



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 20 February 2018

Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House

Present:

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| David Jamieson | - | Police and Crime Commissioner |
| Dr Lynnette Kelly | - | Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner |
| Louisa Rolfe | - | Deputy Chief Constable |
| Sarah Boycott | - | Assistant Chief Constable |
| Kenny Bell | - | Assistant Chief Constable |
| Dr Sarah Marwick | - | Board Member |
| Ernie Hendricks | - | Board Member |
| Brendan Connor | - | Board Member |
| Gurinder Singh Josan | - | Board Member |
| Waheed Saleem | - | Board Member |
| Jonathan Jardine | - | Chief Executive |
| Neil Chamberlain | - | Director of Commercial Services |
| Andy Kelly | - | Head of Corporate Asset Management |
| Ian Parnell | - | Detective Superintendent |
| Jenny Birch | - | Head of Economic Crime Unit |
| Ben Twomey | - | Policy Officer |

16 observers

A note taker and a webcaster

015/18	The Commissioner opened the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
016/18	<p>Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>There were no conflicts of interest declared.</p>
017/18	<p>Item 2 – Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Chief Constable David Thompson, Senior Assistant PCC Ashley Bertie, Chief Finance Officer Mark Kenyon, Dr Cath Hannon and Cllr Liam Preece.</p>
018/18	<p>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting</p> <p>Jonathan Jardine raised some clarifications on behalf of Dr Cath Hannon regarding 008/18 (Item 7 - Victim Services). Whilst they do not materially change the content amendments will be made and circulated.</p>
019/18	<p>Item 4 – Acceptance of Petitions</p> <p>There were no petitions received.</p>
020/18	<p>Item 5 – Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>The Commissioner asked the first question:</p> <p>“Can the Chief Constable outline the lessons learnt from the Donville Lorenzo case and explain to the Board the Force’s approach to potential misconduct relating to the case?”</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed she has personally taken a letter to Mr Lorenzo regarding his case and provided a brief summary of the complaints process the case had been through. She apologised to Mr Lorenzo for the poor service he has received both personally and on behalf of the Force and confirmed since this case occurred lessons have been learnt and as the officer responsible for Complaints within the Force the Deputy Chief Constable is determined they will continue to do so.</p> <p>The Commissioner welcomed the public and private apology for the treatment Mr Lorenzo had received. He also expressed his hope that whilst it might not provide Mr Lorenzo with closure on the matter it has demonstrated that lessons have been learnt.</p>

Waheed Saleem asked the second question:

“Can the Chief Constable set out the Force’s policy on disclosing ‘no-conviction information’ on DBS checks and the number of such information disclosed in the last 12 months?”

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed basic DBS checks, completed where the role does not involve unsupervised contact with the vulnerable, are carried out by the DBS without input from the Force, as they have access to the Police National Computer (PNC). In the case of enhanced DBS checks, carried out for example of those applying for teaching or taxi driving roles, information is automatically obtained by the DBS however the DBS can contact the Force and ask the Force if they hold additional non-conviction information that is proportionate and relevant to disclose. The framework for considering such information is set by the DBS, who audit the unit responsible for the checks on an annual basis.

In 2017 the DBS send 102,590 cases to the Force for consideration and of those there were 574 cases where additional information was disclosed. When information is being considered for disclosure there is a stringent process, which also requires consideration of the human rights of the applicant and the effect disclosure could have on this. In some instances the applicant will have the opportunity to make submissions regarding the information held and certificates are sent to the applicant in the first instance, giving them the opportunity to complain to the independent monitor or to decide not to share the results with the prospective employer.

Gurinder Singh Josan asked the third question:

“Can the Chief Constable detail the number of reported burglaries to domestic dwellings in the current financial year and how this compares to the previous year? Can he also please provide details of how many of these did police officers attend; how many resulted in an arrest and what number resulted in a prosecution?”

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that burglary remains an operational priority for the Force. The figures provided however come with the caveat that from April 2017 there had been a change in Home Office recording rules, meaning domestic sheds and out buildings within the perimeter of a dwelling are counted as part of a dwelling for these purposes, compared to previously where they had to be attached to the main building and have an integral door.

