



**west midlands  
police and crime  
commissioner**

**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 03 September 2013  
in the Main Committee Room, Lloyd House**

Present: Jones, Bob – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Connor, Brendan – Non-executive  
Foster, Cllr Judy – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Hannon, Cath – Non-executive  
Hendricks, Cllr Ernie – Non-executive  
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

In attendance: Cann, Gary – ACC Operations  
Doyle, Chief Insp Debra – Professional Standards  
Forsyth, Garry – ACC Local Policing  
Fuller, Alethea – Policy Manager  
Gabbitas, Andrea – Policy Manager  
Gardner, Stuart – OSD  
Godwin, Supt Tim – Deputy Head of Professional Standards  
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager  
Rowe, Sharon – ACC Crime  
Rowson, Chris – Head of Human Resources  
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable  
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable  
Wentzell, Mark – Policy Manager  
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources  
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer

Observers: Approximately 10

**054/13 Conflicts of Interest**

**054/13**

The Chief Finance Officer declared two conflicts of interest as follows:

In relation to item 12, he declared that he was a Non-Executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust

In relation to item 10, he declared that he was a member of the General Committee and Managerial Committee of Warwickshire County Cricket Club.

**055/13 Apologies 055/13**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Faye Abbott, Cllr Tim Sawdon and the Chief Executive.

**056/13 Notes of the Last Meeting 056/13**

The Board approved the notes of:

- a) the meeting held on 02 July 2013 in public
- b) the meeting held on 02 July 2013 in private
- c) the meeting held on 16 July 2013 in public
- d) the meeting held on 16 July 2013 in private

**057/13 Public Questions 057/13**

No questions from the public had been received.

**058/13 Finance: Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Financial Health Indicators – July 2013 058/13**

The Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Resources introduced the report which provided the revenue and capital monitoring position and financial health indicators as at July 2013.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted that:

- the financial health indicators had been developed some time ago when the Police Authority had been in existence;
- In appendix 1, the reference to ‘agency’ in the subjective breakdown related to external funding activity. The variance between the current significant underspend and the outturn overspend related predominately to counter terrorism activity.

**059/13 Procurement and Consultation Strategy 059/13**

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided background information about Force procurement activity and recommended a consultation event prior to developing a new procurement strategy.

The Board considered the report and supported the Commissioner’s intention to take to proposed procurement strategy to the Police and Crime Panel in November as a pre-decision scrutiny item.

The Board noted that:

- The Force was currently doing some work with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and would work with the West Midlands Office

for Policing and Crime in this regard.

- **ACTION** On a quarterly basis, future finance reports would include a list of contracts due to be renewed.
- **ACTION** A separate report on the interpretation services contract would be submitted to the Board when that contract was due to be reviewed/renewed.  
*A note has been made on the work plan to include a report at the July 2014 meeting*

**060/13 Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan 060/13**

Stuart Gardner delivered a presentation on performance to supplement the written report. *(A copy of the presentation was subsequently circulated to the Board.)* The presentation included August data that had not been available for inclusion in the written report.

ACCs Sharon Rowe and Garry Forsyth were in attendance to answer questions, particularly about areas of concern.

During the discussion, the Board noted that:

- ACCs Rowe and Forsyth were jointly chairing a gold group which had been set up to gain a better understanding of the specific areas of performance where there were concerns and to put in place plans to address them.
- The main areas of concern were the increases in:
  - public place offending - which could be attributed in part to the good weather over the summer;
  - theft shops and stalls - which could be attributed in part with the change in recording practices. The Force now had a better understanding of the offenders and was working with the business sector to try to design out crime. Although local businesses were very co-operative, sometimes national store directives were problematic. The Force was working with the ACPO lead at a national level in this area.;
  - overall crime and criminal damage – there were spikes in particular areas. There was an increase in vehicle crime in Solihull for example;
  - violence – there were two delivery plans in place to deal with violence associated with the night time economy;
  - domestic violence - which could be attributed in part to increased levels of reporting. A greater proportion of police time was now spent on this area and the Force was accordingly re-shaping its activities away from acquisitive

and towards domestic violence. **ACTION. An update on Operation Sentinel (a force-wide initiative aimed at targeting members of the community who are most vulnerable) would be provided at a future meeting;**  
*A note has been made on the work plan to include a report at the November 2013 meeting.*

- hate crime.
- the Force had set up a satisfaction delivery group. A need to focus on vehicle crime had been identified.
- A flattening out of the downward trend in crime was inevitable, given the very low crime figures experienced last summer.

The Board would continue to monitor the crime figures carefully particularly in the areas of hate crime and domestic violence.

The Commissioner expressed concerns about continued reductions in funding. While the Force would continue to innovate to fight and reduce crime, there would be a limit to how far it could go.

