



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD 1st October 2013

ACC Crime Portfolio

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Strategic Policing Crime Board with an overview of the portfolio of the ACC Crime of West Midlands Police.

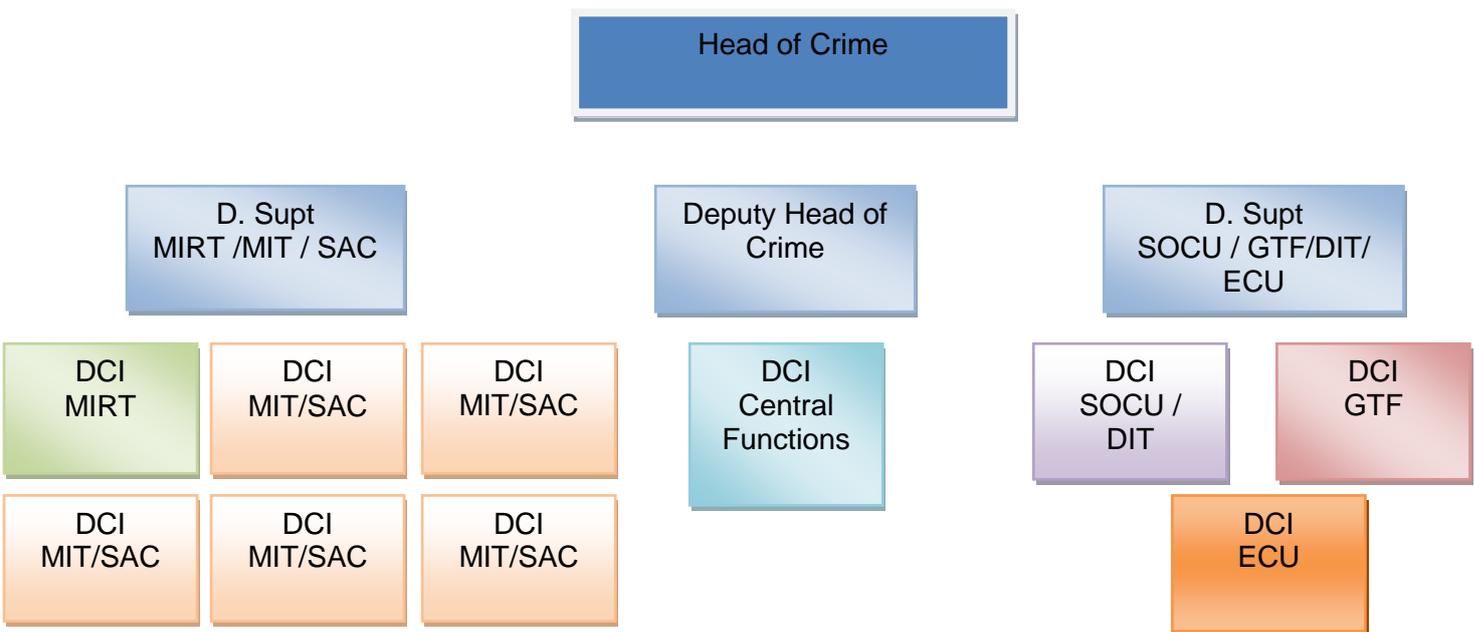
BACKGROUND

2. This report outlines to members of the SPCB the areas that combine to make up the Crime Portfolio. The paper aims to ensure that members have a brief summary of the distinct main areas of business, as well as highlighting risks that are relevant to the specific work, which are perceived to be of interest to the board members and may assist in the discharge of their scrutiny and accountability functions.

AREAS OF BUSINESS UPDATES – Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID)

3. FCID was established in April 2010 following the Force's major change programme, Paragon. The department consists of several investigative teams with different areas of expertise and remits spread across the force area. FCID investigates serious offences and organised crime that impacts on our communities. It is made up of Police Officers and Police staff who work together to bring offenders to justice, this may be for murder, distraction burglary, fraud, drugs or an assault. The offences investigated are varied; some offences require a reactive approach whilst others require a proactive investigation working in partnership with other departments, Local Policing Units and external partners.

FCID Structure



4. FCID operates from many different sites within the West Midlands area. There are bases at Bloxwich, Smethwick, Harborne, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry.
5. The current establishment for FCID as of the 10th September 2013 is as follows:
 - Police Officer establishment is 628, the actual number is 608
 - Police Staff establishment is 98, the actual number is 108
6. The budget for 2013/14 financial year is £1,303,100.
7. FCID is currently being reviewed as part of the Service Transformation Programme. A decision on the model the Force will adopt is expected shortly. This is likely to lead to a significant change to the current structure and business functions of FCID.
8. FCID bases are being considered as part of the Estates programme. Decisions on the future locations for FCID will be considered with the outcomes of the Service Transformation Programme.
9. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) was implemented last year. All departments are working to the service levels set.
10. All areas within FCID work in partnership internally and externally. Some partners will be regionally based and others nationally. Partners will vary depending on the teams specific area of business, for example the Economic Crime Unit and Crime Reduction will have close working relationships with the business community, where as the Serious and Organised Crime Unit will work closely with other Forces and Serious and Organised Crime Agency (National Crime Agency).
11. FCID staff are trained to the national Professionalising Investigation Programme standards 1, 2, 3 and 4. Regular developments days are held to ensure staff maintain accreditation.