In 2017 there were 27,568 reports of burglary compared to 23,761 in 2016; these figures include business burglary of businesses and community buildings. The figures recorded as a burglary of a dwelling were 13,436 reports in 2016 and 19,523 in 2017.

Figures show 11,087 burglaries had a police resource attendance in 2016 (88%) compared to 12,830 in 2017 (66%), however the figures are not easy to determine as officers can use air wave radio to show their attendance at an incident which will not necessarily show in these figures. There is no Force policy to attend all burglaries of sheds or out buildings, unlike those from dwellings themselves, although they will do if

there are investigative opportunities.

The above resulted in 2,476 arrests for burglary in 2016 compared to 2,266 in 2017. This in turn lead to 1757 convictions in 2016 compared to 1520 in 2017.

With regards to 'rush burglaries' (where offenders force access into a home or business to commit the burglary) the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed they are thankfully small in numbers but recognises they are a great concern to communities. The Force does however have trigger plans so that all contact centre staff and response staff are aware of what responses are required in these instances. The Force is also looking at ways to develop these investigations such as exploring forensic retrieval opportunities and to provide the public with advice to prevent them occurring.

APCC Lynnette Kelly asked the penultimate question, on behalf of Dr Cath Hannon:

"In May this year the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which protects citizens' data becomes law. How will the Force comply with this legislation in relation to data provided by third parties such as Victim Support?"

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed the Force has a fully resourced project reviewing the implications of the GDPR and particularly how this will impact on their work with partners such as Victim Support. The data the Force shares can be divided into two categories:

- 1) Data which the Force has a statutory obligation to share for example as part of a multi-agency safeguarding arrangement, to protect the vulnerable. No consent from the person concerned is required in these instances.
- 2) Data which the Force has no statutory duty to share where they do require the explicit consent of the person concerned to share their data.

However the Force does have a statutory obligation under the victim's code to provide support for victims of crime and the Force already obtains explicit consent before sharing details of victims of domestic abuse or sexual crimes; however this may be required in all cases when the GDPR are implemented, although the Force are clarifying this both internally and nationally.

The final question was asked by Brendan Connor:

"Would the Chief Constable please provide an update on the progress that has been made on the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) removing the need for CD data transmission from West Midlands Police (WMP)?"

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed there is work to do to achieve this; however a lot of positive progress has been made. This forms part of a larger piece of work to achieve full digitalisation in this Criminal Justice System (CJS). The majority of case files were already being dispatched to the CPS digitally, with the exception of very complex cases and some remand cases. The Force is working with other forces to determine if using services such as evidence.com could achieve this as well as with the national digital first governance group to achieve this within the CJS for example by using

	<p>evidence.com to transmit data.</p> <p>Action: The Deputy Chief Constable will return to the board at the next meeting with details regarding whether the Force or WMP are causing any delays or problems with this process.</p>
<p>021/18</p>	<p>Item 6 – Public Questions</p> <p>There was one public question, as follows:</p> <p>“Like many parents in Sutton Vesey ward, and more widely in Sutton Coldfield, I am very concerned at the possibility of Sutton Coldfield police station being closed. This will clearly be a loss to families and residents. Would the Police and Crime Commissioner confirm that he will use every power at his disposal to retain a public facing police presence in Sutton Coldfield Town Centre?”</p> <p>The Commissioner confirmed he fully understands residents’ concerns and that he has asked the estates team to look at other alternatives for the front desk to ensure there is a continued public contact office in the town centre. He also provided reassurance that he and WMP are looking at every possible device to do so.</p>
<p>022/18</p>	<p>Item 7A – Estates Strategy</p> <p>Neil Chamberlain introduced the report, confirming this forms part of the WMP 2020 change programme and that with the exception of the custody blocks in Oldbury and Perry Barr and essential health and safety maintenance requirements the Force had not invested in its portfolio recently. He therefore confirmed he thought it was appropriate to consider this issue at this time and handed over to Andy Kelly to present the paper, where the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMP had seen a decrease in the number of officers and police staff however the estate that houses them remained unchanged. The running costs of buildings remained the same even if they are not fully occupied / at capacity. Therefore several of the buildings were too large and also were not fit for purpose for the new agile and open plan ways of working across the Force. • The Force was considering co-location sites with West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) as well as sites with Local Authorities such as libraries. • The Force would like to reassure the public that they currently have 10 public contact offices and this strategy will retain 10 offices. Suitable arrangements will also be made before any closures would begin. • The Force discussed plans to build a new custody block in the Coventry or Solihull area of the region as well as a new event control suite for events such as the security of the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

