



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2017  
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

**Present:**

- David Jamieson - Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ashley Bertie - Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- Dr Lynnette Kelly - Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Thompson - Chief Constable
- Louisa Rolfe - Deputy Chief Constable
- Gary Cann - Assistant Chief Constable
- Marcus Beale - Assistant Chief Constable
- Sarah Boycott - Assistant Chief Constable
  
- Ernie Hendricks - Board Member
- Brendan Connor - Board Member
- Gurinder Josan - Board Member
- Dr Sarah Marwick - Board Member
- Waheed Saleem - Board Member
- Cllr Liam Preece - Board Member
  
- Jonathan Jardine - Chief Executive
- Mark Kenyon - Chief Financial Officer
- Neil Chamberlain - Acting Director of Commercial Services
- Matt Ward - Chief Superintendent
- John Denley - Chief Superintendent
- Dean Hatton - Superintendent
- Kerry Blakeman - Chief Inspector
- Chris Johnson - Chief Superintendent

7 observers

1 note taker and 1 web caster.

113/17	The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting.	113/17
114/17	<b>Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest</b>  There were no conflicts of interest declared.	114/17
115/17	<b>Item 2 – Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from ACC Alex Murray and Board Member Dr Cath Hannon	115/17

116/17	<p><b>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting</b></p> <p>Board Member Dr Sarah Marwick asked for her apologies to be included in the notes of the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Update:</b>  <b>The Chief Constable cannot provide a full response to the query regarding search warrants at 91/17 and 102/17. This has been chased and an update will be provided as soon as one is available.</b></p> <p>Following the meeting the Chief Constable provided the following response:  <b>Figures are per week and from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Sept 17 (42 weeks of applications).</b>  During Office Hours Mon – Friday on average is 44 per week or 1848 applications.  Emergency warrant applications (out of hours applications) – on average is 4 per week or 168 applications.  These figures are based upon the number of warrant applications we list through the current courts live link process, this process has been in place since March 2016, the number of slots have not altered, and as a force we always fill the slots up as a matter of course.</p>	116/17
117/17	<p><b>Item 4 – Acceptance of Petitions</b></p> <p>There were no petitions received.</p>	117/17
118/17	<p><b>Item 5 – Public Questions</b></p> <p>There were no questions from members of the public.</p>	118/17
119/17	<p><b>Item 6 – Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</b></p> <p>1. Can the Chief Constable set out the number of operations conducted by West Midlands Police Firearms Operations and how will WMP work with local communities and partners to tackle the significant increase in firearms incidents?  (to be asked by Waheed Saleem)</p> <p>The Chief Constable in his response discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force deals with an average of 170 such cases per month. There has been a slight increase this year particularly during summer. These counts of incidents are not always the most reliable indicator for example to show the number of victims or resources related to each incident.</li> <li>• The Force works closely with the Gangs and Violence Commission to review best approaches to tackling these incidents. This includes diversion work which focuses on for example diverting those on the periphery of gangs such as siblings of gang members away from gang behaviour. This is in addition to work to disrupt offending and obtaining warrants to seize firearms.</li> <li>• The Force launched a firearms surrender in September 2017 and at the time of the meeting 118 items had been surrendered. These included 28 imitation firearms, 37 lethal weapons and</li> </ul>	119/17

ammunition.

Following questions from the board the following issues were discussed:

- The Force appeals to all communities to contact them directly or anonymously via Crime Stoppers, as this evidence is crucial in taking firearms off the streets of the West Midlands.
- The Force was looking at ways they can inform and reassure the public about their work in this area, whilst not affecting any live criminal investigations.
- The Force was looking to increase the number of charges for Public Nuisance offences and they were awaiting a decision from the Crown Prosecution Service on 7 of these cases. This recognises the fact this is a key area of public concern and one they will continue to target.

The Commissioner also took this opportunity to offer his condolences for all of those affected by the shooting in Las Vegas on 1<sup>st</sup> October. He also confirmed his commitment through the Gangs and Violence Commission to look behind the statistics of firearms offences to establish their causes to confirm the best ways of tackling them.