#### **061/13 BME progression and promotion**

**061/13**

This item was moved up the agenda to accommodate another meeting that the Head of Human Resources had to attend.

The Head of Human Resources, on behalf of ACC Marcus Beale, introduced the report which provided an update on black and minority ethnic (BME) representation and progression within the Force.

The Board considered the report and made a number of comments on the draft strategy and the planned activities, including the following.

- It would be helpful to include deliverables and milestones in the strategy
- It would be helpful to include a statement of intent in the strategy about working with staff support associations and the value that they could add. This might also include a reference to the purpose of the associations.
- Staff support associations could help with retention issues
- More could be done in schools in respect of recruitment and awareness of careers in the Force
- A cautious approach should be taken to matching workforce demography to local policing unit (LPU) demography.

The Board noted that the College of Policing (CoP) intended to develop a policy similar to the Force's draft strategy and agreed that national support from the CoP would be very welcome. There was now an opportunity to influence national and local policy.

ACC Cann introduced the report which provided an overview of the recent work of the Force Professional Standards Department.

The Board considered the report and praised the Force for the clarity and transparency of the report which it believed would do much to enhance public confidence.

Supt Tim Godwin and Chief Inspector Debra Doyle were in attendance to answer questions from the Board.

The discussion focused on the following areas.

- IPCC

The Board observed that there were long delays in closing cases which had been sent to the IPCC. The Board acknowledged that the IPCC had resources issues and noted that the Force was hosting a training day for five IPCC Commissioners.

- Resignation of officers whilst under investigation

The Board observed that the public were concerned about cases where officers resign whilst under investigation. This was a difficult issue involving the need to balance costs, expenses and legal issues, for example, and would be best discussed outside the meeting. There was clearly a need to balance pragmatism and public confidence. The Board noted, however, that where criminal proceedings were involved, such proceedings would continue whether or not the officer or staff had resigned. It also noted that the CoP was working on the possible development of a national register from which officers could be struck off.

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which updated the Board on the casework and correspondence received and managed by the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime (WMOPC).

The Board considered the report and made the following observations.

- WMOPC and the Professional Standards Department (PSD) had an excellent relationship. PSD were very timely in responding to requests for information from WMOPC. Other areas of the Force were less so, as were external bodies. This was real challenge when trying to respond to correspondents within twenty working days.
- Some people who had exhausted the complaints against the police system, appeared to be turning now to the Commissioner to deal with their complaint.

- One area of concern was around the number of people with mental health issues who contacted the WMOPC.
- It might be helpful to categorise the types of complaints that the WMOPC received. **ACTION WMOPC would look into the feasibility of classifying complaints using the national classifications that police forces used.**  
*The WMOPC current IT system does not support such classifications. In addition, the types of complaints received rarely fall into these classifications*

The Commissioner highly commended the WMOPC casework staff who had responded very well in their new role to the large amounts of correspondence and casework. Each month the WMOPC was receiving as many complaints as the police authority had received in its entire existence. This was an area that was likely to grow and resources might need to be realigned as part of the Stage 2 Transfer process to cope with this growth.

#### 064/13 ACC Operations Portfolio Update

064/13

ACC Cann introduced the report which provided an overview of his portfolio which included operations and criminal justice.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on:

- National Police Air Service (NPAS)
  - Although the Board still had some concerns about the transition to NPAS, it would be difficult to go against the direction of travel. The Chief Constable indicated that the lack of transparency had initially concerned him but following the work that ACC Cann had done over the past few months in this area, he was much more reassured.
  - ACC Cann offered to provide Board Members, outside the meeting, a more detailed update on NPAS and how this would affect the provision of service to the West Midlands. This briefing would take place prior to the proposed entry of WMP into the NPAS arrangement on 2 October.
  - **ACTION. The Force and the Commissioner would explore whether it would be possible for a representative from the West Midlands Police to attend the regional NPAS board meetings as an observer.**
  - **ACTION. A further report on NPAS would be submitted to the Board at a later stage.**  
*A note has been made on the work plan to include a report at the February 2014 meeting.*
- Deaths in custody

The Board welcomed the news that there had been no deaths in

custody or following release from custody in the West Midlands Police force area since 2010.

**065/13 Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Summit**

**065/13**

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which informed the Board of the outcomes of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Summit that had taken place on Friday, 21 June.

The Board considered the report and supported the action plan, noting that the Force had been successful in its bid to take part in the Home Office street triage pilot (see item 4 of plan for action).

**ACTION. A report would be submitted to the Board in six months' time on progress against the action plan.** *A note has been made on the work plan to include this report in April 2014.*

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner thanked Chief Inspector Michael Brown and Chief Inspector Sean Russell for their excellent work in this area.