- The Force is also mindful of the social value of the buildings and capital receipts would be reinvested in the rest of the estate. The Force will work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) as part of the one public estate forum regarding this, along with the PCC's office and the Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU's).
- There Force confirmed there will be a 4 week public engagement process via the NPU's in the lead up to the board meeting on 20 March 2018, where the outcomes will be discussed.

Questions from the Board provided clarification on the following points:

- There was no formal agreement to discuss potential building sales with owners of neighbouring properties to achieve the maximum returns, for example by selling as one plot.
- The Force will use feedback from staff and the data collected as part of the digital experience surveys when remodelling the new front offices, to ensure they are fit for purpose for staff and the public.
- The Force is looking at housing the NHT's in alternative sites but these will be in the local area rather than one of the main Force sites, which could affect response times. They understand their geographical location is critical, particularly when responding to emergency calls.
- The Force will review the potential value of spending some capital to complete some remodelling of the existing sites, with the exception of Lloyd House and Bloxwich, prior to a full refurbishment.
- The NHTs and their senior leadership teams are providing feedback on potential co-locations and the effect this would have on their teams. The key concern here is policing not the cost of any potential rent or a rigid set of criteria.
- The Force has learnt lessons from building custody suites at Perry Barr and Oldbury and will use this and input from those who work within the custody environment before final plans for a new block are agreed. There were no plans to have a temporary site during the build phase of a new suite and the current custody sites would remain open until one fully completed. There is however the potential to use some of the spare space within the estate for staff and equipment whilst other sites are being refurbished.
- With regards to Solihull the Force were speaking to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council regarding potential co-sites such as SMBC's civic house. A contact desk could potentially be established at the library or the immigration service on Homer Road. There is also a site on Winchcombe Road within the estate that could potentially be used for neighbourhood teams.
- The Force has a heritage project working on establishing the full details and numbers of all memorials across the Force estate, to develop and plan that ensures the memories of those concerned are protected. They will ensure the

	<p>families are fully engaged before any final decisions are made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A co-location site in Walsall with WMP and the local authority had been successful established and lessons learnt here could be used elsewhere. The feedback had been that it allowed a quick exchange of resources, skills and powers that each organisation has to solve problems efficiently and effectively.
<p>023/18</p>	<p>Item 7B – Substance Misuse.</p> <p>Ben Twomey presented this report, and discussed each of the 8 drug policy recommendations in turn. He confirmed that substance misuse is more than a Criminal Justice issue, although it is linked to a number of crimes such as burglary and shop lifting where ½ of offences are drug related, but also a public health issue particularly as every 3 days a person dies of a drug overdose in the West Midlands.</p> <p>These proposals also aim to reduce the cost of drug related incidents to the public purse – crack and heroin are estimated to cost £4 billion in the West Midlands alone.</p> <p>The following points were discussed during questions from the board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed there is a strong link between a strong drugs policy and the WMP mission statement to reduce crime and she supports greater opportunities for partnership work that allows officers to refer drug users to treatment and intervention programmes. • Superintendent Jane Bailey leads on establishing an education package for Force staff so they are aware not only how to use naloxone but also how to respond if they come into contact with someone that has it in their possession, as part of their role to protect the public. The drug was already available to the Force medical providers and was successfully used the day before the meeting took place. • Sarah Marwick also agreed that substance misuse is a health issue, particularly with life expectancy for homeless women being just 47 and 42 for men and commented improving this should be the key aim. She also wanted to reiterate that she works with homeless and drug using population in her role as a GP and they are often victims of crime themselves, rather than just offenders. • The Force will look at how they can work with the National Police Chief’s Council (NPCC) to establish some of these recommendations nationally, so they can be used as a guide for other forces who want to adopt them. • There has already been support for many of these recommendations for organisations such as the Home Office and Public Health England, however this report aims to go further to establish ways of implementing them.

