



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 7 February 2017
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Present:

- David Jamieson - Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ashley Bertie - Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Thompson - Chief Constable
- Louisa Rolfe - Deputy Chief Constable
- Marcus Beale - Assistant Chief Constable
- Gary Cann - Assistant Chief Constable

- Ernie Hendricks - Board Member
- Brendan Connor - Board Member
- Bob Ainsworth - Board Member
- Dr Cath Hannon - Board Member
- Gurinder Josan - Board Member
- Dr Sarah Marwick - Board Member
- Waheed Saleem - Board Member

- Jonathan Jardine - Chief Executive
- Mark Kenyon - Chief Finance Officer
- Ali Layne-Smith - Director of People & Organisation Development
- Claire Bell - Head of Public Protection Unit
- Lisa-Marie Smith - Head of Legal Services
- Jonathan Cumberbatch - Firearms Licencing Unit Business Support Manager

5 observers

1 note taker and 2 webcast controllers.

015/17	The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Commissioner also welcomed Ali Layne-Smith, who was observing the meeting as part of her new role as the Director of People and Organisation Development.	015/17
016/17	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were no conflicts of interest declared.	016/17
017/17	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from Councillor Judy Foster and Councillor Liam Preece.	017/17

018/17	<p>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting</p> <p>The board agreed the minutes of the meeting of the previous meeting held on 3 January 2017 as an accurate record.</p> <p>Outstanding items from previous meetings Report on historic inquiries- on this agenda Request for an update on force contact- this will be brought to the Board in June 2017 and is the subject of a question from the Board on this agenda.</p>	018/17
019/17	<p>Item 4 – Acceptance of Petitions</p> <p>There were no petitions received.</p>	019/17
020/17	<p>Item 5 – Public Questions</p> <p>There were no questions from members of the public.</p>	020/17
021/17	<p>Item 6 – Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>There were three questions from the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Chief Constable update us on the performance of Force Contact since it was discussed in December 2016? (Asked by Ashley Bertie) <p>The Deputy Chief Constable responded confirming the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges, particularly regarding resourcing, are on-going along with the overall growth in the number of contacts received. However with 20 new staff in January 2017, a further 20 in February 2017 and 40 planned for March 2017 this should improve before the next report. • Handling of 999 calls had improved with 98% of calls answered, in an average of 9 seconds. The Force was also closer to achieving their service level agreement with 84% of calls being answered within 10 seconds. • There had been a less dramatic improvement in the calls to 101, in part due to the particular focus on improving 999 in the first instance. • Faster recruitment and training of new recruits, under the leadership of Chief Superintendent Sally Bournier, was also being considered to address this issue. <p>Following questions from the Board the following items were also discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force continues to work to improve terms and conditions for existing contact centre staff, for example in offering permanent contracts. Unions have been consulted during this process and there was positive feedback on the changes made, whilst recognising further work was required. • Investments in additional training have been made, along with plans for continued development whilst staff are trained to handle 999 and 101 calls. • The Force recognised gaps in resources left by contact staff 	021/17

leaving their role, which is not significantly higher than other public sector contact centres. In some cases this was due to staff moving to other roles within this force such as PCSOs, which is seen as a positive step.

- Developments such as allowing people to track their cases online, webchats with contact staff and better use of the contactus email address should assist. Several of these digital improvement actions will come into force in March 2017.
- Mobile devices given to officers should reduce the number of internal transactional call from within the Force, which should allow contact centre staff to answer more calls from the public.

Action: A full update report will be provided to the Board in June 2017 and the Commissioner will continue to monitor the progress.

2. Following recent changes to Firearms Act can the Chief Constable confirm:
 - a) Have there been any significant changes in the number of refusals or revocations of firearms or shotgun licences?
 - b) Has the requirement for medical certification had any material impact on refusals or revocations?
 - c) Can the Chief Constable detail the level of co-operation from medical practitioners? And the impact on additional temporary licences?

(Asked by Brendan Connor)

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed the following in her response:

- There is a 41% increase in refusals and revocations, however this can fluctuate, making establishing and quantifying the specific effect of the Act on these figures challenging.
- Since the Home Office and other associated agencies altered the way licence information was submitted discussions, on a national and local level had been taking place. This includes matters such as asking for enduring markers to be placed on an applicant's medical records.
- The level of temporary licences appears to be steady and are used in circumstances such as late applications and whilst GP information is awaited. The force works closely with local GPs and associated agencies on this subject.
- Any firearms operation is based on local and national procedures and the risk is assessed by a firearms commander. They believe instances where such operations are required due to licensing issues should be rare.
- The changes discussed will take some time to bed in whilst new actions such as adding enduring markers are tested. This is an on-going consultation and the unit should have a more informed view in approximately 6-12 months time.