12. This report evidences the functions of FCID teams, all of this supports the Policing and Crime Plan.
13. For example under Better Protecting People from Harm, there are dedicated teams to tackle the impact of Urban Street Gangs and Organised Crime gangs on the community.

Major Investigation Team (MIT)

14. The Major investigation team (MIT) deal predominately with serious offences against the person and a range of other serious offences including threats to life, firearms offences, disorders following demonstrations such as the EDL, kidnaps and blackmail.

Major Investigation and Review Team (MIRT)

15. The MIRT investigate all homicides, including all industrial and suspicious deaths. During the period 2012/13 there were 43 murder investigations; this does not include manslaughter, suspicious deaths and Coroner reporting in relation to these matters.

Homicide Review Team (Cold Case)

16. The new Homicide Review Team was formed in August 2013. The overall objective of the team is to research cases where people have been murdered (or believed murdered but no body has ever been found) identifying opportunities for further investigation with a view to bringing offenders to justice. There are three broad areas that present opportunities these being scientific opportunities, new intelligence and witness evidence.

Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU)

17. SOCU is currently responsible for the following four areas of business:

1. **Sanctioned level 2 Operations** - Developing Intelligence led operations targeting Organised Crime Groups
2. **Hot Tasks** - Dynamically lead on investigations that present a range of significant threats to local communities and the reputation of organisation
3. **Kidnap and Extortion** - Investigating demand led kidnaps, blackmails or extortions
4. **SOCPA** - Covertly scope and debrief persons identified as potential subjects of a written contract by CPS.

Gangs Task Force (GTF)

18. This team was established to manage Urban Street Gangs within the West Midlands. There is now a dedicated partnership team working with communities and other agencies to prevent and deter young people joining Urban Street Gangs and helping people in gangs change their lifestyle.
19. Teams also lead on catch and convict work targeting offenders actively involved in criminality.

Drugs Investigation Team (DIT)

20. The Team was established June 2012 primarily offering a centralised, structured, investigative process for cannabis production on commercial/industrial scales across the West Midlands Police area.

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

21. The SAC teams support Local Policing Units (LPU) in the investigation of aggravated burglaries, commercial robberies, distraction burglaries and offences of burglary that form a series. The team's workload consists mainly of reactive investigations in response to reported crime, and intelligence-led, proactive investigations.

Crime Management Team (CMT)

22. The CMT are responsible for the initial review and management of all crime falling within the FCID crime continuum, including data quality and policy compliance and assurance, identifying fast track actions and conducting them if appropriate and ensuring a coordinated and joined up response from FCID and LPU resources.

Planning Team

23. The team is responsible for identifying and allocating resources and specialist officers to major enquiries. The planning team also arranges the staffing of Force, Regional and National operations when FCID staff are required. Additionally they manage the numerous on call rotas for FCID and provide the link to Learning and Development around training requirements and skill base of officers.

Economic Crime Unit (ECU)

24. The ECU is made up of six teams;

Two **Serious and Complex Fraud Teams** – investigating cases such as fraud involving companies, charities, legal aid etc.

Regulated Sector Enforcement Team (ReSet) tasked with the management and proactive investigation of reports submitted in relation to suspicion surrounding money laundering or terrorist activity and relate to both individuals and businesses.

Money Laundering Team lead complex investigations into Organised Crime Group criminality.

Payback Team targeting criminals' unlawfully obtained assets often in support of other departments' criminal investigations. This team makes regular successful applications to court to seize criminal assets.

Volume Fraud Team responding to crimes reported through 'Action Fraud'. This year, an average of 580 reports was sent to WMP a month often with multiple victims. This team are seeking to offer crime prevention advice via LPUs for the most common frauds.

Election – There is no standing team however this work is conducted by members of the ECU when required.

Crime Reduction Team

25. The Crime Reduction Unit has run for many years. The work is split into two distinct areas:

- (1) Planning/Mandatory work
- (2) Strategic Crime Reduction work

26. Planning/Mandatory work

- In 2012 there was in excess of 18,500 planning applications across the seven Local Authority areas. The team oversee the ACPO 'Secured by Design' scheme, which culminates in more than 100 developments a year achieving ACPO 'Secured by Design' status.
- In excess of 300 car parks across the West Midlands now meet ACPO 'Safer Parking' or 'Park Mark' status.
- The teams' work compliments the CONTEST strategy and assists the Counter Terrorism Security Advisors in their role.
- Sanctuary Domestic Violence assessments – between 100 – 200 victims' properties are assessed each year and improvements are made via Local Authority funding streams. This addresses repeat victimisation within the area of 'Violence with Injury'.

27. Strategic Crime Reduction Work (including Regional and National work):

Some examples of this work are as follows:

- Arson Task Force (with West Midlands Fire Service).
- Banking Industry/Cash and Valuables in Transit/Adopt-a-Business/Adopt a Post Office/Banknote Watch, ATM Security Working Group (ATMSWG)/Operation Vanguard/consultation/liaison with the cash handling centres/Operation Safer Cash.
- Burglary Crime Prevention (domestic/commercial).
- Business Crime (Keep Your Business In Business/Keep Your School In Business).
- Night Time Economy/Violent Crime Reduction.
- Student Crime Reduction.