024/18

Item 8a – Reducing Crime and Harm.

Detective Superintendent Ian Parnell presented this report, and highlighted the following key points in the report:

- The region has a crime rate of 75/1000 residents compared to the national average of 88/1000. The Force records approximately 600 offences daily and the Deputy Chief Constable sets weekly and monthly priorities.
- One of the main challenges the Force faces is the advance of technology and its use in crime, which changes the nature of crime and therefore the tactics needed to tackle it.
- Where there is a theft from a vehicle there are usually limited investigative opportunities, meaning the key focus of their work is preventative measures and advice. The Force is currently working with vehicle manufacturers and associated partners to tackle theft of vehicles. Operation Treasurer also specifically tackling chop shops (where parts of a vehicle are stolen to order are taken) as the value of the parts can often exceed the value of the vehicle itself).
- There is a seasonal element to some crimes and the Force target their work accordingly for example robbery is more common on dark winter evenings. This also includes the successful Force wide operation silent night to reassure the public over the Christmas and New Year, focusing around the night time economy.
- The C2 project is a judiciary led piece of work allowing repeat offenders to 'clean their slate', which it is hoped will reduce the length of prison sentences and that it can provide closure for the victims of crime.

Following questions from the Board the following was discussed:

- The Force looks at data where crime is rising in particular areas and responds accordingly, however this is a complex process, particularly when the various factors affecting crime are considered. The NHTs work closely with communities to understand the impact of crime, and works with them to adapt their intervention, prevention and enforcement activities accordingly.
- There is nothing the Force can specifically identify as having a impact on the differing crime rates in the different boroughs of the region. The Force holds quarterly performance meetings, both geographically and with each NPU commander as well as the police governance boards to discuss crime rates. There is also nothing specific about the vacancy rate, training or skills of the NPUs where the rises in crime have been lower.
- The Force carefully follows the national guidelines regarding vigilante groups targeting offenders of online Child Sexual Exploitation. However the Force understand this is an emotive issue for the public and would urge people to report their concerns and to share the information they have, rather than taking

	<p>matters into their own hands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two elements to the approach described in paragraphs 29-33. The short term element of resourcing described is for example superintendents assessing applications from teams for additional resources from NHTs, for specific operations, on a daily basis. The longer term element includes protecting staffing numbers in certain teams such as the Public Protection Unit, where this is deemed necessary. • The homicide team rightly has a large amount of resources to investigate, arguably the most serious crime(s). Whilst it is simply not feasible to have the same resources for investigations the techniques and methodology can be shared and used to improve the Forces investigative response to other crimes.
<p>025/18</p>	<p>Item 8b – Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)</p> <p>Jenny Birch, the head of the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) presented this report and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proceeds of Crime Act is the legislative scheme detailing the recovery of criminal assets. This centres on 3 key aspects including confiscation, where orders are created post conviction, enforced by Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) which can take some time. This also covers cash forfeiture and provides a civil framework specifically in cases involving potential money laundering. • The ECU works with partners such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and expert witnesses as they have to prove an underlying element of criminality, to a criminal standard. • The Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) has a dedicated asset recovery team dealing with POCA and they focus on ensuring these orders are executed as well as obtaining an uplift in orders if further assets come to light. This has led to a 30% - 50% increase in recoveries, although this due to the nature of the investigations can also be attributed to work months / years ago. • Whilst the ambition is to become more pro-active in seizing assets by increasing the awareness and understanding of the legislation governing this and by refocusing efforts on the most serious and organised crime, this is still an extremely complex and time consuming process. • The ROCU finance team is looking at the Criminal Finances Act with partners such as HMCTS and the Crown Prosecution Service to establish the full parameters of this law and there are currently cases on-going using this legislation. • When funds or assets are recovered they go to a variety of sources such as the Home Office, as well as the Force.

