



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 24 April 2018
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
- Jonathan Jardine - Chief Executive
- Mark Kenyon - Chief Finance Officer
- Louisa Rolfe - Deputy Chief Constable
- Kenny Bell - Assistant Chief Constable
- Chris Todd - Chief Superintendent
- Kerry Blakeman - Chief Inspector
- Dawn Miskella - Chief Inspector
- Nick Rowe - Superintendent
- Dr Sarah Marwick - Board Member
- Ernie Hendricks - Board Member
- Brendan Connor - Board Member
- Waheed Saleem - Board Member
- Cllr Liam Preece - Board Member
- Dr Cath Hannon - Board Member
- Carl Binns - Management Trainee

7 observers

A note taker and a webcaster

046/18	The Commissioner opened the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
047/18	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were no conflicts of interest declared.
048/18	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from the Chief Constable, ACC Boycott, ACC Cann and Gurinder Singh Josan.
049/18	Item 3 – Notes of last meeting There was an outstanding action from March SPCB meeting. Cath Hannon asked for details of the 23 projects undertaken by those graduates included in the national police scheme- Cath Hannon confirmed she had received this information.
050/18	Item 4 – Acceptance of Petitions The Commissioner advised that two petitions had been received for submission during this Board meeting. The first petition opposed the closure of Acocks Green Police Station. The Commissioner invited Cllr John O’ Shea, Cllr Fiona Williams and Julia Larden to present it. Cllr John O’Shea presented the petition highlighting it would be difficult to find a

	<p>suitable alternative site as the fire station is located in an industrial site and the library is not suitable. The station was built in 1908 and is a key monument for the community therefore on behalf of his constituents requested for the Chief Constable to review this matter.</p> <p>The Commissioner responded to this petition, thanking Cllr John O’Shea for the submission and referred to the Estates strategy policy. There has been a public consultation to review the social use of the building alongside providing a high quality alternative. The Commissioner further went on to emphasise the importance of protecting the jobs of 2000 police and staff following the cuts in the police budget. The Deputy Chief Constable further added that with the change in policing it is vital police officers work more closely with the local communities, and so more visibility is necessary.</p> <p>The second petition asked for improving speeding traffic along Cot Lane between The Park Tavern and The Mount public houses. The petition has 17 signatures and was submitted by Brian Smith. The organiser was unable to attend the meeting but the petition was presented on his behalf.</p> <p>The Commissioner referred to the letter which expressed great concerns about cars speeding between 40-60mph. The Commissioner asked DCC to look into this. In response, the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed this will be passed onto the local Neighbourhood policing Unit to action.</p> <p>The Commissioner went on to provide the Board with an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicle theft in West Midlands has doubled in the last two years. Cllr Lynnette Kelly chaired a successful vehicle summit in Coventry on 12 April where emphasis was put on manufacturers to modify their security systems so cars can be well protected against organised crimes. - The Commissioner made reference to cars being stolen without a key and the importance of putting a stop to this. The device being used to commit such crimes was available on EBay and Amazon for under £100. As the devices are not illegal to sell there is concern about responsibility. The Commissioner highlighted that he is currently waiting for Amazon to reply on this matter. - Increase of knife crimes and deaths in West Midlands. The Commissioner made reference to the Home Office strategy which looked very similar to the West Midlands Gangs and Violence Report which was launched in December 2017. He added it was good they were making use of the work however credit should be given. - The Commissioner highlighted that the Home Secretary had denied that funding to tackle knife crime was coming from the police budget but when questioned in Parliament she confirmed the £40million for two years (20 million per year) was coming from the policing budget. An apology may be forthcoming, will keep the board updated if this is the case. - The Commissioner commented on the Home secretary creating a ‘hostile environment’ through the windrush affairs. This created various issues including people losing their jobs, not being able to get back into the country after a holiday and number of uncertainties concerning their legal rights as a UK citizen.
051/18	<p>Item 5 – Public Questions</p> <p>There were no questions from members of the public.</p>
052/18	<p>Item 6 – Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>There were no questions from the Board.</p>