28. **Facewatch** – has been developed across the Force and the roll-out programme is now gathering pace. A number of businesses are starting to use the facility to report crime directly to the police. The facility allows businesses to upload CCTV footage and images directly to the police, saving considerable time and money for the Force. Police officers have early access to CCTV footage, rather than having to attend to collect DVDs and then later view the footage at a police building.

29. The system also allows for the Force to upload images of unidentified suspects that Facewatch ID is a 'free to use' application that smartphone-users can download for free from the 'App Store' and assist West Midlands Police to identify suspects.

30. Since use of the App commenced in May 2013:

- Images uploaded = 809
- Subjects of Interest currently on display = 381
- Pieces of information received from public = 335 (41.4% of 809 images)
- Identified Subjects of Interest = 36 (4.44% of 809)

Coroners Department

31. At present the Coroner's Team provide investigative and administrative support to the Coroners; this is provided according to local arrangements.

Drug Expert Witness Team

32. The team is responsible and accredited for the provision of providing impartial evidential opinion in relation seized controlled drugs including valuations, consumption rates, effects of controlled drugs, manufacturing procedures and trafficking methods.

Prison Investigation Team

33. The Team of two Detectives is based within HMP Birmingham, and are supported by Birmingham South MIT. Their main role is to investigate crimes committed by prison inmates.

AREA OF BUSINESS UPDATE – Public Protection Unit

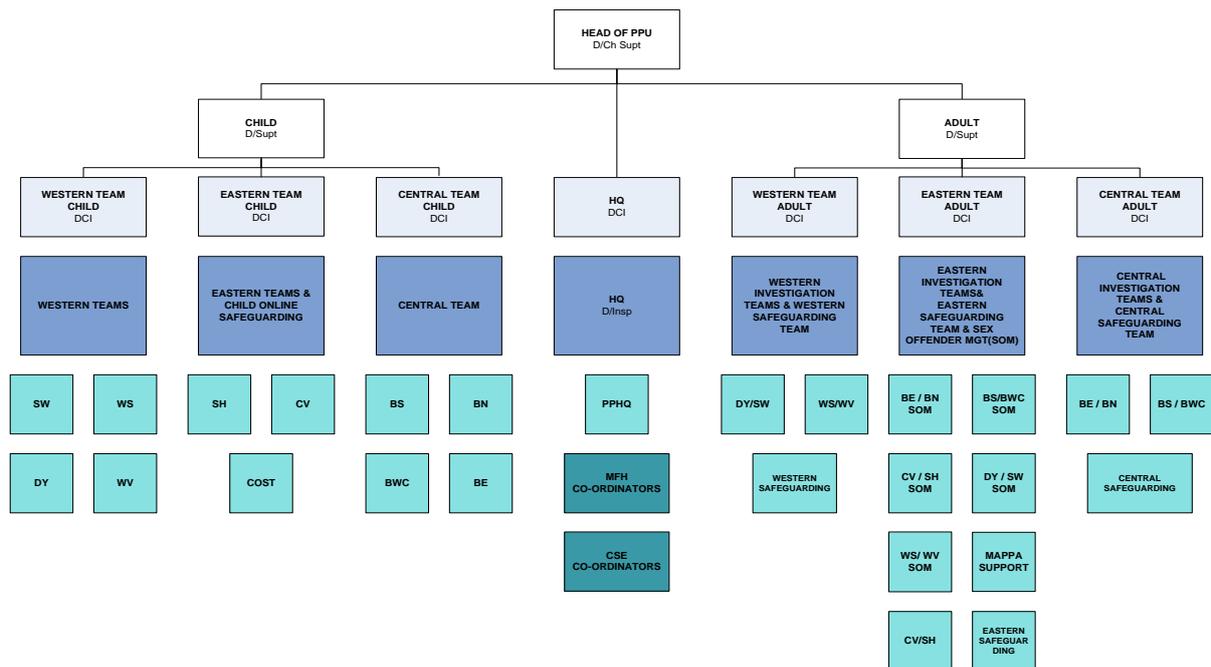
34. The defined service levels for the department are:

- The effective protection of high risk victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adult abuse, victims of rape and serious sexual abuse, working with partners, through dedicated safeguarding teams.
- The prevention and effective investigation of all child abuse (including online abuse).
- The prevention and effective investigation of all rape and serious sexual offences, high risk domestic abuse and vulnerable adult abuse.
- The effective management of registered sex offenders.

35. The current establishment of 480 officers and staff has an operating budget of £1,192,000.

36. The department underwent the Priority Based Budgeting Process in phase 1 which delivered savings to the organisation of £800,000 whilst maintaining current service levels and achieving improved performance.

PPU Structure



Adult Safeguarding Teams

37. Responsible for effective risk identification and management in relation to high risk incidents of domestic abuse, stalking, honour based violence, Forced marriage, female genital mutilation and vulnerable adult abuse. On each Local Policing Unit (LPU) there is a Public Protection Unit Safeguarding Team working with partner agencies, through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), instigating actions to support victims and control offenders in high risk cases, ultimately reducing the harm caused. They provide tactical advice and consistency to the LPU tasking processes. The total Force establishment comprises 3 Inspectors, 10 Sergeants and 40 Constables.

