



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 14 May 2013 in the Main Committee Room, Lloyd House

- Present: Jones, Bob – Police and Crime Commissioner
Abbott, Cllr Faye – Assistant 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
Nazir, Cllr Mohammed – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive
- In attendance: Cann, Gary – Assistant Chief Constable
Courtney, Jacky – Chief Executive
Fuller, Alethea – Policy Manager
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager
Jones, Chief Supt Rachel – Head of Professional Standards
Price, Chris – Chief Information Officer
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources
- Observers: Approximately 4 members of the public

011/13 Conflicts of Interest 011/13

No conflicts of interest were declared.

012/13 Apologies 012/13

There were no apologies.

013/13 Notes of the Last Meeting 013/13

The Board approved the notes of:

- a) the meeting held on 30 April 2013 in public
- b) the meeting held on 30 April 2013 in private

014/13 Public Questions

014/13

One question had been received but the member of the public concerned was not in attendance to ask the question. **ACTION. A written answer would be provided and a copy would be sent to Board members.**

A copy of the Commissioner's written response has been circulated to Board members.

015/13 Performance against the 2013-14 milestones and deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan

015/13

The Chief Constable and the Chief Executive introduced the report which outlined performance against the milestones and deliverables set out in the 2013-14 Police and Crime Plan.

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- the proposed frequency of performance reporting to the Board was set out in the report;
- the reporting cycle would necessarily mean that in some months the report would provide a wider variety of information than in other months. In some months, for example, there would be information about the Commissioner's performance against his own deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan. In other months there would only be information about Force performance.

The discussion focused on the following areas:

- Community safety funding and the arrangements for reporting back on how the money had been spent. **ACTION. There would be a report at the next meeting setting out the arrangements that had already been put in place, including information on the planned expenditure of funds by local partnerships.**
An item has been included on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11 June 2013.
- The arrangements for reporting back on the work of the local policing and crime boards. **ACTION. Deputy and Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners would include this in their six-monthly report to the Board**
Reports have been included in the Board's workplan which is included in the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11 June 2013.
- The Feeling the Difference survey. **ACTION. A report and presentation would be provided at the next meeting.**
An item has been included on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11 June 2013.

- The introduction of the fleet of 'green' cars. **ACTION. A review would be included in a future report of the Director of Resources to the Board on his portfolio.**
The review has been included in the outline request for the report for the meeting scheduled for 5 December.

ACTION. In light of the discussion above about frequency of reporting, thought should be given to the workplan for future meetings.

A detailed workplan is in development and is included in the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11 June 2013.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the Force on its performance in protecting people from harm, particularly in relation to the work of the Gangs and Organised Crime Unit.

016/13 Professional Standards Department, Quality of Service

016/13

ACC Gary Cann and Chief Superintendent Rachel Jones introduced the report which provided an update on the work of the Force to ensure and to seek improvements to quality of service, with a particular focus on the contribution of the Professional Standards Department.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on the following areas:

- The purpose of the report.
There was a debate about the technical language used in the report and the detailed performance measurements and how easy this would be for the public to understand and interpret. The Board acknowledged that the Force had necessarily used statutory language and that the report had been written for Board members who had a degree of expertise in this area. The Force had other ways of communicating with the public on matters of professional standards. **ACTION. Brendan Connor, working with the office, would discuss with Chief Supt Jones ways of achieving a balance in future reports between technical detail and ways of communicating to the public that would enhance their trust and confidence in the service.**
A discussion took place after the meeting.
- Complaints dealt with by the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime (WMOPC).
The Board noted that WMOPC was dealing with an increasing workload as members of the public were now contacting the Commissioner with complaints. While WMOPC worked closely with the Professional Standards Department it did not use the Force's Centurian system for logging complaints; it had its own embryonic casework system. Not all complaints to the Commissioner were about the police service.
- Quality of service complaints.
The Commissioner had concerns about how lessons could be

learnt about quality of service complaints received by the Force and the WMOPC. **ACTION WMOPC would in future provide a report to the Board on complaints to the Commissioner to complement the quarterly report from the Force.**

The WMOPC report has been included in the Board's workplan.

- West Midlands Police Working Group on disproportionality. The Board welcomed the work being done on disproportionality. **ACTION The Force would circulate the action plan to members of the Board.**
- Home Secretary's intended transfer of resources away from forces' professional standards departments to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). Whilst nothing had been confirmed yet, it seemed more likely that this transfer would be about funding rather than staff.

017/13 Information Services Update

017/13

The Chief Information Officer introduced the report which provided an update on progress within the information services area of the Force.