3. Can the Chief Constable update the board on the number of people caught speeding as a result of the new speed safety cameras in Birmingham and Solihull?

(Asked by Ashley Bertie)

	<p>The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed the total number of offences processed through the central ticket office, since August 2016, was 15,387. This is based on information cameras placed on several routes, which were chosen on the basis of several criteria such as positions of existing cameras, historical evidence of collisions and speed surveys indicating speeding is an issue.</p> <p>The Commissioner will continue to monitor the camera's contribution to road safety, which was the biggest concern of residents when consulted as part of the Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020.</p> <p>Further information and detail on this subject can be found at https://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/average-speed-cameras-17717/</p>	
022/17	<p>Item 7 – Historic Inquiries</p> <p>The Chief Constable introduced this report, which provided an overview of the work undertaken to support the Undercover Policing Enquiry (UCPI) and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).</p> <p>The Chief Constable presented this report and confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The figures quoted relate solely to public inquiries and inquests, rather than investigations into historic offences. • The costs defined relate to the Chief Constable as a legal entity of the Force, rather than any personal legal costs. • The force is aware of the sensitive nature of these investigations and the suffering of the survivors, victims and their families will not have diminished with the passage of time. • In these situations as core participants or interested parties the Force carries out actions as requested by the presiding judge or coroner. Therefore it is difficult to estimate these costs, as to a large extent they are outside the forces control. • The inquiries inevitably have some effect on the force's policing capabilities. The role of the Force's Public Enquiries Manager has been created to tackle this. <p><u>IICSA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duration of this inquiry was at the time of the meeting undetermined. • The Force has core participant status due to part of the investigation involving the Catholic Arch Dioceses of Birmingham. • This Force did not currently have a substantial number of directions from the presiding judge; however this was expected to change. <p><u>UCPI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inquiry, often referred to as the Pitchford Inquiry, examines undercover policing in England and Wales since 1967. This covers the period since the first undercover unit was deployed following a demonstration at the American Embassy in London. • This large inquiry will initially focus on the Metropolitan Police's special demonstration squad before examining other national policing functions and then focusing on undercover operations across England and Wales. 	022/17

	<p>As part of this information regarding several operations has been passed on to the inquiry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force has dealt with 7 rule 9 requests (legal duty to provide information as detailed in the Public Inquiries Act 2005) but this is expected to increase substantially. • The cost involved to each police force in supporting this national inquiry is complex but believed to be in the region of £60,000 per annum. <p><u>Birmingham Pub Bombings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The costs quoted are solely costs incurred in supporting the coroner during the enquiry. This does not include the costs of reviewing the initial investigation and whether there were further reasons to re-open the live investigation. • The figure allocated to this investigation was a contingency to cover costs that may be incurred rather than a set budget. <p>Clarification: There was an error with the figures in the final column in appendix B. A revised schedule was provided to and accepted by the Board, which will be added to the webcast of the meeting and Commissioners website.</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable for the transparency in presenting this information to the Board. He also clarified that it would not be legal for his office to provide legal funding to the families of the victims, but understands following recent events legal aid will now be available.</p> <p>Following questions from the Board the following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are seeking to clarify the cost of national enquiries with other forces and the Home Office so the likely repercussions and implications of this can be assessed. • The force agrees seeking an agreement between the APCC and MOPAC with the Home Office in principle. However due to complexity and nature of these investigations this would need substantial consultation. • The substantial public interest in carrying out these inquiries is something the force is aware of however also needs to be balanced with the considerable costs. • Claire Bell confirmed the force is aware of the sensitive nature of the data involved in these enquires and this guides the responses to requests for information. 	
023/17	<p>Item 8 – Strategic Police Requirement (SPR) – Tackling National and International Threats</p> <p>ACC Marcus Beale introduced this report, which informed the Commissioner of the response of West Midlands Police to the Home Secretary’s Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).</p> <p>It was noted this report emerged from the statutory requirement for the Chief Constable and Commissioner to have regard to the strategic performance requirement of the force, against the standards set by the Home Secretary and associated agencies. This is further overseen by</p>	023/17

HMIC inspections, which deemed the forces processes as well established and fit for purpose in February.