Adult Abuse Investigation Teams

38. Responsible for the effective investigation of all Rape and Serious Sexual Offences within WMP as well as high risk crime investigations within domestic or vulnerable adult abuse settings. There are 5 such teams operating across West Midlands Police, with 2 Western, 2 Central and 1 Eastern. The teams operate across LPU boundaries to ensure that investigations have the right weight of resource and skill put against them. The teams are made up of trained and accredited Detectives who are also Specially Trained Officers (STO) in relation to the investigation of rape and sexual offences. The total establishment comprises 5 Detective Inspectors, 23 Detective Sergeants and 120 Detective Constables.

Sex Offender Management Teams

39. Responsible for the effective management of Registered Sex Offenders in line with Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), appropriately managing risk and reducing offending. The officers undergo specialist training in order to undertake such offender management. The total establishment comprises 1 Inspector, 8 Sergeants and 43 Constables.

Child Abuse Investigation Teams

40. These teams are responsible for the effective prevention and investigation of crimes of child abuse operating within a multi agency environment and in line with HM Government Working Together 2013. Child Abuse Investigation Teams are predominantly based on each LPU and are Detectives who have undergone additional specialist training in relation to child abuse investigation. The total establishment comprises of 10 Detective Inspectors, 20 Detective Sergeants and 120 Detective Constables across WMP.

41. Within the Child Abuse command there are an additional 6 Detective Constables dedicated to Child Sexual Exploitation in support to the activity of the mainstream child abuse investigation teams.

42. There are also 4 dedicated Missing from Home Coordinators who are responsible for the identification of those individuals, or locations, subject of repeated incidences of missing person reports, in support to LPU and working with multi agency partners to reduce such incidents through ensuring individuals are appropriately safeguarded.

Child Online Safeguarding Team

43. Responsible for the effective investigation of online grooming and child sexual exploitation including proactive work to tackle such offenders, the team work closely with partner agencies as well as Force Intelligence and Forensics departments. The COST team has an establishment of 1 Detective Inspector, 2 Detective Sergeants and 14 Detective Constables.

Coordination & Tasking and Review Team

44. In addition to the above there is a small PPU HQ team that support internal coordination and tasking arrangements within the department as well as undertaking their main function in regard to the delivery of Internal Management Review (IMR) as required in Child Serious Case Review, Domestic Homicide Review or Adult Serious Case Review. The team comprises 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants and 6 Constables.

Adult Safeguarding

45. In January 2013 a Vulnerable Adult (VA) Hub was established as a pilot on the Western side of the Force. This has created a centre of excellence for the receipt of all vulnerable adult referrals and the management of safeguarding through dedicated Vulnerable Adult officers and staff from within the broader Adult Safeguarding Teams. Following positive feedback from partners and Local Safeguarding Adults Boards this approach has now been expanded into Birmingham. The VA Hub has also received visits from and presented to the Home Office.

Child Safeguarding

46. The department has refined its approach to the management and receipt of referrals from Children's Social Care Departments through the establishment of a Central Referral Unit. This was brought about to improve service delivery by providing a single route into the department and thereby creating a more consistent and responsive service with a common understanding of thresholds whilst releasing operational officers for investigation activity. Regular interface meetings are held with partners and Central Referral Unit managers to resolve issues and jointly develop and evolve practice. Officers are currently undergoing accreditation processes under the College of Policing Child Abuse Investigation Development program launched this year that will lead to national accreditation.

Child Sexual Exploitation

47. A revised Control Strategy has been established as our knowledge and understanding of this issue evolves. There has been significant activity (outlined under Operation Sentinel) together with operational investigations within this arena. The Force has actively contributed to the West Midlands Area CSE Action Plan commissioned by the 7 LSCB Chairs as well as the ACPO Action Plan and made submissions to the Children's Commissioner Inquiry into CSE. The department has also responded to the recent consultation by both the College of Policing and CPS in regard to proposed Authorised Professional Practice in relation to Child Sex Exploitation as well as Child Abuse.

Human Trafficking

48. The Force has developed guidance in relation to its response to Human Trafficking and has recently moved responsibility from Intelligence now into an operational environment in PPU. A new Force lead has been appointed, being the Detective Superintendent for

Child Abuse given some of the common aspects in relation to CSE and the Force has been actively engaged with the Regional Anti Trafficking network (RAT).

Child Online Safeguarding

49. The Force recently supported HMIC undergoing a pilot inspection of its approach to Child Sexual Exploitation which was predominantly geared to Online Contact and Non Contact CSE/Grooming. This has shaped the subsequent HMIC inspection framework which will be used in a number of other Forces for this thematic inspection before returning to the West Midlands at the end of the year, prior to publication of the final report. The department is also working closely with the Forensic Services Unit in regard to ensuring the latest technology is available to support enforcement and examination of offender's devices.