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

- Information Services were working closely with the Director of Resources in relation to new ways of working, eg agile working. Information Services were also working closely with the Technology Task Force Board. The Chief Information Officer offered to give a presentation to Board members on agile working.
- Councillor Hendricks would be welcome to sit on the ICT Steering Group and the Strategic Implementation Management Board (SIMB). The Steering Group dealt with the direction of travel for technology and the SIMB was more involved with policy and procedure. **ACTION. Arrangements to be made for Cllr Hendricks attendance at the Force Boards.**
Arrangements have been put in place.
- Information Services worked closely with Professional Standards Department in relation to Data Protection breaches.
- Whilst there was a backlog of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests in the Force, there was not a similar backlog of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks. **ACTION. The Force would update the Board on how the FOI backlog was being managed.**

018/13 National Landscape

018/13

The Chief Executive introduced the report which provided an overview of the changes which had been made or were being made to the national policing landscape.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on the following areas.

- Proceeds of crime.
In relation to the creation of the National Crime Agency (NCA), the Board expressed an interest in how the proceeds of crime were processed and what use was made of them for the maximum benefit of the people of the West Midlands. The Board noted that some of the proceeds were used for local initiatives on an annual basis and that this was managed by ACC Rowe. Some were used for supporting the Proceeds of Crime Unit. The introduction of the NCA was unlikely to have an impact on this area. **ACTION The Force would provide the Board with further information about the management of proceeds of crime.**

A request for this information has been included in the outline request for the ACC Crime portfolio update scheduled for the October 2013 meeting.

- College of Policing
The Commissioner confirmed that Unison, representing police staff, had been offered a place on the College of Policing Board. He also indicated that he considered that offices of the policing and crime commissioners should also be covered by the services of the college so that the whole of policing was included.
- National Police Air Service (NPAS)
The Board expressed an interest in the performance of NPAS, particularly in view of the fact that the Force would be using the service from October 2013, as mandated by Government. The Board noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, Ron Ball, was representing the East and West Midlands on the NPAS Board. **ACTION 1. An approach would be made to Ron Ball to establish a process for feeding in West Midlands issues to the NPAS Board and to seek sight of issues raised at the Board and performance information.**

The office has made contact with the Warwick Commissioner's office to agree a process.

ACTION 2. An update on NPAS would be included in the forthcoming report on the ACC Operations portfolio.

A update has been requested in the outline request for the ACC Operations portfolio update scheduled for the September 2013 meeting.

019/13 Fair Funding

019/13

The Commissioner introduced the report which provided an update on the current position in relation to police formula funding.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on the

following areas.

- The recent media coverage of the Commissioner's concerns about future funding.
The Board acknowledged the importance of reassuring the public that the Force had risen to the funding challenge and was in a position to continue to maintain its service.
- The Commissioner's campaign for fair funding
The Board supported the Commissioner's intention to write to MPs, Ministers and others to seek their support for his campaign. The Board acknowledged that the damping issue was an annual debate and that other areas of the public sector were also having to deal with severe funding reductions.

020/13 Progress Report on the Commissioner's Summits

020/13

Alethea Fuller introduced the report which updated the Board on the series of summits that had taken place at the request of the Commissioner.

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

- A report had been produced following each summit and circulated to participants. The reports were available on the Commissioner's website.
- The Commissioner's consultation and communications strategy was being developed.
- The Commissioner wished to review whether or not to repeat a number of the summits already held. It was likely that annual summits would be held for youth, victims and business. It was also likely that a partnerships summit would be held in the autumn to link in with the production of the local policing plans and any variations to his Police and Crime Plan. **ACTION. A review of summits would be conducted in the autumn.**
The office has scheduled this review to be included as a discussion item in the informal meeting of the Board to be held on 15 October 2013.

021/13 Decisions

021/13

There were two draft decisions for discussion:

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner: Decision Making Policy

The Chief Executive introduced the report, attached to which was a draft decision on the Commissioner's decision making policy.

The Board considered the draft decision and suggested that the policy include a specific reference to the Commissioner's equalities duties and a reference to reviewing the policy on a regular basis. **ACTION.**

The Chief Executive would amend the policy accordingly.

The policy was amended and the Commissioner made a decision to approve the policy on 17 May 2013. Decision WMPCC 023 2013 West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner – Decision Making Policy can be found on the Commissioner’s website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

Mutual Aid Complaints Arrangements

This draft decision had originally been included in the agenda for private meeting of the Board because at the time the papers for the meeting had been circulated it had not been clear if this was a restricted matter. The Home Office had since indicated that it was not.

The Board considered the draft decision and, after confirmation from the Chief Constable that the Force would have a liaison officer looking after welfare issues, recommended that the Commissioner sign the agreement. **ACTION. The Commissioner would make a decision to sign the agreement.**

The Commissioner made the decision to sign the agreement on 14 May 2013. Decision WMPCC 022 2013 Mutual Aid – Complaints Arrangements can be found on the Commissioner’s website. The signed agreement was sent to the Home Office on 14 May 2013.

022/13 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies 022/13

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.

| | Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings | |
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| 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; ACTION: Chief Executive to arrange for Board to be briefed. | |
| C002/13 | Chief Constable Briefing | C002/13 |
| | ACTION. The Chief Constable would work on providing an operational update that could be made available at future meetings of the Board held in public. He would welcome suggestions from Board members. | |