Following questions from the board the following matters were discussed:

- The cost of policing football and other sporting events falls to the Force in public spaces. However costs fall with the clubs for policing on their property.
This generally occurs without issue, however for larger events such as local derbys this does have an impact on policing for example in allocating resources and the cancelling of rest days for officers etc. The previous meeting of Birmingham City and Aston Villa in October 2016 went smoothly and they hope the game in April 2017 will be the same. They continue to work with clubs and their associations to disrupt and prevent violence at such events.
- The prevention aspect of counter terrorism can cause some controversy and the force continues to have bespoke plans for each person concerned. A large number of referrals of this nature come from local authorities and whilst the vast majority do not require arrests or convictions other agencies and the public are encouraged to keep making these referrals.
- The contribution of the Counter Terrorism Unit to national security and the on-going commitment to this was noted. The Commissioner and Force hope this is recognised in the funding formula for 2018.
- The Central Motorway Policing Group tackles organised crime on the network and recognises the significant links the area has to the rest of the country. This is in addition to the gains made by information sharing by the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).
- There is work to do in educating the public about preventing cyber-crime and protecting themselves from cyber-crime. The Chief Constable of Essex Police is doing work in this area to ensure the correct response is given and that each force has the niche capabilities required to deal with these threats.
- In tackling Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) the Force works within the statutory framework and is accountable to various safeguarding boards. They have a clear pathway for sharing information in this area and the biggest challenge is for all agencies involved to recognise what information they can and need to share.
- They are aware of the demand on PPU staff at this time and more generally due to the work they undertake. The child sexual abuse team has successfully had the support of clinical supervision and they are looking at expanding this to other areas. This is in addition to the more general investment in the health and wellbeing of staff.
- It is difficult to assess the exact resources required firstly as there is a general increase in reporting, particularly in the area of child sexual abuse and incidents such as the recent football coach enquiry lead to an unexpected spike in reporting.
This is further to the on-going links with child neglect/ maltreatment investigations and reviews regarding how various agencies such as neighbourhood officers can assist.

024/17	<p>Item 9 – Finance- Budget Monitoring</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer introduced this report, which presented the estimated revenue outturn position of 2016/17 and the capital expenditure position based upon actual spending to December 2016.</p> <p>The following key points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police and Crime Panel on 6 February 2017 voted to accept the £5 increase to the precept, which it was noted was to hold the status quo rather than increase the budget. This is the equivalent to providing 70 police officers per year. • The £5 precept increase will not increase the overall resources to the West Midlands and will only part compensate for the loss of government funding. • Part of the underspend in 2016/17 was due to the uncertainty in the funding levels when the budget was set. However the majority is due to the phasing of projects meaning funds will be carried forward and allocated to these projects in 2017/18. • There are risks to the future funding for the West Midlands due to the funding formula for policing being revised from April 2018. 	024/17
025/17	<p>Item 11 – Strategic Policing and Crime Board Workplan</p> <p>The Board was asked to note the significantly updated workplan, which will be reviewed on an on-going basis.</p> <p>This has been updated to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of performance reporting as worked on by the Commissioner's office. • The review of the overall workplan against the priorities and commitments in the Police and Crime Plan. <p>The inclusion of an update on the Gangs and Violence Commission was particularly noted. This will be accompanied by large-scale publicity and will be used as a document confirming the Commissioners approach and commitment in this area.</p>	025/17
026/17	<p>Item 12 – Chief Constable Update</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable provided an update to the Board on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high level of interest in the PCSO vacancies within the force, which will strengthen the forces commitment to neighbourhood policing. • The Force involvement in raising awareness of FGM which the sentinel team in the Public Protection Unit was heavily involved in. • The appeal against regulation A19 was recently rejected. • An operation regarding shooting in Birmingham City Centre and the support of firearms units which led to quick arrests. Whilst this investigation is still on-going the Force is also reviewing the increased number of incidents where a firearm has been discharged. ACC Murray is leading on this and they have had positive outcomes to operations to seize firearms and deter 	026/17

	their use. The board will be kept updated on progress in this area.	
027/17	There was no private meeting and the Commissioner thanked attendees for their contribution before closing the meeting at 12:08.	027/17