



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 13 May 2014 In Diamond Rooms 1 and 2, Coventry Council House, Earl St, Coventry

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
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Nazir, Cllr Mohammad – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive

In attendance: Babington, Mark – Safer Travel Manager, Centro
Cann, Gary – Assistant Chief Constable
Davis-Clough, Helen – ICT
Foulkes, Chief Supt Carl
Alethea Fuller – Policy Manager
Andrea Gabbitas – Policy Manager
Goosen, T/Chief Supt Sharon – Head of Professional Standards
Gordon, Inspector Lee - BTP
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager
Jeffries, Kate – Head of Information and Relationship Management
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer

Observers: 0

058/14 Conflicts of Interest 058/14

None.

059/14 Apologies 059/14

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ernie Hendricks, the Chief Executive, the Director of Resources and the Director of Legal Services.

060/14 Notes of the Last Meeting 060/14

The Board approved the notes of the meetings held in public and in private on 1 April 2014.

061/14 Public Questions 061/14

No questions from the public had been received.

062/14 Financial Information Requirements 062/14

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which set out the approach that would be taken for regular financial reporting to the Board.

The Board considered the report and noted its contents.

063/14 Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan 063/14

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which outlined the end of year performance against the milestone and deliverables that contributed to the ten strategic outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

The Board considered the report and noted the following points.

- Detection measures would be changing nationally. The Force welcomed the change because under the current measures, community resolutions did not count.
- It was not clear how fraud figures would be dealt with in future. For example, crime reported to Action Fraud would be collated centrally and would not be attributed to local forces. However, some fraud cases would be reported directly to local forces. It was not clear to whom the detection figures would be attributed. **ACTION The Deputy Chief Constable would clarify the matter.**
- The Sandwell neighbourhood team had done a great deal of work which was improving their public confidence figures. Their learning was being shared across the Force. Overall, local confidence in the police service was strong despite hostile publicity about national policing issues over the past 12 months.
- ACC Beale was responsible for learning and development. Whilst there was no strategy at the moment, there was much good practice in this area. For example, training sessions did not simply push out information, they dealt with particular issues that the trainees had identified in advance. The future operating model for the Force would look at key learning and development matters along with other areas of the service.

064/14 Professional Standards and Quality of Service 064/14

ACC Cann introduced the report which provided an overview of the recent work of the Professional Standards Department (PSD). The

Head of Professional Standards was available to answer questions.

The Board considered the report and noted the following points.

- The increase in the volume of work in PSD was driven by regulatory changes. This was a national trend.
- Paragraph 32 onwards provided information about the ethnicity of complainants. The figures did not appear to highlight anything of particular concern.
- The Force's system for recording Stop and Search included a 16-point scale for recording the ethnicity of the person stopped. This was then reduced in the report down to the more common 5-point scale (Asian, Black, Other, Unknown and White). When an officer stopped a person, that person would be asked for their self-defined ethnicity. If the person chose not to answer the question, the officer would make a judgement on their ethnicity. This could, of course, skew the results of the breakdown by ethnicity. It was not possible to contact everyone about their satisfaction with the process because they did not have to provide their names and addresses.
- The Deputy Chief Constable was leading the work on the Code of Ethics. Chief Supt Goosen had attended a national event on ethics. The Force were considering what options were available in relation to the setting up of an ethics committee.
- On a general note, the Board welcomed the quality of the data in the report and the transparency that it provided. The Force would consider providing figures relating to the registers of business interests, membership of notifiable associations, and hospitality and gifts and would consider including relevant figures in future reports.

065/14 WMOPC Casework and Correspondence

065/14

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

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- The Deputy Commissioner had previously expressed concerns about complainants with mental health issues and how they were handled. She wished it to be noted that she no longer had such concerns following her visit to Birmingham North Local Policing Unit where she had been impressed with the way that officers dealt with such cases that the WMOPC had referred to them.
- It might be helpful to have a geographic breakdown of complaints. **ACTION WMOPC would investigate whether this would be possible.**
- In addition to the cases logged on the WMOPC casework system,

the Commissioner also received contacts from the public via Twitter and other social media.

- The Commissioner valued the contact from the public because it allowed for the Commissioner and the Force to identify any flaws in the system which could then be addressed.

066/14 Dip Sampling of Completed Complaints Files 066/14

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which provided information about the outcome of the dip-sampling of completed complaints files undertaken by members of the Board on 4 March 2014.

The Board considered the report and noted its contents. The Board considered that the exercise was a very good way of offering assurance to the public that complaints were being dealt with properly by the Force.

067/14 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Annual Report 2013-14 067/14

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which outlined the performance of the independent custody visiting scheme for the period 1 April 2013-31 March 2014.

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- There were currently 104 custody visitors.
- The Chief Constable wished to place on public record the Force's thanks to the custody visitors and to the WMOPC for running the scheme.
- The UK Border Agency and the British Transport Police had approached the WMOPC to be included in the scheme. This was a testament to the exemplary nature of the scheme run by WMOPC. It might be an opportune time to publicise the scheme in some way.

