



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 01 April 2014 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
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive
- In attendance: Beale, Marcus – Assistant Chief Constable
Davis, Chief Insp Katherine – Force CID
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager
Meffen, Richard – T/Assistant Director of Resources
Nicholson, Andy – Assistant Chief Constable
Rowe, Sharon – T/Deputy Chief Constable
Rowson, Chris – Head of Human Resources
Russell, Chief Inps Sean – Criminal Justice Services
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer
- Observers: 2

043/14 Conflicts of Interest 043/14

The Chief Finance Officer declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to item 12 *Mental Health* in his role as a non-executive board member of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust.

044/14 Apologies 044/14

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mohammad Nazir and the Chief Executive.

045/14 Notes of the Last Meeting 045/14

The Board approved the notes of the meetings held in public and in private on 4 March 2014.

046/14 Public Questions 046/14

No questions from the public had been received.

047/14 Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan 047/14

It was agreed to take this item together with item 6, *Force Annual Review 2013-14* because there was overlap in the content.

048/14 Force Annual Review 2013-14 048/14

The Chief Constable circulated the Annual Review 2013-14 publication and a short video summarising the review was played.

In relation to the Annual Review and video, the Board noted that both would be available to the public and to officers and staff.

The Commissioner congratulated the Force on its achievements over the past year.

The discussion then focused on the following areas:

- **Reducing re-offending**

The Board noted that the model for dealing with re-offending that was evidently successful in Sandwell and in Dudley was being used more widely across the Force. It had also received much national attention. With the advent of the forthcoming new arrangements for the Probation Service, it would be important that partners were still able to play the same role that they currently did for the model to continue to work successfully.

- **HMIC Report, *Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse***

The Board sought the views of the Chief Constable on the recent HMIC report on domestic abuse. The Chief Constable indicated that:

- the Force had come out somewhere in the middle across the country in terms of performance
- no serious performance issues for the Force had been raised
- the Force had not been included in the group of forces identified for their good practice
- the report recognised that the Force was making improvements
- the degree to which domestic abuse was an issue for the wider partnerships was not brought out in the report.

- **Community Safety Fund**

The Board enquired if they would have an opportunity to evaluate the projects that had been financed by the Community Safety Fund and noted that the Chief Finance Officer was working on a new framework through which the community safety partnerships would

report back on how they had spent their grants from the Commissioner. **ACTION There would be a report at a future meeting.**

A note has been made on the work plan to programme the report in at a suitable date.

- **Business Crime**

The Board noted that the Force had signed up to using the national Niche definition for recording business crime. (Niche is an operational policing system that manages information.) The definitions were not significantly different to those currently used by the Force. The Force was in the process of base-lining against the Niche definitions. **ACTION A future report on business crime using the Niche definitions would be programmed into the work plan.**

A note has been made on the work plan to programme the report in at a suitable date.

049/14 Human Resources Update

049/14

The Head of Human Resources introduced the report which provided an overview of the work of the HR function.

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

- **Police Officer recruitment**

The Board noted that the figures in the report related to the numbers of individuals who had expressed an interest in applying to become police officers. Requests for further breakdowns by BME and other protected characteristic groups would be better left until expressions of interest were converted into applications. It would be useful to be able to see the attrition rates throughout the process.

- **Specials recruitment**

The Force was alive to the benefits of publicising in future that the role of a Special Constable did not always necessarily have to involve uniformed duties on the street. There were possibilities of working in other areas of the Force, for example in the Economic Crime Unit, and the Safer Travel Team and at the Airport.

The College of Policing was considering a matter about the ability for Chief Constables to delegate limited powers to volunteers other than Specials along the lines of the NCA model.

- **Management and deployment of restricted officers**

There were some challenges for the Force in relation to the impact of the Winsor Review recommendations on the management and deployment of restricted officers. The Force was awaiting further information about the national regulations.

- **A19**

The Board noted that the Force had received over 500 claims following the finding of the Employment Tribunal in favour of the

claimants in the test case.