**066/13 Decision**

**066/13**

There were three draft decisions for discussion:

**a) Outstanding Citizen and Outstanding Young Citizen Award Scheme**

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the Commissioner's proposed Outstanding Citizen and Outstanding Young Citizen Award Scheme.

The Board considered the report and supported the scheme.

**ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the scheme.**

*The Commissioner made the decision on 4 September 2013. Decision WMPCC 034 2013 Outstanding Citizen and Outstanding Young Citizen Award Scheme can be found on the Commissioner's website*

*[www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)*

## **b) Safer Travel Plan**

The Commissioner introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the draft decision relating to the West Midlands Safer Travel Plan.

The Board considered the report and supported the West Midlands Safer Travel Plan, noting that final approval of the plan was scheduled to take place at the 9 September meeting of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

### **ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the draft West Midlands Safer Travel Plan.**

*The Commissioner made the decision on 4 September 2013. Decision WMPCC 035 2013 West Midlands Safer Travel Plan can be found on the Commissioner's website [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)*

## **c) Invest to Save Budget – Domestic Homicide Review Research Project**

Alethea Fuller introduced the report which sought the Board's views on the bid for £50,000 from the Commissioner's Invest to Save budget by the seven community safety partnerships to commission research relating to domestic homicide reviews (DHRs).

The Board considered the report and made the following recommendations to the Commissioner.

- The Commissioner should grant £30,000 from the Invest to Save Budget, and retain an option to reconsider the allocation once the tendering process has been completed. This was because the Board considered that the cost of the research element of the bid appeared to be rather high given that only six reviews had been carried out. Existing national research could also be drawn upon in a desktop research exercise.
- In light of the above, the Commissioner should ask for the terms of reference to be broadened to include research and other significant DHRs nationally in order to influence the recommendations and to ensure that the recommendations were not restricted to the current six DHRs.
- The Commissioner should indicate that he would expect that there would be a commitment from partners to support and implement the recommendations from the research.

### **ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the business case subject to reflecting the recommendations made by the Board.**

*The Commissioner made the decision on 4 September 2013. Decision WMPCC 036 2013 Invest to Save Budget Business Case – Domestic Homicide Review Research Project can be found on the Commissioner's website [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)*



**067/13 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies 067/13**

There were no referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, the Police and Crime Panel or partner bodies. No thematic issues had yet been raised by any members of the Board.

**068/13 Chief Constable Update 068/13**

The Chief Constable gave an oral update on the series of events over the summer which had resulted in a week of tensions. There were three particular incidents:

- The EDL protest and counter protests
- The pattern of bombs set outside mosques
- The earlier fatal stabbing of Mohammed Saleem outside a mosque

This was one of the largest operations the Force had carried out for a long time, involving counter terrorism policing and an exercise in community reassurance and security.

A Ukrainian national had been charged with acts of terrorism which included the murder as well as the bombings and his trial was likely to be in January 2014.

The EDL protest had been larger than expected and the counter protests had been smaller than expected. The latter could be attributed to the excellent work of the communities of the West Midlands.

The debriefing on the operation provided an opportunity for significant learning for the Force. The Force had received plaudits from the Home Office and others for the success of the operation. The Chief Constable thanked ACCs Beale and Rowe and the whole of the Force team for their efforts. The Commissioner commended the Force on the operation and, in particular, for its work with local communities which provided strong links which could be built upon in the future.

	<b>Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings</b>	
007/13	Force Performance 2012-13	007/13
	The data that the Force could now track at neighbourhood level was very good. It would be worth the Board having a full presentation on this; <b>ACTION: Chief Executive to arrange for Board to be briefed.</b>	
016/13	Professional Standards Department, Quality of Service	016/13
	West Midlands Police Working Group on disproportionality. The Board welcome the work being done on disproportionality. <b>ACTION The Force would circulate the action plan to members of</b>	

	<b>the Board.</b>	
040/13	Performance against the 2013-14 milestones and deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan	040/13
	<b>ACTION The Deputy Commissioner would discuss with the Force how she might promote the good work of the Counter Terrorism Unit in ensuring public safety.</b>	
045/13	Collaboration Update	045/13
	There were no further details yet about the £50m innovation funding mentioned in the Comprehensive Spending Review statement. <b>ACTION The Board would be updated on the innovation funding once the details had been received.</b>	
046/13	Outcomes from the Victims' Consultation	046/13
	The Board considered the report and supported option 1 which was to set up a West Midlands-wide structure, led by Victims Support, working with other voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations. <b>ACTION The Commissioner and Cath Hannon would explore this option further taking into account the concerns raised by some of VCSE organisations.</b>	