2. Can the Chief Constable provide the number of incidents of crime involving theft of or the use of mopeds. What is the forces approach to crime involving unlicensed and stolen mopeds?  
(to be asked by Dr Sarah Marwick)

The Chief Constable in his response confirmed the following:

- These types of events have become particularly high profile following events in London however a similar phenomenon does not appear to be occurring in the West Midlands.
- The Force deals with an average of 75 offences per year in which mopeds were used to commit a crime. This is likely to increase by approximately 40 this year.
- The Force handles approximately 1100 cases involving the theft of mopeds and motorbikes, although this is set to increase in line with other wider vehicle crime trends.
- The Force works closely with partners to promote bike security as they can be vulnerable to theft.
- There are challenges of pursuing mopeds safely however the Force believes the use of DNA spray will help significantly and it has been used on 6 occasions at the time of the meeting.

3. Could the Chief Constable provide details of the numbers and types of cases involving the use of enforcement action on the street homeless population? What is the approach of the Force towards enforcement and support of the street homeless population?

(to be asked by Dr Sarah Marwick)

The Chief Constable discussed the following in his response:

- There has been a rise in the number of rough sleepers nationally and the Force works with partners to facilitate support for them, for example diverting them to addiction programmes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness is a wider issue than rough sleepers and includes offenders leaving the custodial system and therefore the Force work with partners to ensure offenders have appropriate support and accommodation on release.</li> <li>• From September 2016 to August 2017 222 people believed to part of the homeless population were processed through West Midlands Police Custody suites.</li> <li>• There are situations where begging can become intimidating and harassing and the Force seeks to find a balance between their general approach to refer them to diversionary teams and seeking charges. There were 14 arrests for begging in the previous year which resulted in 11 charges, 2 cautions and 1 where no further action was taken.</li> <li>• Dr Sarah Marwick commented that members of the homeless community are much more likely to be a victim of crime than an offender, to the agreement of the room.</li> </ul> <p>The Commissioner suggested the work of Local Criminal Justice Boards who can connect agencies to collectively tackle this would be useful. The Commissioner will also hold a drugs summit in December 2017 which will address some of the related issues.</p>	
120/17	<p><b>Item 7 – Playing our Part in Responding to National Threats</b></p> <p>ACC Cann presented this report which updated the board with an overview of the Force’s progress against the section of the police and crime plan entitled ‘playing our part in responding to national threats.’</p> <p>Matt Ward highlighted the following in relation to the Counter Terrorism section of the paper and responded to questions from the board as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report highlights the work of the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) within the last 12 months but also the support provided to national and international colleagues.</li> <li>• CTU has trained Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) who support families of any West Midlands resident involved in a terrorist attack. For example FLOs continue to support two families whose relatives were victims of the Tunisia attack in June 2015.</li> <li>• Mental Health specialists are embedded within CTU to provide additional support where required. They also ensure children of suspected terrorists are appropriately safeguarded.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood policing is key to all aspects of CTU’s work as these officers gain local knowledge and trust, meaning they are the ‘eyes and ears’ for the Force and can pass on relevant information. These officers would also be the first on the scene to respond to an attack.</li> <li>• All officers who deal with these challenging cases are offered regular psychological support and supervisors are also trained to identify if staff require further support.</li> </ul> <p>John Denley highlighted the following key points in the report regarding the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and discussed the following in his response to questions from the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the 2015 inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of</li> </ul>	120/17

	<p>Constabularies (HMIC) ROCU have continued to work at layering local and regional intelligence. They are confident they have met HMIC's recommendations and continue to work with them to explain the Force's model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force understands they need to work with HMIC as their reports feed into public confidence in policing.</li> <li>• ROCU has strong links with the business community for example some of their officers were involved in an event at Aston University discussing prevention measures. This ensures they are aware of trends which strengthens their resilience if this pattern occurs in other areas. The digital PCSO referred to in this report can also help spread this message and knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>The Commissioner raised the issue of cuts to funding for Counter Terrorism operations and he believes this needs to be reviewed.</p>	
121/17	<p><b>Item 7a – Operation Belvadere</b></p> <p>The Chief Constable presented this additional report which outlines the consequences to the Force relating to changes in the national threat levels for example after the 2017 attacks in Manchester and Parsons Green.</p> <p>The following key points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the Prime Minister makes the decision to raise the threat level each force has to implement it. The Force has several plans in place to quickly comply with the national requirements.</li> <li>• Whilst Forces can get additional support such as the armed forces and the civil nuclear constabulary this can take a period of some days whilst they manage their own resources. This logistical time to move is built into the national response.</li> <li>• The cost to the Force following the Manchester attack in April 2017 was £250k on resources diverted to the delivery of visible policing (mainly from neighbourhood policing) and £150k additional revenue on costs such as overtime and accommodation.</li> <li>• The diversion of resources from neighbourhood policing did lead to a significant backlog in non-emergency cases. Whilst this is to be expected at a time where policing budgets are becoming tighter this has a significant effect on the Force's policing capabilities.</li> <li>• Each force's Chief Constable is responsible for assessing their crowded areas and their resources to respond to the threat level. However, in the West Midlands due to the large number of towns and cities in the region this is more significant than in more rural areas.</li> </ul> <p>The Commissioner also expressed his hope that the Government will take this into account when reviewing the funding formula for forces. He will continue to raise this with the policing minister.</p>	121/17
122/17	<p><b>Item 8 – Road Safety ~ Roads Policing and Safer Travel Partnership</b></p> <p>ACC Beale presented this report which provided an overview to the</p>	122/17

Board of the Force's activity and performance outcomes relating to road safety and the transport network.

Dean Hatton highlighted and answered questions regarding the CMPG and traffic policing areas of this report. The following was discussed, including questions from the board:

- CMPG introduced new ways of working with partners such as the DVLA and HM Courts which has had a positive effect on the demand for their support and their capacity to do so.
- CMPG continue to seize uninsured vehicles and are attempting to widen this remit in conjunction with the Commissioner's office and insurers. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is used to identify these vehicles and within operational capacity they will deploy a unit to intercept uninsured vehicles.
- The Motor Insurers' Bureau is a key partner in reducing the number of uninsured vehicles on the road. For example they have introduced a scheme where registered keepers are sent a letter encouraging them to ensure their vehicle which also highlights repeat offenders.
- At the regional control centre they work closely with Highways England and following a follow up hearing to discuss lessons from a major incident on the M6 in February 2016, this has improved. This was evidenced for example in the handling of road closures following the discovery of an unexploded World War Two bomb on the A38 near Birmingham City Centre.

Kerry Blakeman presented an update on the sections of the report relating to speeding offences and safer travel. The following was discussed following questions from the Board:

- They are meeting with other Local Authorities to discuss the possibility of schemes similar to the average speed project in Birmingham and Solihull in their areas.
- They have to be aware of the capacity of the Central Ticket Office to handle an increase in fines. They would use a similar model to those used in Birmingham and Solihull including employing additional staff to deal with this.
- The average speed cameras are rotated. This is to encourage reduced speed rather than an income generation and the force is seeking a balance between increasing the number of staff, and therefore referrals, and changing the behaviour.
- Mobile speed vans are positioned using a red, amber and green system, which is based on several factors including the number of collision and reports of speeding. This is combined with average speed cameras and smart motorways.

The Commissioner concluded this will continue to be a priority and this also links to his work with the West Midlands Metro Mayor to target the anti-social use of vehicles and to keep the flow of traffic moving as this is key for the local economy.

Consideration will also be given to using a model similar to one used in London when fines from the enforcement of bus lanes and yellow boxes are passed back into the Mayor's office for use in the area.

123/17	<p><b>Item 9 – Next Generation Local Policing and Public Engagement</b></p> <p>ACC Boycott presented this report which updates the Board on progress towards the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan that relate to Local Policing and Public Engagement.</p> <p>The following was highlighted in the report and discussed in questions from the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force continues to invest in this area for example training staff across the Force in multiple areas to up skill them to provide the best possible service to the public.</li> <li>• The use of WM Now, which provides regular updates and advice to those who have subscribed to the service, has increased. This is positive and they continue to link this to the work of WMP2020 to increase the number of active citizens across the region.</li> <li>• There have been detailed discussions regarding the changing of neighbour policing unit boundaries in line with upcoming changes to local authority boundaries. The challenge is the cost involved not only in moving officers but also system changes, which will be in excess of £1m. A report discussing not only the practical plans regarding this, but also any interim measures that need to be taken, was going through the Force’s internal governance process.</li> <li>• The Force is looking at the number of officers that are available at any time and how they are managed. Their availability to track an officer’s availability to deal with neighbourhood issues is more difficult. This will also be useful to look at in the context of the boundary changes.</li> <li>• Chris Johnson confirmed from a neighbourhood policing point of view there were challenges during the summer to balance resources and demand. However this will change as new recruits join the force and as investments in long term tools such as research into the effect of adverse childhood experience come to fruition.</li> <li>• The Chief Constable confirmed the Force has placed emphasis on looking at staffing levels and proactively filling vacancies where there is the greatest need.</li> <li>• The Force is moving towards a shift in their operation model from one that is more prescriptive on outcomes to becoming more intervention and prevention led.</li> </ul>	123/17
124/17	<p><b>Item 10 – HMIC Crime Data Integrity</b></p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable presented this report which examines the Force’s compliance with Home Office rules on data recording.</p> <p>The following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to note there has been no degradation in service rather an increase in the standards required.</li> <li>• There was no evidence of deliberate misreporting and the report mirrors the Force’s internal audit findings.</li> <li>• A lot of the findings relate to officers not adding additional verifiable information to systems, particularly in the instances of domestic violence and serious sexual assaults. This has not</li> </ul>	124/17

	<p>affected the Force's safeguarding response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force continues to work to meet the recommendations and requirements for example in developing online training which has been upheld as best practice and working with senior leaders to have champions in each Force area.</li> <li>• To meet the new required standards would require a significant re-alignment of resources and spending millions of extra pounds on audit.</li> <li>• Whilst the Force accepts some of the concerns they are also keen to focus on the outcomes for victims rather than a very orthodox process driven approach.</li> <li>• The Force is working with the National Police Chief Council and HMIC to balance practical and achievable benchmarks.</li> <li>• The two main points of contention are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-mandatory recording which may be illegal, is costly and largely impractical.</li> <li>-recording crimes at the point of call. This could mean officers spend more time negating crimes rather than responding to victims of crime if they start from the presumption every report is a crime.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is a long standing view HMIC should cost their recommendations to add context to their recommendations.</li> <li>• New HMIC guidelines released on the day of the meeting suggest they may be moving towards an element of self-assessment for forces although they will need to review how this develops.</li> </ul>	
<b>125/17</b>	<p><b>Item 11 – Strategic Policing and Crime Board Workplan</b></p> <p>The Chief Executive confirmed the Workplan for 2018 will be presented to the board at the next meeting.</p>	<b>125/17</b>
<b>126/17</b>	<p><b>Item 12 – Chief Constable Update</b></p> <p>The Chief Constable provided the following updates to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigations are on-going into a case involving the stabbing of a young male outside a Birmingham Mosque the previous weekend. The Chief would like to thank the community for their support and co-operation during this investigation and understands the alarm incidents like this cause, particularly outside a place of worship.</li> <li>• 2 Officers who has been sentenced for drugs offences had been dismissed from their roles prior to their arrests. The work of the anti-corruption unit and the National Crime Agency, that identified the former officers and brought them to justice is to be commended.</li> <li>• The Chief wanted to thank all involved in successful convictions relating to disturbances at HMP Birmingham earlier in the summer. Sentencing for these offences will follow shortly.</li> <li>• The Chief wanted to pay special credit to PC Liz Mumford who was awarded a Public Service Award at the Birmingham Mail's annual 'Brummie Awards'.</li> </ul>	<b>126/17</b>
<b>127/17</b>	<p>The Commissioner concluded the meeting at 12:57 pm and a short private session followed.</p>	<b>127/17</b>