	<p>Following questions from the board the following was clarified and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The efficiency and effectiveness review the unit is undertaking internally will focus on how they can work more efficiently and effectively to maximise the work they do, rather than just staff numbers. • ECU recently had two new police staff investigators recently and therefore they recognise the value of their experience and skills along with other police staff, which do not require warranted powers. Their numbers have however previously been reduced as part of a resourcing review. • As part of a Government asset recovery incentivisation scheme it is possible to use some of these funds to further resource the unit's work. <p>The Commissioner congratulated the team for their work and it's contributing to tackling crime in the region.</p>
<p>026/18</p>	<p>Item 9A – Finance Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Neil Chamberlain presented this report and following questions from the board the following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2.2% underspend is less than 0.5% of the total budget and still requires a considerable use of reserves. • The funds carried forward will still be needed for their original purpose and will be allocated accordingly in the next budget. • The major changes in paragraph 5 are the result of a variety of factors such as employing temporary staff whilst permanent recruitment was on-going, investing back in Force Contact following feedback and the increase in the police staff pay award, in excess of the original budget prediction. • The Commissioner also wanted to highlight the 'back office staff' provide invaluable support to investigations where no warranted powers are required. These also include staff taking emergency calls and the forensics team. Therefore the Commissioner disagrees with any statements demeaning their input to the Force. • The Force has a lower number of support staff than other forces across the country. • The underspend on supplies and services has a variety of factors without affecting the quality of service provided, for example efficiency savings in kennels for seized dogs and less than expected use of forensic or interpreting services.

027/18

Item 9B – Strategic Policing Requirement

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Kenny Bell introduced this report and confirmed this report informs the Commissioner of the Force's response to the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). Following questions from the board the following was discussed:

- The two periods in 2017 during which the national terrorism threat level was raised to critical had an effect on all areas of policing; however operations were successful to obtain armed support from colleagues in the civil and nuclear constabulary and British Transport Police. Lessons have been learnt from this process and an exercise to test the response of all emergency services and local authorities at the Bullring in Birmingham.
- The response to public order was deemed proportionate to the threat the Force faced, however there is a risk if this mobilisation is prolonged that it will have an effect on the NHTs who would be required to fill any gaps in responding to calls for services. The Force are also able to meet their national requirement for this.
- There has been a rise in demand to investigate cases of CSA (12080 in 2014 and 12372 up to March 2017). PPU however has dedicated officers tackling this on a daily basis, including online.
- Operation breaking point demonstrated that the Force could provide 36 Police Support Units (PSUs) if required, which is well above their national requirement of 21.
- Following times of increased demand such as during the period when the national terror threat level was raised there are inevitable knock on effects on policing. The period of catch up whilst returning to normality is key and during this time the most serious crimes will be given a priority response, however the incidents graded as requiring a less immediate response will take longer than average.
- The Force understands the SPR for each force is not altered to reflect cuts in government funding and fewer officer numbers i.e. the response each Force is expected to deliver has not been proportionately reduced to reflect the reduction in their resources.
- The Force works with the WMCA and the Local Resilience Forum to see how they and the local authorities can assist with any recovery phase following major incidents.
- The Force is creating a new child sexual abuse model that will be trailed in Coventry, for use by the PPU to assist with dealing with the increased demand in this area.
- This report is focused solely on how the Force meet the SPR from a policing perspective, however the Force recognises the importance of community engagement and they simply could not meet this without the public support and

	co-operation.
028/18	<p>Item 9C – Strategic Policing and Crime Board work plan</p> <p>This work plan has already been circulated and there were no questions relating.</p>
029/18	<p>Item 9D – Chief Constable Update.</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed the Force continued to deliver large scale investigations as part of the crime challenges they face, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling ‘chop-shops’ which have strong links to burglary, which the Force have seen is a key concerns for communities across the region. • There have been notable convictions for gang related behaviour, particularly where knives and guns were involved. • Operation Septre where the prevent team within the Criminal Investigations Department seized 25 bladed weapons, as part of a week of action. <p>The Commissioner concluded the public meeting at 13:03. A short private item followed.</p>