Domestic Violence

50. The Force is driving a number of initiatives in relation to the response to domestic violence. Through Strategic and Tactical Tasking processes a Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group has been established with representation from all LPU's and departments. Key work is being undertaken to ensure incidents are appropriately recorded, responded to and risk appropriately assessed. The department has led on joint partnership work with the National Centre for Domestic Violence to improve service to victims and access to civil and criminal prevention orders. Work is also being undertaken to evaluate the replacement of static Airwave home alarms with potentially more effective mobile devices and there is also a program of work with CAADA (Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse) to assess the current Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) operating across the West Midlands in order to identify opportunities for improvement. The Force is also reviewing arrangements in relation to the management of domestic abuse offenders and evidenced based practice. A HMIC inspection of all Forces in relation to the response to domestic abuse has recently been announced.

Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage

51. The department has worked closely with Legal Services in regard to developing best practice in regard to Forced Marriage Protection Orders. The department has also worked with partners towards the successful launch and operation of a multi agency HBV/FM steering group in Walsall, geared to improving services to victims and improved preventative measures, which following positive endorsement we are now seeking to influence further roll out across the West Midlands.

Missing Persons

52. The Force has worked closely with the College of Policing in supporting the national trial and evaluation of revised changes to the definition of missing persons. West Midlands were one of the few pilot Forces and operated trials at Birmingham West and Central LPU, together with a control site at Coventry LPU, and have influenced the subsequent national endorsement and roll out. Briefings with partner agencies have been held. The central thrust to the initiative has been the enhanced level of risk assessment at the earliest stage in the report of an incident thereby enabling a better quality response to be delivered to missing person reports.

MAPPA

53. The department is responsible for the effective management of all registered sex offenders and compliance with MAPPA in that regard. The department works closely with partner agencies and has officers embedded within the MAPPA Support Team. The department's revised approach in the creation of a Sex Offender Management Team has led to significant improvements in MAPPA performance indicators within the West Midlands. A range of successful overt and covert activity has supported the effective management of offenders and where appropriate has led to recalls to prison.

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

54. The department has worked closely with the NHS and Local Authorities in the commissioning and delivery of the new Sexual Assault Referral Centres within the West Midlands. This has resulted in improved service to victims through access to the provision of dedicated highly specialist 24/7 Crisis Workers, improved clinical governance, improved access and coordination of aftercare services and redesigned facilities. Alongside this the department has worked closely with the NHS under the Early Adopter pilot in relation to the commissioning of Forensic Medical Examiners (FME) which has led to service improvements in regard to the delivery of a stand-alone dedicated Sexual Offences rota for FME, improved gender choice for victims, improved access to immediate on site medical treatments as well as improved clinical governance arrangements.

The department is actively contributing to the regional and national agenda in relation to SARC, in particular in relation to the uplift in service specification across the region thereby enabling access to adjacent SARCs as well as supporting improved paediatric provision.

The department has run, with partners, training events for investigators and prosecutors in relation to achieving high quality evidence and the impact of rape trauma upon investigations.

Officers within the department are now undertaking the recently launched College of Policing Serious Sexual Abuse Investigators Accreditation process.

The department achieves high levels of performance relative to other Forces in relation to the submission of cases to the Serious Crime Analysis Section of the College of Policing and has improved the quality of submissions for forensic analysis in rape and serious sexual offences to Forensic Services.

Partnership

55. The department works closely both with internal and external partners.

The relationship between Local Policing and PPU as a corporate department, together with other corporate departments, is recognised as an important element. This is delivered through PPU engagement and contribution to local Daily Management Meeting and Tactical Tasking processes, in addition to its own, in addition to this being underpinned by Force Strategic and Tactical Tasking processes. Shared responsibility meetings are also held between the department and LPU's and as outlined internal Task and Finish Groups on issues such as responding to domestic violence involve representation and contribution from across all departments and LPU.

The department is well supported by Force Intelligence by the provision of a dedicated and embedded PPU Intelligence Team.

The department operates significantly on a multi agency basis, working with a range of partners across the West Midlands which can present significant challenge as to consistency in approach and methods of operation. Senior Officers on the department provide West Midlands Police representation on the 7 Local Safeguarding Children's Boards as well as the 7 Local Safeguarding Adults Boards and the various sub groups

within those structures. Significant partnerships are also maintained in relation to mainstream operations in working closely with Local Authority Children’s Services, Local Authority Adult Services, Health, both at NHS National Commissioning Board and Local Area Team as well as Public Health, National Offender Management Service, Community Safety Partnerships and Third Sector. The department is also undertaking work with the Prince’s Trust. PPU Senior Officers also provide additional representation to the supporting governance structures for those Local Authorities currently subject to Ofsted Improvement Notices. The department also undertakes key partnership work with CPS Public Protection Unit.

The department has lead on developing a clear and transparent formula and framework for the provision of financial contributions in support to Local Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards. In prioritising safeguarding and in support to effective partnership working, West Midlands Police provides a financial contribution in excess of £250,000 to those boards which has been a significant uplift to previous years.