053/18

Item 7A – Animal Cruelty

This report was presented by ACC Kenny Bell, Carl Binns and Chief Inspector Dawn Miskella. The headlines of this report were:

- WMP have recently started new kennelling procurement for dangerous dogs and applied for risk assessment tools to see how dangerous dogs should be assessed.
- The force is doing a lot of work to reassure members of the public on how cruelty against animals is taken seriously and appropriate action will be taken.
- Paragraph 25 of the report highlights how the DDU are working closely with CJS and CPS to explore opportunities to introduce a dedicated court process which will assist in improving the timeliness of case progression; thus reduce the time a dog is kennelled.
- Paragraph 28 highlights how WMP are working with partner agencies to explore further links between animal cruelty and domestic violence offences in order to identify opportunities for early intervention.

The Board was asked to review the findings of this report and a follow up report showing the force's progress will be shared with the Board in 12 months' time.

Waheed Saleem asked whether there was a link between animal cruelty and other crimes, other than domestic violence.

Chief Inspector Dawn Miskella introduced herself as lead on dangerous dogs. She went on to highlight a national picture which illustrated a link between organised crimes and dangerous dog offences. In West Midlands it was common to find dangerous dog issues in actual fact having a link to other forms of criminality. She further went on to explain the processes and intelligence the force use to map the types of people who may be involved in offences relating to animal cruelty and criminality.

Dr Cath Hannon asked for some clarification on the prosecution process.

Carl Binns responded by saying the force deal with this area depending on the level of crime it is, if it is a low level crime the force would contact the individual addressing the issue and aiming to have the least impact on the dog.

Dr Cath Hannon added that RSPCA and other organisations such as the Dog Trust provide accommodation to animals that are caught up between the processes.

Ernie Hendricks asked the following three questions:

- i. Contingent Destruction Orders- Do we have any in the force area, if so, how often are the owners of the dogs visited to ensure compliance?
- ii. Kennelling- how often are they visited?
- iii. Horses- A number of issues when owners are not able to keep up with vets bills etc. Was there anything in place in the West Midlands to deal with this?

CI Miskella responded to the above questions making the following points:

- Chipping is something which gets done quickly.
- Insurance is problematic as once the dog is returned to the owner and insurance is taken out it will only come into effect if the dog goes on to reoffend. There are therefore mix views on the usefulness of insurance.
- The force receive insurance policy updates which show policies which have lapsed. This is technically a breach of the court order however it can be rectified as officers from NPU would check welfare of the dog and ask for insurance

	<p>policy to be renewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennels are visited more or less on a daily basis. • RSPCA did a visit 2/3 months ago; they provided the DDU with some recommendations around enrichment. The DDU ensure transparency on the welfare of the animals and work closely with RSPCA to help improve this area. <p>Carl Binns responded to Ernie’s question in relation to the horses by confirming this was an issue the force and local authorities are aware of. WMP have been working with the Equine Welfare Service, this is a service which has been introduced to parts of the Black Country which can impose fines on horse owners. Since this service was introduced the number of abandoned horses in the Black Country has fallen, this is something the force is looking into rolling out to other parts of the region. This is a local authority issue so it involves an input from them.</p> <p>Brendan Connor raised a question on paragraph 15 of the report where reference was made to wildlife crime matters being managed by ‘untrained’ wildlife crime officers. Brendan shared an experience where he reported a swan shot where RSPCA responded immediately but it took WMP three days to come out. When this was backtracked it was noticed that the report was logged under ‘wildlife crime’ and not ‘unlawful discharge of firearm’.</p> <p>DPCC Rolfe stated that this was a national policing issue which was looked into by the NPCC and highlighted in their report. Following this, the College of Policing is developing a national training programme for officers. She further added that the region was also sharing best practices with other forces.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the way in which wildlife crimes are reported and the need for more accurate recording of reports and incidents. This is an issue nationwide, and there is a national incidents register which is kept updated and will assist in drawing a baseline</p> <p>Wildlife training has been offered to contact staff and it was agreed that ACC Bell will provide further information on how many staff have been trained. In addition, wildlife crime will be added to the regular briefings provided to all contact staff.</p>
<p>054/18</p>	<p>Item 8A – Use of Force</p> <p>Superintendent Nick Rowe presented this report and the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A three stage approach was designed for the introduction of recording use of force, app and systems, data compliance and scrutiny on analysis. • The Chief Constable derogated from NPCC requirements for use of force recording and instead implemented a reduced recording requirement on a regional level. • This would mean recording ‘actual’ use of force and not the threatened use of force. • The force began app based data collection in January 2018 and the report shows the first set of data. • Data is being dip sampled. • There are plans to have public scrutiny on use of force in scrutiny panels such as stop and search. <p>The Commissioner stated that he supports the Chief Constable’s decision to derogate</p>

