



Outcomes of Performance Workshop

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE

1. This report provides a summary of the discussions at the Performance Workshop held on 20 January 2015.

BACKGROUND

2. As part of the governance arrangements the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Strategic Police and Crime Board (SPCB) agreed to hold quarterly Performance Workshops with the Force. These Workshops would give members of the SPCB additional time to scrutinise the Force regarding performance including areas which are not included in the Police and Crime Plan.
3. Areas specifically highlighted by Members of the Board were a review of Violent Crime, current performance against the Innovation and Integration Partner (IIP) basket of measures, impact of historic reporting/recording on performance especially around rape and sexual offences and an update on bilking (making off without payment).

PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

4. Issues covered during the workshop:
 - Total Recorded Crime remains very stable, up almost 1% with 1,247 additional offence over the previous year. Professional judgement believes that crime levels will continue around the upper limit over the next 12 months with around 14,000 offences per month.
 - While national statistics are yet to be published it is hoped that West Midlands Police will continue to the lowest levels of crime in its Most Similar Group (MSG) of forces (Greater Manchester, Merseyside and West Yorkshire) with the gap in performance increasing.
 - WMP continues to perform very well with regards to burglary of dwellings with a 9.2% reduction so far this year and offending levels lower than two years ago.
 - Robbery has fallen by 6.6% so far this performance year. There are seasonal variations but December 2014 remained around the average and was the lowest level of robbery ever recorded for the month of December.
 - Public Place Violence With Injury (PPVWI) has experienced a step change with increased levels of offending. After recording the lowest levels of offending during 2012, greater use of 'public place violence' markers has contributed to the increase. Violence against the person has also seen a similar increase in offending levels indicating that the rise in recorded

violence is genuine and not entirely due to greater use of markers. When compared to the MSG WMP has the highest volume of violence with injury and the second highest volumes of violence against the person and violence without injury. It appears that West Midlands has more urban areas than the other forces in the MSG with three city centres (Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton) and five major town centres (Dudley, Solihull, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall and West Bromwich). There are links between urban centres, drugs and alcohol and violence therefore this is also a contributing factor to the higher levels of violence in the West Midlands. There is also the fact that WMP has a much higher level of crime recording accuracy when compared to the other forces in the MSG.

- With regards to positive outcomes in respect of wounding WMP has the second highest levels of charges within the MSG with increased levels of charging following the Service Transformation Programme.
- Domestic violence continues to increase and contribute to the higher levels of violence. It appears that domestic violence has seen a larger increase on the Western side of the Force area, but this is believed to be due to changing levels of tolerance and subsequent increased levels of reporting in this area. The use of the alcohol marker within violence with injury has also seen an increasing trend but violence with injury in licensed premises remains stable.
- WMP is working in collaboration with a number of organisations to tackle issues of violence. It is seeking to create a sustainable Violence Prevention Alliance which will involve a review of levels of satisfaction with the service received by victims of violence. WMP is supporting clinical leads in the creation of Medics Against Violence Partnership which includes GPs, dentists, vets and education who have very good processes for screening and identification of victims and offenders which WMP will look to influence and utilise. Also as young people have the highest levels of injury due to violence WMP will work more closely with health and education to understand the reasons why and what can be done to prevent this such as youth workers in Accident and Emergency facilities. WMP is engaged with the new probation structures reviewing and contributing towards new commissioning opportunities for drug and alcohol interventions and the management of violent offenders.
- Where they are currently being monitored those indicators within the IIP basket of measures are all currently in tolerance. There was a fall in responding to 'early calls for service' during the summer but this has now recovered to previous levels of performance.
- There has been an uplift in the recording of sexual offences in the last calendar year. However within this there has not been any change in the proportion of historic crimes being reported and recorded. 75% of sexual crimes recorded during 2014-15 relate to 2014-15 with 14.4% relating to 1940-2009, this is very similar to 2013-14 where 76% of crimes recorded that year relate to the same period with 16.4% relating to 1940-2009. Historically it is always the case that for a recent period in time that there will be fewer committed crimes than recorded crimes.
- WMP continues to have higher rates of early guilty pleas than the national average (excluding motoring offences) with guilty pleas (excluding motoring offences) in line with national levels.
- Bilking (Making off without payment) has increased 24.2% on a year to date basis. Based upon April and March 2014 data Sandwell Local Policing Unit (LPU) had the highest volume of offending followed by Birmingham West and Central LPU. Again looking at April and March 2014 data the vast majority of the top three bilking locations on each LPU were supermarkets. On a year to date basis 8.7% of bilking offences result in a positive outcome. Over the last three months 8 people had been arrested for bilking with six being charged with the other two facing 'no further action'. From April to December 2014 88% of bilking offences had the outcome 'no suspect identified'. There has already been a summit with the major supermarkets to discuss the issue of bilking and what additional security measures could be installed to prevent this crime, such as pre-pay at the pump machines and improved CCTV. The Commissioner gave his commitment to continuing this debate with the retailers to ensure

that they are doing all that they can to prevent bilking.

- WMP accept that fraud, particularly fraud enabled by the internet, is an issue and an increasing one. However, fraud offences are recorded at a national level and not at force level therefore comparisons with other forces cannot be made either based upon the number of referrals made or those cases which are sent back for local investigation.

SUMMARY

5. WMP continues to perform well with regards to acquisitive crime (burglary dwelling, robbery and vehicle crime) with overall levels falling. Re-offending rates are low and offender management is working well, although the creation of Community Rehabilitation Companies may impact upon this as they review how resources are allocated and delivery implemented. WMP is also good at bringing people to justice. Therefore, comparably to the MSG, West Midlands is a relatively safe place to live.
6. Violence is a priority and work is being undertaken to tackle the issue. Whilst domestic violence has increased in volume so has the number of guilty pleas and getting offenders to court aided by dedicated investigation teams following Service Transformation. There will be further work undertaken with Public Health England and Clinical Commissioning Groups around violent crime in general and new methods of managing offenders whilst supporting victims.
7. WMP will continue to seek to influence any revisions to the funding formula to ensure that it receives a fair share of the pot, but WMP has tackled the reduction in funding positively and continues to perform well, whereas some other forces in the MSG are experiencing deteriorations in performance and lower levels of crime recording accuracy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no financial implications from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no direct legal implications from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. That the Commissioner and Board note the contents of this report.

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