All five forces concerned had lodged an appeal which was scheduled to be heard later this year. The forces had also requested that the remedy hearing scheduled for the original 22 claimants be postponed until after the appeal had been heard.

050/14 ACC Security Portfolio Update

050/14

ACC Beale introduced the report which provided an update on his portfolio of work.

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

- **Use of Schedule 7 at the airport**

The Board noted that improvements in the process had been made which had reduced the number of multiple stops of individuals. Historic markers were challenged to ensure that they were still relevant. More detail could be provided in the private meeting.

- **Independent Custody Visitors**

The Board noted that the Commissioner reviewed every single Custody Visitor report from visits to the Terrorism Act Custody Block Registration of Foreign Nationals

- **Registration of Foreign Nationals**

The Board noted that the Force currently had responsibility for the registration of foreign nationals. The Force had tried to improve the service by transferring the registration point for some students from Lloyd House to Birmingham University. However, the service was still in need of improvement. Ministers were considering whether this service should be provided by the police. It might more logically lie with the Border Agency.

051/14 Deputy Chief Constable Portfolio Update

051/14

The T/Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which provided an update on her portfolio of work.

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- The Head of Corporate Communications would welcome ideas from Board members on how the Force could build upon its social media activities to further develop relationships with individuals.
- The project to design and implement a fully integrated digital forensic service was at the design stage. The Force offered to do a presentation at the end of 2014 on progress.

052/14 Operation Sentinel

052/14

ACC Andy Nicholson and Detective Chief Inspector Kath Davis

introduced the report which provided an update on Operation Sentinel.

The Board considered the report and noted the following.

- ACC Nicholson thanked the Commissioner and the Office for Policing and Crime (WMOPC) for the support they had provided to Sentinel through three events which had broadened out the whole area covered by the operation to the wider community, namely the WMOPC Safeguarding Summit held in September 2013, the WMOPC CSE and Human Trafficking Summit held in October 2013 and the joint WMOPC and Force FGM event held in February 2014. The substantial contribution of the WMOPC had not been fully highlighted in the report.
- The Force was taking a Gold approach to its consideration of the recommendations made in the recent HMIC report on the police response to domestic abuse. Elements of the HMIC action plan were already reflected in the Sentinel priority plan and the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.
- The Force had worked hard to increase reporting of domestic abuse. The HMIC, however, had reported on the number of calls that had led to arrests and had consequently criticised the Force. Both the Chief Constable and the Commissioner had concerns about the methodology used by the HMIC in their use of statistics in this instance and more generally.
- The Chief Constable paid tribute to Detective Chief Inspector Kath Davis for her work on Sentinel; she fully deserved the recognition that she had received at the recent Diamond Awards.

053/14 Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Funding

053/14

ACC Nicholson introduced the report which provided an update on the POCA funding and its allocation.

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- when the Force embarked on an investigation into organised crime, it considered at the beginning if and how assets could be recovered. It was interwoven in the investigation process;
- while only a relatively small proportion of the POCA funding was spent on community activities, the rest was spent on improving the recovery process. The Chief Constable assured the Board that it was absolutely being used for this purpose and offered to provide a briefing at a private meeting because it was an operational matter;
- POCA funding was not guaranteed income. The incentive for recovering assets from the proceeds of crime was to harm

criminal networks; it was not about the money itself. It was an operational tool;

- any decisions on where the POCA money was spent went through the tasking process;
- at least 50% of all POCA money was taken by the Government. In that regard, the Board noted the campaign by Mark Burns-Williams to encourage the Government to allocate more of the POCA money to police forces.

054/14 Mental Health Update

054/14

Chief Inspector Sean Russell introduced the report which provided an update on the work of the Force on mental health issues.

The Board considered the report and paid tribute to Chief Inspector Russell for his excellent work in this area.

