account the individual needs of the subject,
- Be bespoke to the individual, and,
- Be cognizant of the subject's cultural needs; where appropriate.

Breaches of KCPOs

- In the case of under 18 only, a breach should only be prosecuted only where it is 'more than trivial', for example:
- Failing to attend two or more sessions of an activity stated in a requirement
- Failing to obey a curfew by more than 15 minutes
- Being in a place which they are prohibited from attending
- Associating with individuals which they are prohibited from associating with
- Contravening prohibitions will normally be considered 'more than trivial'

This list is not exhaustive.

What we're already doing locally

- Officers engaging directly with partner organisations to try to agree appropriate requirements that may be imposed (of course each case will be considered and requirements imposed will be bespoke).
- Targeted engagement visits with subjects eligible or likely to become eligible for a KCPO to engage and divert without an order becoming necessary.
- Internal tracking and monitoring of reports to ensure a holistic approach to managing knife crimes and knife crime offenders.

What we hope for from partners

- Support in applying for these orders where appropriate
- Assistance in agreeing appropriate requirements, particularly in terms of young offenders
- Once orders are in place, reporting breaches accordingly