from the NPCC requirement as over recording will not necessarily add value.

Waheed Saleem asked for some clarification on firearms (aimed or fired) in table 34 and also asked what the data in this report was a comparison to.

Superintendent Rowe confirmed firearms was the only category where the threat to use the weapon was also being recorded. In terms of the data comparison, this was the first set of data the force had there was no comparison made as yet.

APCC Bertie raised a question in relation to compliance on paragraph 27 and paragraph 36 where reason of force was listed under the category of 'other'.

Superintendent Rowe stated that monthly checks had been put in place where officers from operations were checking and monitoring compliance. This was done in comparison to four other forces and WMP is the only force doing this.

DPCC Rolfe referred to the table in paragraph 36 where the percentage for reason of force added to much higher than 100. She explained officers were given the option to record under more than one category. As this was an evolving area, there are other types of forces which come to light for which officers have the option to record under this heading.

Dr Sarah Marwick referred to the table in paragraph 43 where the age category 11-17 was spread too wide covering children in primary education right through to someone who may no longer be in education. She further commented on the mental health perspective and whether the force was satisfied with the outcomes.

Superintendent Rowe stated he will have to get some guidance on breaking the group and will provide the board with an update. He further added the force were making use of the mental health triage team to avoid anyone suffering from mental health coming into custody.

DPCC Rolfe added that the mental health scrutiny panel will assist in providing qualitative data which can be used to identify any gaps in the current process.

Ernie Hendricks stated that use of force was usually discussed when something goes wrong it would be good to share success stories too. He further commented on the NPCC unconscious bias training and whether this would be something the force could benefit from.

Superintendent Rowe agreed with the above comments and stated it was important to share powerful stories such as this; some footage has been shared with IAGs.

DPCC Rolfe added confirmed the unconscious bias was something the force was actively considering.

Jonathan Jardine asked for future data to illustrate actual use of Taser with the threatened use, alongside the firearms stats. He also commented on the administrative burden on officers to record tactical communications and asked whether any assessment had been made since the implementation of this policy and whether any tactics had proven to be more effective than others.

Superintendent Rowe stated that the data did not at this stage show which tactic was most effective, it did however show a breakdown of what was being used e.g. spit guards. There was also no comparison with other forces to comment on the