AREAS OF BUSINESS UPDATES – Force Intelligence

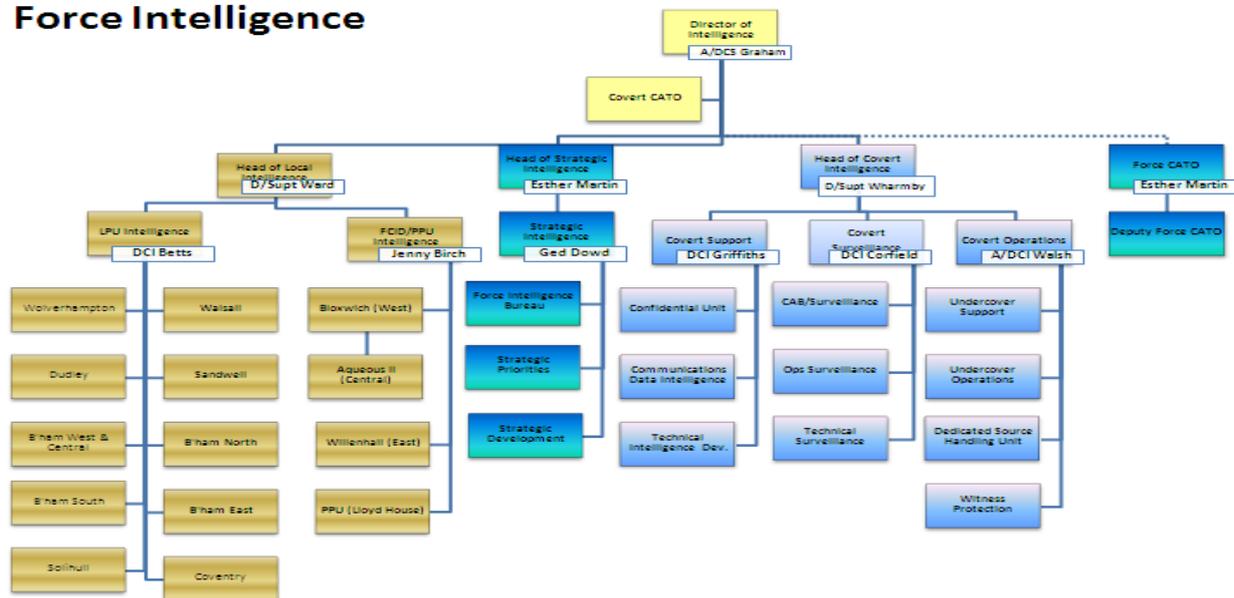
56. The vision for Force Intelligence is: *“Working together to understand threat and risk and identify opportunities to protect our communities from harm”*.

The department was last restructured in early 2012 to ensure that it continues to support the rest of West Midlands Police in delivering the Force’s strategic priorities.

The latest changes to Force Intelligence were designed to improve the department’s role in collecting, assessing, developing and disseminating intelligence to enable front-line officers to make better informed decisions, manage risk appropriately, drive investigations effectively and anticipate future events.

The department delivers its services through three broad portfolios: Local Intelligence, Strategic Intelligence and Covert Intelligence.

Force Intelligence



Local Intelligence Teams

57. There are 10 geographically based Teams (one per Local Policing Unit (LPU) based alongside the LPU command team). Led by an Intelligence Manager (Inspector) with two intelligence supervisors (Sergeants) they provide a dual role for intelligence support and coordination and tasking. The team consists of intelligence officers and intelligence analysts, providing a service between 07:00 and 22:00 Monday to Sunday. Their

primary function is to assess, develop and disseminate all local intelligence and products to support each LPU.

In addition, an analyst is aligned to each local authority area in order to deliver products that support partnership objectives. These analysts provide strategic and tactical assessments for each partnership.

FCID Intelligence Teams

58. There are 4 geographically based Teams co-located with FCID resources. Each team is led by an Intelligence supervisor (Sergeant) and intelligence officers and intelligence analysts. Each team provides a service between 07:00 and 22:00 Monday to Sunday. Their primary function is to assess, develop and disseminate all intelligence products to support each FCID function. The teams provide tactical and operational intelligence support to Force CID with the exception of support to long term covert investigations, which is provided by the Confidential Unit.

PPU Intelligence Teams

59. The Team is based alongside the PPU senior leadership team and is led by an Intelligence manager (Inspector) with an intelligence supervisor (Sergeant), intelligence officers and intelligence analysts. An intelligence service is provided between 07:00 and 18:00 Monday to Friday. The primary function of the team is to assess, develop and disseminate intelligence products to support PPU. The teams provide strategic, tactical and operational intelligence with particular focus on cross border offending, serious and complex investigations and organised crime group management.

Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB)

60. FIB was established in Feb 2011 and consists of analysts, including Higher Analysts, Intelligence Officers and Offender managers providing a service between 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 3pm at weekends. The 5 main business areas are:

1. Duty Desk providing the interface between WMP and most other law enforcement agencies and now including the Offender Managers and Crimestopper functions.
2. Development Desk providing the capacity to scan intelligence and crime across WMP and its neighbouring Forces and nationally, whilst developing intelligence for proactive enforcement where possible. National desks such as Football, NABIS, and Liberal are also supported in line with ACPO support
3. Strategic Desk providing the Force strategic products and the Force TTCG process along with ongoing support for other emerging issues and demands
4. Gangs Desk providing the Gangs TTCG product, supporting the Mediation service and the ongoing Community and Tension scanning and reports both internally and nationally
5. Higher Analysts are responsible for producing the Force Strategic Assessment, supporting ACPO led initiatives e.g. Priority areas, and the development and training of Intelligence analysts and officers.

Confidential Unit

61. The Confidential Unit has complete oversight of all covert assets and intelligence across the Force and it coordinates processes to target, dismantle and reduce the crime and risk of the Forces highest risk Organised Crime Groups. The key role of the Confidential Unit is to ensure that the Forces finite covert resources are deployed effectively and efficiently against Force priorities and the highest threat and risk to our communities. The unit works in collaboration with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), the

Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) and the Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) to develop intelligence.

Covert Authorities Bureau (CAB)

62. CAB is situated at Lloyd House and offers tactical advice to Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) in relation to operations targeting serious criminality with regards to sensitive policing tactics. CAB also manages all 'Higher' Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) authorities which require authorisation at Chief Constable or Home Secretary level.

Undercover Operations

63. Undercover policing operations are one of a number of covert policing techniques which are an effective tool in preventing and detecting serious and organised crime within the communities of the West Midlands. This is a highly intrusive technique and hence it has strict guidelines in terms of governance. RIPA provides the legal mechanism for public authorities to interfere with an individual's right to respect for their private and family life under Article 8 Human Rights Act 1998. The legislation covers undercover operations as part of CHIS authorities granted by the Force Authorising Officer (AO).

The legislation includes oversight of the conduct of undercover operations by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC). The Chief Surveillance Commissioner has a statutory responsibility to ensure all public authorities act in accordance with the above legislation and the relevant codes of practice. Forces are subject to an annual OSC inspection where all aspects of undercover policing activity come under close review and are subject to report.

Criminal Justice Protection Team (CJPT)

64. The Criminal Justice Protection Team (CJPT) is a small team of officers formerly known as Witness Protection. They provide specialist support to persons who are at serious risk of harm often as a result of being witnesses within the Criminal Justice system.

Dedicated Source Handling Unit (DSU)

65. The DSU is a specialist team managing all the Force's Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS). These officers are all trained to national standards and have responsibility for the whole Force area as well as individual LPUs and they respond to tasking in relation to threat, risk and opportunity.

The use of CHIS is a highly intrusive technique and hence it has strict guidelines in terms of governance. RIPA provides the legal mechanism for public authorities to interfere with an individual's right to respect for their private and family life under Article 8 Human Rights Act 1998. The legislation covers Covert Human Intelligence Sources authorities granted by the Force Authorising Officer (AO). The DSU are also subject to an annual inspection by the OSC to ensure compliance against RIPA legislation.

Force Surveillance Team

66. All Covert Surveillance activity within West Midlands Police is only undertaken by the Force Surveillance Unit. The department has responsibility for surveillance and CAB.

The surveillance teams have a wide range of specialist surveillance skills. The surveillance officers are Nationally Accredited and work creatively and flexibly to support the Force to undertake criminal investigations. All activity is sanctioned through a Directed Surveillance Authority as per RIPA which provides the legal mechanism and authorised by an Authorising Officer of at least Superintendent rank.

Communications Data investigation Unit (CDIU)

67. The CDIU are a small team of police staff providing a 24/7 response to urgent requests for incidents that are immediate threat to life, vulnerable persons or urgent operational requirements, such as crimes in action and terrorist activity

Force Co-ordination and Tasking Office (CATO)

68. As part of Programme Paragon (2010) a Force wide Coordination and Tasking Office (CATO) network was established. Each LPU and corporate department has a CATO function centrally managed by a headquarters command team. As of 2013 West Midlands Police operates a Force CATO function consisting of a Senior Police Staff Manager (Superintendent Equivalent) Head of Force CATO and a full time Inspector. The Force CATO is responsible for:

1. Management of the Force Daily Management Meeting Process
2. Management of the Force Tactical Tasking and Coordination Process
3. Management of the Force Strategic Tasking and Coordination Process
4. Management of other Force meeting processes eg, Force Gangs and Organised Crime Group Tasking
5. Delegated responsibility for the management of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding allocation
6. Command Team document production
7. Gatekeeper and Single Point of Contact for both internal/external resource bids
8. Peer Reviews

Update on Service Transformation Review of PPU & Investigation

69. The Service Transformation Review commenced in April 2013 and has seen significant investment by the Force and respective departments into the Review Team. The first phase of the work has been to conduct an Opportunity Assessment to identify the key issues within the terms of reference of the review. This has seen extensive activity in engaging officers and staff across the departments and Force as well as key stakeholders both internally as well as externally. Substantial effort has been made to ensure the review engages across a whole range of external partners. Workshops have been held together with surveys, one to one interviews and substantial audit and sampling work to scope and understand the level of demand and effectiveness of existing processes. The Opportunity Assessment phase concluded in July and following presentation to the Strategic Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable moved into the development of options for business cases phase as regards suggested revisions to the operating model which is due to report on the 16th September 2013.

Update on Operation Sentinel

70. Operation Sentinel is a Force-wide operation aimed at enhancing the service provided by West Midlands Police and its partners to victims across the Force area who are vulnerable, especially due to a lack of confidence to engage with statutory agencies, meaning they remain hidden and/or silent, their cultural beliefs and behaviours or through a fear for their safety.