068/14 Information Services Update 068/14

Kate Jeffries and Helen Davis-Clough introduced the report which provided an update on issues concerning the portfolio that was previously the responsibility of the Chief Information Officer.

The Board considered the report and noted the following.

- The work of the IIP would augment the current work of ICT and drive through organisational change. This would be a challenging area of business over the next year.
- The procurement of an IIP was not in any way a reflection on the commitment and skills of the staff in ICT.
- The work being carried out on information security was a high

priority for the Force, particularly with the prospect of the imminent procurement of an innovation and integration partner (IIP).

- Information security would be important feature in future partnership working models, for example, in the public sector intelligence hub. The Force was some way off crystallising this particular initiative into a full blown project. The Force would, in due course, report back on progress.

069/14 Safer Travel Plan

069/14

Mark Babbington introduced the report which provided an update on progress against the Safer Travel Plan for the West Midlands.

The Board considered the report and were very impressed with the progress that had been made. This was a unique project and an excellent example of effective working with the private sector. The Board congratulated Mark Babbington and Inspector Lee Gordon.

070/14 Decisions

070/14

Four draft decisions were considered:

a) Event Sponsorship Policy

The Board considered and supported the proposed event sponsorship policy which set out the approach to be taken by the Commissioner to the award of small financial grants to local organisations to support events.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the policy. *The Commissioner made the decision on 16 May 2014. Decision WMPCC 014 2014 Event Sponsorship Policy can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk*

b) Victims Services

Alethea Fuller introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the draft decision about the continuation of a number of specific services for victims that were due to come to an end on 1 October 2014.

The Board considered the report and supported the proposals.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the funding allocations as set out in Appendix A of the draft decision report. *The Commissioner made the decision on 16 May 2014. Decision WMPCC 015 2014 Victims Services can be found on the Commissioner's website. www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk*

ACTION Alethea Fuller would provide Board members with the information about how the Ministry of Justice were currently monitoring how the money was spent and whether they were getting value for money.

c) Treasury Management Strategy

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the draft decision to agree the Treasury Management Strategy which had been recommended by the Joint Audit Committee.

The Board considered the report and supported the draft decision.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to:

- **Approve the treasury management activity in 2013/14 set out in paragraph 6 to 18, and the interest rate observations in paragraph 20**
- **Formally adopt the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management**
- **Approve the Treasury Strategy Statement for 2014/15 set out in Appendix B**
- **Approve the criteria for selecting counter parties and the current eligible counter parties and their limits as set out in Appendix C**
- **Undertake a mid-year review of Treasury management activity in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management**

The Commissioner made the decision on 16 May 2014. Decision WMPCC 016 2014 Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

d) Internal Audit Strategic Plan 2014-17

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the draft decision to approve the Internal Audit Strategic Plan 2014-17.

The Board considered the report and support the draft decision.

ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to approve the Internal Audit Strategic Plan for 2014-17, together with the annual plan for 2014-15 as set out in Appendix 1.

The Commissioner made the decision on 16 May 2014. Decision WMPCC 017 2014 Internal Audit Strategy 2014-17 can be found on the Commissioner's website www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk

071/14 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies

071/14

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.

The Chief Constable raised four operational policing matters:

- **Local issues**

A year ago, Coventry had been experiencing a high rate of burglaries and serious and organised crimes. The Chief Constable was pleased to report that the Force had made much progress in tackling these matters.

Some excellent work had been carried out in connection with the night-time economy.

Coventry would be included in the mental health project.

Some of the social cohesion work that had been carried out in Coventry was very good and was unique.

- **Senior Moves**

A number of senior police officer moves had been implemented recently. This was the biggest single group of moves since Programme Paragon and was an attempt to refresh the command structure.

- **Stop and Search**

ACC Cann was leading on the Stop and Search work following the recent announcement and subsequent letter from the Home Secretary. The Force stop and search training initiative was comparable with the direction of travel set by the Home Secretary. The authority levels for S60 stops had already been adopted by the Force.

- **HMIC Activity**

The Force was going through an unprecedented period of inspection activity with five major inspections in the last two months. The Chief Constable and the Commissioner had both expressed concerns that while HMIC had had an injection of resources, the Force had not. The Force was discussing the matter with HMIC.

- **Dudley Road Killings (Operation Pointer)**

The IPCC report, *Investigation into the conduct of West Midlands police officers following evidence given in a murder trial arising from the public disorder in Birmingham*, had been published recently. This related to the killing of three men by a car in Dudley Road and the subsequent trial. The Force would be submitting a report to the 3 June Strategic Policing and Crime Board outlining their response to the report.

The Board reflected on the feelings of the families and friends of the three victims who were very disappointed with the findings of the IPCC.

	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.	
064/13	ACC Operations Portfolio Update	064/13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. 	
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. 	