



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 1 September 2015 in Committee Room 6, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham

Present: Jamieson, David – Police and Crime Commissioner
Abbott, Faye – Board Member
Connor, Brendan – Board Member
Foster, Cllr Judy – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Hendricks, Ernie – Board Member
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Board Member

In attendance: Cann, Gary – Assistant Chief Constable
Jardine, Jonathan – Chief Executive (OPCC)
Kenyon, Mark – Chief Finance Officer (OPCC)
Gabbitas, Andrea - OPCC
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable
Chamberlain, Neil – Head of Finance
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer (retired)

Observers: 2

069/15 Opening Remarks **069/15**

The Commissioner welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

070/15 Conflicts of Interest **070/15**

None.

071/15 Apologies **071/15**

Apologies had been received from the Cath Hannon.

072/15 Notes of the Last Meeting **072/15**

The Board approved the notes of the meetings dated, 7 July (held in public)

073/15 Public Questions **073/15**

No questions were received.

Two questions had been submitted to the Chief Constable and a copy of the question was circulated. The questions were:

1. What assessment has the Chief Constable made of the contribution made by neighbourhood watch and also of other volunteers in policing generally? What further assessment has he made within the context of WMP2020 of the ongoing and future value of volunteers?

(Asked by Judy Foster)

In response, the Chief Constable indicated that:

- There has been no formal assessment of neighbourhood watch in the West Midlands although there have been several studies elsewhere over the years. Domestic burglaries continue to fall in number and there is no doubt that neighbourhood watch has contributed to community safety.
 - Looking ahead, as cuts impact on local services, the Force should consider how some of that deficit could be replaced by more engaged and active citizens. This is being actively considered within WMP2020 and more information will be available from October 2015 onwards.
 - Some of the identified priority areas do not have the same amount of active neighbourhood watch schemes. This is partly because the priority areas do not always have the type of environment that easily supports neighbourhood watch. For example, high rise flats are more difficult than streets to have a view of what is happening outside.
2. What are the requirements for police vehicles to have sound and visible equipment on board? How often are vehicles without sirens responding to urgent situations?

(asked by Yvonne Mosquito)

In response, the Chief Constable indicated that:

- The Force has invested in a fleet of Vauxhall and Insignia cars which are the principal cars that respond to immediate calls. Neighbourhood teams use smaller Corsa vehicles which are not used for immediate response, so there is a clear delineation within the fleet. It would not be right to extend the response fleet to incorporate other vehicles not normally used for immediate response. WMP2020 will examine the future of response work.
- Data is not available on the number of times cars without sirens

have attended urgent situations, but it would be unusual. Such vehicles may attend the scene, but not as the principle emergency response vehicle.

075/15 Hidden Crimes

075/15

The report from the Chief Constable and Mr Stephen Rimmer provided an update on the Force and partnership response to different areas of vulnerability.

- The Preventing Violence against Vulnerable People (PVVP) work plan identifies key steps to be taken across the vulnerability work streams.
- key question is whether we have the most appropriate operating model in place to drive progress against the work plan.
- there has been significant progress tackling child sexual exploitation. However, setting out a joint commitment in a policy document is not in itself sufficient. There must be a continuing culture of focus, drive and being prepared to challenge each other to ensure that more progress is made.
- A further question is how the new Combined Authority can provide opportunities to further embed joint agency work around vulnerability. The Combined Authority starts to present a model for the West Midlands that could be very helpful, for example in commissioning for mental health services. Any realignment that allows some of the overhead structures to begin to merge should be welcome.
- The role undertaken by Mr Rimmer was always intended to be time limited, because there are risks that each organisation will abdicate its own responsibility if there is a senior central figure recognised as leading on this work.
- Project Opera has addressed information sharing between agencies. The central challenge now is to develop capabilities to allow this sharing to happen, particularly at the early intervention and prevention stage.
- Mr Rimmer will conclude his work with a report to all stakeholders and a final update on PVVP. It would be timely to have a national review of MASH achievements and this point has been made to the central government departments.

076/15 Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan

076/15

The Chief Constable presented the report. The report shows that levels of public confidence dipped at the point when austerity measures began, and West Midlands levels began to fall against the national average. July was a busy month for the Force and saw a corresponding dip in public satisfaction. This seems to indicate that the current policing model is

almost on the edge of sustainability and is fragile in periods of high demand. This makes it even more important that we push forward with the WMP2020 work.

Total recorded crime is about 3% above the level last year which shows relative stability. It appears that levels of recorded crime in our most similar forces are higher than the West Midlands.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has a role as a hub for inter-agency working, for example work on supporting victims and the work on out of court disposals. The OPCC has also become a useful vehicle for partnership work on other areas such as the Preventing Violence Alliance and bids to the European Social Fund.

A number of additional points were raised:

- there is a huge amount of work undertaken by custody visitors which gives the public confidence in police custody.
- With regard to out of court disposals, there is clear guidance for officers which should ensure consistency. However, there is still discretion for police officers to use their own judgement.
- 11% of residents indicate they do not have confidence in policing. It would be useful for future work to include an analysis of the characteristics of this group, as this analysis may help us to take steps to create more confidence.
- The commissioner welcomed the work that has been undertaken on road safety and in particular the number of seizures related to driving without insurance.

077/15 Taser – Use of Force Updated

077/15

The report was introduced by ACC Gary Cann and Supt Danny Delaney. The following points were made:

- the use of taser has reduced since 2012.
- most deployments do not involve use of the taser. In most cases it is a threat of use and this works in most cases. Taser is only used in about 20% of deployments.
- mental health is an issue in about 42% of deployments. This figure is generated by the immediate assessment of the officer and may not necessarily be accurate.
- Taser deployments are reported to the Home Office for scrutiny.
- Taser is licensed for use following rigorous safety testing. All research both national and international indicates that Taser is the safest available tool.
- whilst location is recorded the numbers are much smaller than stop and search, and there are no plans to develop technology to analyse this at a strategic level
- It appears from the data that West Midlands has higher

deployment levels than similar forces. It may be that deployment principles or methods of data collection are different. The force has begun to examine these differences and this can be included in the next report to the Board on the use of Taser.

078/15 Stop and Search Action Plan Progress Update

078/15

ACC Gary Cann and Supt Chris Todd introduced this report and highlighted that use of stop and search across the force is decreasing, and disproportionality is also decreasing. Variations in data across the Force are examined by Gold Group, and are also subject to local scrutiny.

National training is being developed to address unconscious bias.

The Commissioner congratulated the Force for reducing the number of stop and searches whilst at the same time increasing the proportion of positive outcomes.

079/15 Financial monitoring 2015/16

079/15

The retired Chief Finance Officer Mike Williams had returned to present this report which showed the estimated revenue and capital programme following the revision of the budget in May 2015.

The commissioner and Chief Constable thanked Mr Williams for his enormous contribution to the work of the Force, Police Authority and the Commissioner.

080/15 Police funding formula consultation

080/15

The report responded to the current Home Office consultation on the funding model. The report summarised a number of points in response to the consultation, including the initial response sent to the Home Office requesting more analysis in order that a full response could be submitted.

West Midlands appears to be about the worst hit Force in the country, and this appears to continue under the possible options for the future.

081/15 Outcomes of performance workshop

081/15

The report provided a summary of the discussions at the Performance Workshop held on 16 June 2015.

082/15 Chief Constable update

082/15

The Chief Constable did not have any significant matters to report to the Board at this meeting.

83/15 Work plan

083/15

The work plan for the Strategic Policing and Crime Board was noted.