	<p>administrative reporting burden at this stage.</p> <p>DPCC Rolfe made the additional following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This approach was adapted to reduce the administrative burden on officers. • WMP policy differs in the recording of handcuffing, an individual would be handcuffed until they come into custody. • Tactical communication is not required to be recorded. <p>Brendan Connor referred to paragraph 38 and asked for the data to be broken down into sub categories, making it clear what was included in 'other' alongside those charged, not charged and arrested. It would also help to add the age category into this section.</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked everyone for their contribution and advised there would now be a short comfort break- 1142hrs</p> <p>.</p>
<p>055/18</p>	<p>The meeting reconvened at 1150 hrs. and the Commissioner handed over to APCC Bertie to Chair.</p> <p>Item 8B – Stop and Search</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Chris Todd made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unconscious bias training was part of the stop and search training package, and this will be rolled out to all frontline officers. • In 2011/12 64,000 people were subjected to stop and search across the West Midlands, but only 4% resulted in an arrest, 27% of records did not meet the requirements to demonstrate lawful use of the power. • In 2016/17 the number of searches had been reduced to 13000 and the positive outcome rate had risen to 29%. • There is a quarterly governance meeting, chaired by the ACC where data from each NPU is analysed. • S.60 is used in a much focused way and for transparency all the stops are published on the PCC website. • There is external scrutiny whereby each NPU has members from the public who review the data and identify any areas of disproportionality. • The representation on the scrutiny panel needs to be much broader; WMNOW platform now offers individuals the opportunity to join these panels. • PCC youth trainers are also reaching out to young people and providing feedback to the governance board. <p>Academic research continues with Dr Neil Stewart, form Warwickshire University pilot study to be rolled out concerning road traffic stops under s.163 in about one month, there are currently some IT issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all S.60 stops were published on the PCC's website, including information on the outcome. <p>The Commissioner asked for some clarification on paragraph 3 and 4 where 2011/12 illustrates 4% arrests and the stats for 2016/17 states 29% being a positive outcome (including arrests).</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Chris Todd agreed this was not as clear and stated in 17/18 the arrest rate was 20% whereas positive outcome (e.g. caution) went up to 31%.</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Chris Todd confirmed any issues relating to Schedule 7 were being picked up in the governance meeting which ACC Cann chairs and CTU are also present. He further added that if the board had more questions on this area he was</p>

	<p>happy to share this information with the board.</p> <p>The Commissioner asked for clarification on s.60 stops. Chief Superintendent Chris Todd explained how this differed to a normal stop and search power and how authorisation was required from senior officers to use this power within a geographical area.</p>
056/18	<p>This item was chaired by APCC Dr Kelly.</p> <p>Item 8C – Body Worn Video</p> <p>ACC Kenny Bell presented this report jointly with CS Chris Todd and the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 had successfully been completed with BWCs rolled out to all response officers. • Phase 2 is the continued rollout of the cameras to neighbourhood and other operational teams such as Force Traffic and the Force Support Unit. • One of the challenges involved in phase 2 is the force’s estate strategy. There are a number of issues which need to be considered, this includes the background work on docking stations, access, storage and encryption. • WMP is in the process of upgrading from the X26 Taser device to the X2. This will have the capability of potentially pairing with the Axon BWC. <p>Waheed Saleem questioned the levels of security in place and the reassurance that the force has full oversight of the systems including any audit processes.</p> <p>CS Chris Todd provided details on how the docking stations are used to transfer data from the cameras into a secure sever. There were no concerns about the capacity the cloud can hold, in actual fact less storage was being used than anticipated. The level of security has been looked into by the Information Management Department and scrutiny has been welcomed.</p> <p>CS Chris Todd reassured the board that the people monitoring our servers are not able to view or access the forces data.</p> <p>Ernie Hendricks questioned the transparency and accountability going forward and whether a framework was in place to manage this.</p> <p>CS Chris Todd responded by saying scrutiny was welcomed in this area. In future, members of the public will be welcome to attend scrutiny panels where they can view footage, hopefully in place by the autumn.</p> <p>DPCC Rolfe confirmed that with recommendations from the information management department the force has opted for the server and cloud storage solution which meets the best practices in terms of UK government standards for data security. In terms of officer accessibility, this has been addressed in paragraph 30.</p> <p>APCC Dr Kelly thanked Brendon and handed over to the Commissioner to Chair.</p>
057/18	<p>Item 9A – Strategic Policing and Crime Board work plan</p> <p>The Commissioner suggested adding Commonwealth games into the work plan.</p>

058/18

Item 9B – Deputy Chief Constable’s Update

The Deputy Chief Constable provided the following update:

- There have been a number of successful Commonwealth game events held in Birmingham; all events were well managed and handled by officers.
- The tragic death of Viktorija Sokolova in Wolverhampton, one young man has been charged and one released on bail. The investigation is continuing however there have been some very unpleasant comments on social media, people urged not to comment or get involved. Any information on the case should be passed onto the police or crime stoppers.
- There has been some successful operations in targeting burglary and vehicle crime as result these crimes have reduced.
- There is a lot of work to reduce knife crimes across West Midlands.

The Commissioner thanked DPCC Rolfe for the update and closed the meeting at 1245hrs