71. Particular focus is being applied to Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation.

72. The operation is scheduled to run from July to December 2013 with an evaluation period in January 2014

73. Whilst there will be activity across all five areas running throughout the operation, each area will have a month of particular focus:

- CSE: August
- HBV: September
- Human Trafficking: October
- FGM: November
- DA: December

The Strategic Objectives for the operation include:

- Increase or organisational knowledge and understanding of 'vulnerability'
- Improve our ability to assess threat and risk and take proportionate action
- Enable ourselves to make dynamic and empowered operational decisions
- Increase reporting levels especially from vulnerable communities
- Improve the confidence and satisfaction of victims and witnesses who experience the criminal justice process
- Reduce violent offending, particularly focussing on tackling persistent violent perpetrators
- Improve our criminal justice outcomes
- Seek to address causational factors i.e. Alcohol, Drugs, Housing Policy - with particular focus on Mental Health
- Sustain and improve statutory and non-statutory partnership working – local and national

The results of the first 4 weeks of the operation are currently subject to evaluation and review.

Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)

74. Criminal assets can be seized in a number of ways which is known as confiscation or forfeiture.

75. Confiscation - where there is an ongoing investigation into criminality, for example drug supply or human trafficking, a financial investigation will run alongside and following conviction the financial investigator will pursue the benefit of that crime through the civil process.

76. Forfeiture - the ECU look at a number of ways of removing funds from criminals, working with SOCA has recovered approximately £3,000,000 over the past two years but we also proactively research the SAR's regime. Cash seizures are taken through the civil court and if found in favour of the police it is 'forfeited'.

77. With confiscation, in short terms, the whole value is recovered to HM Treasury, it is then split 50% to government and the remaining 50% is split between the police, courts and CPS.

78. With forfeiture we receive 50% with the remainder going to government.

79. There are also opportunities of a 100% recovery upon conviction of funds seized under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

80. Funds are returned to force via the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) and identified on a quarterly basis.

Allocation of funds

81. Force CATO has been delegated responsibility by ACC Crime for managing the force allocation of POCA funding from 2013/2014 onwards. Guidance has been issued to LPU Commanders and Department Heads regarding the process. There is also a force intranet site outlining the process, allocations and relevant timescales.
82. The force receives an annual Incentive Payment from the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS). Under this scheme WMP receive 50% of what is recovered from Cash Forfeitures and between 12.5% and 18.75% from Confiscation Order receipts.
83. The Home Office guidance on how individual agencies use Incentive Payments is general in nature and has been interpreted differently by individual agencies. Incentive Payments are used generally to fund community projects and initiatives that tackle crime locally. The Home Office provide the following guidance on how Incentive Payments are used:
This is a matter for each agency but incentive payments should be used to further drive up performance on asset recovery and, where appropriate, to fund local crime fighting priorities for the benefit of the community.
84. For 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 West Midlands Police received an Incentive Payment of £300,000. This is often referred to as Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding. It will be distributed by either an allocation panel (chaired by ACC Crime) or by the chair of Force Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group Meeting.

Allocation	Amount (£'000)
Infrastructure – future asset recovery (<i>annual</i>)	75
Force wide Projects – e.g. crime prevention/diversionary schemes (<i>annual</i>)	75
LPU/Department bids (<i>annual</i>)	90
Allocation via Force Tactical Co-Ordination Group (<i>monthly</i>)	60
Total	300

85. It is critical that the impact of all approved annual bids is assessed for effectiveness against the criteria outlined in the PCC Police and Crime Plan and LPU Local Policing Plans. All successful bidders will be requested to provide an update on the impact of their allocated funding. A corporate record of bids, allocations and results is maintained by Finance/Force CATO. The impact of monthly bids will be monitored and subject to scrutiny via the existing Force Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group process and feedback requested where appropriate by the Chair.
86. The force is required to monitor allocation and update the Home Office at the end of each financial year.

Year	Amount Seized / Recovered by WMP	POCA Receipts from Home Office	Allocated POCA to Force departments / communities	via Other Allocation. e.g. infrastructure
2008-09	3,562,192.65	£1,344,220.19	£225,000	£1,628,000
2009-10	3,532,010.91	£1,097,526.38	£225,000	£1,740,068
2010-11	4,418,096.46	£1,575,847.57	£17,007	£1,747,124.57
2011-12	5,862,576.18	£1,727,451.75	£300,000	TBC
2012-13	4,028,054.53	£1,910,706.39	£300,000	Not yet submitted

Overview of Other Allocation

87. Funding has been used to support the Economic Crime Unit and Force POCA team, plus IT and building infrastructure. This has led directly to a year on year increase in assets seized and POCA receipts received from the Home Office.

Overview of Allocation to Departments and Communities

88. The funding has been used for various incentives such as dome hawk cameras, external training courses, hand held speed detection devices, scout groups, various church and religious organisation support, drink driving campaign, crime and safety awareness in schools, anti-burglary packs, Kickz diversionary scheme, civil injunctions, tracker bikes, litter picks/street cleans.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

89. These matters are covered in the individual department updates.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

90. These matters are covered in the individual department updates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

91. The Board is asked to note that the portfolio holder recommends that the next Crime update focuses on the significant areas of business:

1. Tackling Gangs and Organised Crime; and
2. Tackling Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

Ch Supt Foulkes - FCID
Ch Supt Hyde - PPU
T/Ch Supt Graham – Force Intelligence