



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD
11 June 2013

**Update on the Community Safety Fund and
Community Safety Partnership Spending
Plans 2013-14**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update members of the Board on the spending plans for the Community Safety Fund monies allocated to each of the seven Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) by the Commissioner. Details of his decision can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk in decision WMPCC 08 2013.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2013-14, in addition to the Home Office Police Main Grant and other specific Home Office police grants (such as Counter Terrorism Policing Grant), Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) received funding from the new Home Office Community Safety Fund (CSF). The CSF was un-ringfenced and PCCs are able to use it to commission services that help tackle drugs and crime, reduce re-offending, and improve community safety in their force area.
3. The allocation of the CSF to individual Commissioners from the Home Office was based on the existing distribution of drugs, crime and community safety grants across police force areas. However the CSF is a new funding stream which PCCs have the freedom and flexibility to use as they see fit to support their wider crime prevention priorities. PCCs are able to use the CSF to invest in existing programmes if they see a benefit in doing so; however, this is a decision for individual PCCs to take locally.
4. The introduction of the CSF meant that the vast majority of existing Home Office drugs, crime and community safety funding streams, which had been made previously to local crime and disorder partnerships, ended in March 2013. The information that the Home Office provided stated that this included:
 - Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)
 - DIP Drug Testing Grant
 - Community Safety Partnership Funding
 - Youth Crime and Substance Misuse Prevention activities
 - Positive Futures

- Communities against Gangs, Guns and Knives
- Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme
- Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund
- Safer Future Communities

LEVELS OF FUNDING

5. Allocations of the CSF in 2013-14 were set out in the Written Ministerial Statement that the Policing Minister laid in Parliament on 4 February 2013. Funding for drugs, crime and community safety was reduced from around £123m in 2012-13 to £90m in 2013-14.
6. The total allocation of the CSF in the West Midlands for the financial year 2013-14 is £6,969,000. The following table sets out the decision of the Commissioner as to how the funding is allocated for 2013-14 with the comparable figures for the previous financial year.

	Birmingham	Sandwell	Coventry	W'hampton	Walsall	Dudley	Solihull	Sub-Total	West Mids Police	Total
HO Funding 2012/13 (£)	2,838,552	602,572	620,885	559,730	457,111	450,476	324,974	5,854,300	2,066,103	7,920,403
%	36	8	8	7	6	6	4	74	26	100
CSF Allocation 2013/14	2,497,583	530,190	546,304	492,495	402,203	396,364	285,938	5,151,077	1,817,923	6,969,000
%	36	8	8	7	6	6	4	74	26	100

7. One of the Commissioner's key manifesto pledges was the introduction of local policing and crime boards. A Partnership Summit was held on the 8 February 2013 at which the Commissioner set out his offer that the Community Safety Fund 2013-14 would be passported out to the CSPs on condition that a community led local policing and crime board was established in each of the local authority areas. The Commissioner has indicated that he hopes the local boards would have responsibility for consultation and engagement and the development of a local policing and crime plan. He has also stated that the membership of such boards must comprise at least 50% community representation with a community representative acting as the Chair of the Board. Community representatives for these purposes include councillors.
8. The Commissioner explained his ambition for work on any variations to his own Police and Crime Plans to be a 'bottom-up' rather than a top-down process. The seven local police and crime plans are intended to be used as the building blocks for any future variations.
9. All of the CSPs have accepted the monies allocated to them by the Commissioner, agreeing to the condition of establishing local police and crime boards. Each CSP is now in the developmental stages and determining what structures will work in their areas. There is an expectation that the local boards will be developed to the extent that they will input into the review process for the Police and Crime Plan later this year.

10. The Conditions of Grant are attached at Annex 1. These set out the expectations of the Commissioner in terms of spend. It is very light-touch accountability, with responsibility for monitoring of spend on the CSP and then transferring to the local boards once established. Each CSP had to submit a spending plan by the 30 April 2013 which sets out in broad terms how they intend to spend the allocation. The plans are attached at Annex 2 for information.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL POLICING AND CRIME BOARDS

11. Each of the seven CSPs is developing the structures that will either evolve into the local boards or there will be a two tier structure with a local board alongside an Executive Board. A outline of the current approaches being taken in each of the seven local authority areas follows:

- Birmingham: the Cabinet Member with responsibility for community safety will lead. They are aiming to have the local board in place by September in order that the group will have ownership of the statutorily required community safety partnership Strategic Assessment. At this time it has not been decided if the structure will be one or two tier.
- Coventry: the Community Safety Partnership is currently reviewing its structures in order to develop a Community Safety Partnership Board which will act as the local board. Proposals will be presented to the Partnership in July with a view to implementation in September. The revised structure will ensure that the board membership consists of a range of representatives from the community and voluntary sector.
- Dudley: it is anticipated that Dudley's Safe and Sound Partnership will retain its Strategic Board. The Crime Reduction Implementation Group which forms part of the current partnership structures will evolve into Dudley's local board with some delegated responsibilities. It is anticipated that there will be 10 statutory officers and 12 community representatives (including Elected Members and Communities of Interest) on Dudley's local board.
- Sandwell: it is anticipated that the local board will feature six council members and five members of the community on a geographical basis and there will be one board. They are aiming for the local board to be in place by September.
- Solihull: The Community Safety Partnership has chosen to include the wider community representation at the Executive Board level rather than devolve the role of the local boards to another level. The new Executive Board will have additional representation from business, locality forums, the voluntary sector and young people. The CSP responsible authorities will retain the responsibility for decision making and the community representatives will help to inform and shape the priorities and community safety plans. The board will be made up of between 18-20 members.
- Walsall; the first meeting of its board will take place on 9 July, with representatives being predominantly elected members from the six area partnerships. Additional members will be invited from 'communities of interest' such as Victim Support, Street Champions and the police Independent Advisory Group.

- Wolverhampton: a launch is hoped to take place in July with a board of ten community representatives including an elected member. There will be a single body, with a Youth Offending Team sub-group. The Board will operate in shadow form until April 2014, with a view to undertaking priority setting in the autumn.

12. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and each of the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners have been offered a seat at their respective geographically linked boards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The financial implications are set out the funding section of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention and wider priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Board is asked to note the contents of the report.

Author: Alethea Fuller, Policy Manager, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime