



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD 5th December 2017

The Future Approach to Community Safety Funding

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Board Members of the Strategic Police and Crime Board with an update on the progress of the work taking place to establish the West Midlands Community Safety Partnership (WMCSPP).

BACKGROUND

2. The Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, set out his intent to develop a West Midlands CSP in his [Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020](#) 'Your Police, Your Priorities', published in November 2016.

The Commissioner said: *'I will explore for 2018/19 a West Midlands-wide Policing and Crime Board with representatives from each local authority area that will aim to deliver responses to issues more efficiently and effectively at a regional level.'*

3. There are a number of principles that have influenced the decision and it also represents a major change in the way that police grant has been allocated in the West Midlands to community safety since 2012.
4. The WMCSPP will take account of the move towards regional working with the Combined Authority and the Metro Mayor, and the further move towards a West Midlands response to regional commissioning. It will learn from the way in which the Victims Commission works, taking into account county-level working and most importantly, does not include any proposals for budget reductions.
5. There are significant opportunities to be gained from ensuring that the public sector is better aligned to deliver on our shared aims of creating a safer and more prosperous West Midlands. This structure does not change the statutory duties that will remain with the seven CSPs locally under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
6. The Commissioner has to ensure that funding he allocates avoids duplication, ensures efficiencies are made and makes best use of public money. He is held to a high level of scrutiny and accountability by the public and we need to evidence that funding is being spent in the most effective way. The current structure does not provide the public with the level of openness, scrutiny and accountability that they require. It also does

not actively encourage collaboration between CSPs, nor the efficiencies and innovations that come with it. The new structure opens up opportunities to collaborate across the area and look at innovative and effective ways of responding to crime and disorder, utilising those areas of best practice that are working well.

7. Other PCCs no longer routinely allocate their entire community safety budget to individual CSPs. In other force areas, partnerships are encouraged to bid for resources as needed, and the PCC makes the final decision. The Commissioner will be taking recommendations from partners regarding the best use of spend, which will ensure that all local areas have the opportunity to influence decision making, whilst ensuring that the key aims of the Police and Crime Plan are followed.
8. The primary aim of the West Midlands Community Safety Partnership will be to provide the Commissioner with the opportunity to work with partners to provide an efficient and effective response to crime reduction across the force area.
9. This work is part of the Commissioner's statutory duties under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The legislation requires him to work with CSPs and encourage co-operation between them in the exercise of their respective functions. The Act gives the power to the Commissioner to ask for a report from them where it is deemed not to be meeting the requirement to reduce crime and disorder. Furthermore, following an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Regulations in 2012, PCCs have the ability to request the chairs of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to attend meetings to discuss strategic priorities and other force-wide issues (the frequency of these will be determined by the PCC).
10. In order to deliver on his Police & Crime Plan, he, along with the Chief Constable, needs to work with others to design the best service for the public within an agreed budget. During his term in office, the Commissioner wants to ensure the maximum return on any grants that he makes. The challenge he is facing is how to keep pace and ensure that he receives meaningful information that allows him to understand and plan, enabling the best use of the budgets that he has.
11. The WMCSPP will aim to develop and enhance multi-agency approaches to reducing crime and disorder through co-operation and consensus. It will work to make communities safer, support victims and bring offenders to justice, the key aims of all partners who will be represented on the partnership.
12. It is also important to acknowledge that this approach will ensure that the impact on a small number of regional priorities is effective and will be balanced by support for local partnerships to develop tailored community safety services that will also fit the needs of localities. It will give the seven CSPs the opportunity to influence the responses to key priorities and ensure that the responses both work locally, but are also delivered through local mechanisms.

THE PROCESS

13. The process has been underway since November 2016 when it was discussed at the Commissioners Partnership Summit. The consultation process has been flexible, which means that we have responded to the issues raised with us.
14. The PCC's office meets with the Heads of Community Safety (HOCs) from the seven local authorities bi-monthly and which has given them the opportunity to influence the proposals, as well as allowing them to raise concerns. We have been flexible in our approach and responded to the concerns raised during the consultation process, which has been extensive and has included attendance at all seven CSP meetings, as well as attendance at most major meetings across the region.

15. A feedback session was held on the 12 September which had a good representation from partners in attendance from across the seven local authorities. Below are some of the key issues that were raised with us as part of the consultation:

- There was a concern from most Boards that Birmingham would dominate:
- We were asked to look at ways in which the funding is distributed
- There was a recognition that this could bring greater economies of scale
- Where Partnerships worked differently there was a request to take that into account one example of this is where a CSP contributes/match funds a whole service
- We were asked to be flexible
- One of the main issues locally was how the statutory CSPs would work with the WMCSF. Most areas set up task and finish groups that have been working to establish what those working links will be
- The PC's office needs to consider the impact of the loss of individual funding to CSPs
- We need to recognise that existing funding has significant "at the margin" value
- Clear partnership working is taking place – it isn't all about the money
- This will give us the opportunity to implement best practice
- Representation needs to be senior and the decision of each individual CSP
- Still need to determine health representation
- CSPs do not want this to be another layer of bureaucracy
- We were asked to consider longer grant allocations
- Some local authority areas will have more need than others and therefore will need more funding
- This process is about providing services better, more effectively and efficiently
- It is important that there is strong communication between the regional and local structures
- Openness and transparency is crucial
- Need local flexibility to respond to emerging issues to enable partners to respond to local priorities.

Some of the comments from partners are below:

'The presentation and the offer is a lot less scary than I had first imagined following the initial discussions. I and other partners were concerned that the OPCC would not have listened to concerns raised at the consultations.'

'The proposal is welcome; the CSPs should be looking at working together to ensure we all work at best practice where things work well. There needs to be a better focus on where the work needs to be done rather than on the money.'

TRANSITION

16. During this process, it has been made clear to partners that April 2018 will not see CSPs lose their funding allocations in its entirety. 2018/19 is a transition year, and therefore budget allocations for this financial year include those capabilities that the HOCs have informed us are critical. We will continue to fund those activities and look

at how we develop a regional response to the main priorities working with them, with delivery starting in April 2019.

THE WEST MIDLANDS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

17. The WMCSPP will be in shadow form from January 2018. Representatives should be at a senior level from each organisation in order to be able to make decisions on behalf of their local CSPs, and membership of the partnership can be reviewed at any time.

18. Representation will include:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
- Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner (Partnerships)
- Mayoralty representative
- West Midlands Police
- X 7 Local Authority representatives
- National Probation Service
- WM Community Rehabilitation Company
- Department of Public Health/Clinical Commissioning Group (representative for the West Midlands)
- Youth Offending representative (who will have responsibility for representing and feeding back to all West Midlands Youth Offending Teams)
- West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
- Business representative
- Voluntary sector representative

The WMCSPP will:

- Provide leadership and improve co-ordination on strategic working at a regional level in respect of policing and crime reduction delivery in the West Midlands
- Establish shared priorities for a West Midlands wide approach, where these can demonstrably add value to the work of local partnership activity.
- Discuss progress against the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and the effectiveness of the Community Safety Fund
- Bring together responsible authorities and statutory partners to discuss and identify issues of mutual concern including best practice and respond to any blockages to ensuring a safer West Midlands
- Be an opportunity for members to advise and consult on key community safety issues;
- Identify and resolve barriers to delivering a co-ordinated approach to the crime and disorder agenda, anti-social behaviour, risks of offending and re-offending within the West Midlands
- Review high-level intelligence on crime and public concerns about safety.
- Discuss and review proposed changes to relevant legislation and new initiatives relating to crime reduction and community safety;
- Remove duplication and ensure that more money is spent on front line services
- Meet quarterly.

It will also:

- Enhance the relationship between police and local authorities for working on crime reduction as well as facilitating a stronger alignment between crime reduction activity and other strands of local strategic partnerships e.g.

economic development, health/mental health, safeguarding, young people etc.

- Develop a joined up strategic assessment process to identify joint priorities and to help achieve focus and value for money
- Ensure good practice in the West Midlands on strategic crime reduction issues is appropriately identified and communicated.
- Assist in the sharing of information between organisations and understanding of key crime reduction programmes taking place across the force area
- Lobby for change and seek to secure/maintain funding for the West Midlands to achieve crime reduction.
- Make budgetary recommendations to the Commissioner in response to the strategic priorities of the Board
- Receive updates on the delivery of WMCSPP priorities
- Receive updates on key crime and disorder issues including key policy changes or significant events
- Receive updates on the performance of West Midlands Police and key decisions taken by the PCC with a focus on how these contribute to the wider strategic and operational needs of all WMCSPP partners
- Receive updates on the performance of the seven local authority CSPs.

19. Work is still taking place locally to determine the interface between the local and regional structure. It is important that those structures are strong and utilised to its fullest extent. The PCC's office will continue to have a presence at each of the local CSPs, the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioners will continue to have their geographic responsibilities and the PCCs office will continue to meet with the HOCs.

GOVERNANCE

20. It is important to reiterate that partners will retain their individual governance and accountability arrangements, but come together through the WMCSPP to consider their common interests in community safety and policing priorities.

21. Local authority representatives will ensure consideration of local issues at a strategic level.

22. The Chair may establish sub-groups of the Board for the more effective achievement of overall objectives and responses to individual priorities.

23. There are several other West Midlands Partnerships/Boards and programmes that are linked into the WMCSPP and it is important to ensure that the structures are interlinked. They include:

- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH),
- The Victims Commission
- Local Criminal Justice Board/West Midlands Reducing Reoffending Steering Group
- The seven local CSPs.

24. Secretariat support will be provided to the Board by existing officers of the PCC's office who will administer meetings and ensure papers and agendas are distributed to members one week prior to a meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The PCC has a Community Safety Budget allocation of circa £3,863,308 for 2018/19.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

26. Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention aims and wider priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

27. The Board is asked to note the progress made on the development of the WMCSF.

Alethea Fuller – Policy and Commissioning Manager, Police and Crime Commissioner West Midlands