



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

1 July 2014

Neighbourhood Watch Summit Report and Action Plan

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a summary of the Neighbourhood Watch Summit and the action plan that was developed arising from the issues raised.

Background

2. The Summit took place on Friday 15 November at Tally Ho! Conference Suite and was hosted by the Commissioner. The event was organised in partnership with representatives from national, regional and local neighbourhood watch forums and West Midlands Police.
3. Neighbourhood Watch schemes have existed within the communities of the West Midlands force area from approximately 30 years in response to rising crime, but today covers all aspects of keeping safe. The support in setting up and communications with Neighbourhood Watch coordinators used to lie within the remit of Crime Prevention Officers. However, Operation Paragon, the rationalisation of police resources, budget cuts and the introduction of local policing teams has meant that Local Policing Units (LPUs) have become responsible for the role.
4. In the spring of 2013, the Commissioner requested a briefing on how different LPUs were working with Neighbourhood Watch schemes and feedback identified that there was some excellent work taking place, alongside gaps in support in other areas. There was a need to scope out the support that Neighbourhood Watch schemes could reasonably expect from the Force, as well as deliver a consistent level of service in all LPUs.

5. Following the briefing, the Commissioner held a Neighbourhood Watch Summit, at which coordinators could raise issues and look at how they could work with the Force and consider future ways of working that could be identified and explored.
6. The report from the Summit together with the action plan has been developed with West Midlands Police who have been putting structures in place in response to the issues raised at the Summit. The report and the Action Plan and are attached at Appendices 1 and 2.

Financial Implications

7. The cost of all consultation activities is included in the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime budget.

Legal Implications

8. The Police and Crime Commissioner has responsibility to gain the views of the public, with specific mention of victims of crime, in the policing area about matters concerning policing and crime. These requirements are set out in the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Other statutory consultation duties of relevance are those which require public consultation on the Commissioner's police and crime plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Board is asked to note the contents of the report of the Summit and consider the action plan.

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