055/14 Decisions

055/14

Two draft decisions was considered:

a) Scheme of Governance and other corporate governance documentation

The Commissioner introduced the report which asked the Board to consider a revised Scheme of Governance and other corporate governance documentation. He drew the Board's attention to two amendments that he wished to be made to the documentation:

- i. That the Chief Constable will consult the Commissioner on any proposed changes to the personnel resource to support the work of the recognised trade unions or the role of Crime Registrar.
- ii. That the Chief Executive will consult Chief Constable and independent Chair of the Joint Audit Committee on any proposed changes to the personnel resource heading the internal audit function.

The Chief Constable thanked the team who had worked on the governance documentation and assured the Board that the Force was now working on its own governance principles. He did not plan to bring them to the Board unless they so wished.

The Board supported the approval of the governance documentation subject to the incorporation of the two amendments. **ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the governance documents.** *The Commissioner made the decision on 3 April 2014. Decision WMPCC 011 2014 Scheme of Corporate Governance and other corporate governance can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk*

b) Fees and Charges 2014-15

The Board considered the Force's proposed fees and chargeable

rates for 2014-15.

The Board supported the approval of the fees and chargeable rates. **ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the fees and chargeable rates.** *The Commissioner made the decision on 3 April 2014. Decision WMPCC 010 2014 Fees and Charges 2014-15 can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk*

056/14 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies 056/14

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.

057/14 Chief Constable Update 057/14

The Chief Constable raised four matters:

- **Diamond Awards ceremony**
The ceremony which had been held on 26 March saw the beginning of the celebrations for the Force's 40th anniversary of its inception.
- **Coventry City Council's celebration for ACC Andy Nicholson and Chief Supt Claire Bell**
The Lord Mayor of Coventry had held a civic dinner on 20 March to recognise the services of ACC Andy Nicholson and Chief Supt Claire Bell. Claire Bell had taken over from Andy Nicholson as Chief Superintendent of Coventry Local Policing Unit.
- **Hillsborough Inquest**
The Force was a party to the Hillsborough Inquest which had recently begun. It was likely that the Force would be involved in the late summer.
- **Retirement of Sharon Rowe**
T/DCC Rowe would be retiring from the Force in June 2014. The Chief Constable and the Board paid tribute to the contribution that she had made to British policing, local policing in the West Midlands and to the drive that she had brought to the Command Team. In particular, her outstanding role in the policing of the public disorder in West Midlands in 2010 and English Defence League protests was to be commended.

	Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings	
016/13	Professional Standards Department, Quality of Service	016/13
	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.	
040/13	Performance against the 2013-14 milestones and deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan	040/13
	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. <i>The Deputy Commissioner will be hosting a Communities against Extremism Summit.</i>	
045/13	Collaboration Update	045/13
	There were no further details yet about the £50m innovation funding mentioned in the Comprehensive Spending Review statement. ACTION The Board would be updated on the innovation funding once the details had been received. <i>The details have been circulated to Board members.</i>	
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. ACTION The Commissioner and Cath Hannon would explore this option further taking into account the concerns raised by some of VCSE organisations. <i>Consultation is currently taking place around the Victims Commission which takes into consideration the issues raised in the report.</i>	
064/13	ACC Operations Portfolio Update	064/13
	o 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.	
107/13	Professional Standards	107/13
	The Board considered the report and the discussion focused on what could be done to improve public and police officer confidence in the police complaints system. Greater transparency was perhaps just one step; something more radical such as a redrawing of the whole complaints systems might be needed. ACTION. Brendan Connor and ACC Cann would discuss outside the meeting what might be done within the Force. <i>There are a number of initiatives in progress. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have had a number of discussions with the Head of Professional Standards.</i>	

108/13	West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime Casework	108/13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it would be useful to seek the public's view of the service they received. ACTION. The Chief Executive would consider how this could best be achieved. 	
014/14	Stop and Search Action Plan – Outcome of Consultation	014/14
	<p>The Board supported the conclusions of the report. ACTION The action plan would be updated with the direction of travel on technology and the plan would be reviewed when the outcome of the Home Office consultation on Stop and Search became available.</p> <p><i>A Stop and Search Gold meeting is scheduled for 8 May 2014 where this matter will be dealt with.</i></p>	