



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 22 May 2018  
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

**Present:**

David Jamieson	-	Police and Crime Commissioner
Ashley Bertie	-	Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Ernie Hendricks	-	Board Member
Cllr Dr Lynnette Kelly	-	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Cllr Liam Preece	-	Board Member
Waheed Saleem	-	Board Member
Gurinder Josan Singh	-	Board Member

**Also in attendance:**

Sally Bourner		Chief Superintendent
Andrea Gabbitas		Head of Business Services
Stephen Graham		Chief Superintendent
Jonathan Jardine	-	Chief Executive
Mark Kenyon	-	Chief Finance Officer
Alex Murray		Assistant Chief Constable
Mark Payne		Chief Superintendent
Louisa Rolfe	-	Deputy Chief Constable
David Thompson		Chief Constable
Darren Walsh		Superintendent

Together with 6 observers, a note taker and a webcaster.

**Please note:**

1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: [WEBCAST 22 MAY 2018](#)*
2. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

<b>059/18</b>	The Commissioner opened the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
<b>060/18</b>	<b>Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest</b> There were no conflicts of interest declared.
<b>061/18</b>	<b>Item 2 – Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Brendan Connor, Dr Cath Hannon, Dr Sarah Marwick, ACC Boycott, ACC Johnson.
<b>062/18</b>	<b>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 24 April 2018</b>  The notes were accepted.
<b>063/18</b>	<b>Item 4 – Acceptance of Petitions</b>

	None received.
<b>064/18</b>	<b>Item 5 – Public Questions</b>  None received.
<b>065/18</b>	<p><b>Item 6 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</b></p> <p>1) <i>‘Can the Chief Constable set out the procedures for sharing information with social services in the cases of suspected child abuse?’ (asked by Waheed Saleem)</i></p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agencies work together under guidance called <i>Working Together to Safeguard Young Children</i>. Within the Force the Central Referral Unit collates information and shares with partners through the multi-agency safeguarding hubs. There are a number of child abuse investigation teams, sharing information with Social Services as appropriate. There is constant liaison with Social Services colleagues throughout investigations.</li> <li>• Information is shared appropriately and the ethos is to share as much as appropriate. The new data protection rules will not fundamentally change this approach.</li> </ul> <p>2) <i>Following the introduction of changes to police bail in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and these now being in force for twelve months can the Chief Constable please detail:</i></p> <p>i) <i>what changes have been made by West Midlands Police to comply with this?</i></p> <p>ii) <i>how many cases the Force authorised extending bail to up to three months and sought authority to extend the bail for over three months?</i> <i>(asked by Gurinder Singh Josan)</i></p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These significant changes placed limits on the time people can be on bail. A pilot took place in Wolverhampton and recommendations were rolled across the Force.</li> <li>• Nationally, around 33% of detainees are bailed, and the remainder released under investigation. Prior to the changes the Force was bailing two thirds more people than this.</li> <li>• The Chief Constable has some concerns about the reduction in bail and the increase in the number of people released under investigation because it does not appear to have generated improvements. It is hard to complete all investigations within the required 28 days, and there are less measures in place to restrain offending during the investigation period in comparison to bail.</li> <li>• In summary there has been a reduction in the amount of bail, although the Force is high in comparison to the average national picture.</li> <li>• The Force will do more work to investigate victim satisfaction generally although this may not specifically address the question of bail.</li> <li>• It is regrettable that Government did not take into account the evidence provided by College of Policing prior to implementing the new legislation.</li> </ul>
	<b>Emerging Items</b>
	There were no emerging items to consider.

<b>Police and Crime Plan Priorities: Building Trust and Confidence in our Police</b>	
<b>066/18</b>	<p>Cllr Lynnette Kelly chaired this item:</p> <p><b>Item 7A– Professional Standards and Complaints <a href="#">(link)</a></b></p> <p>Presented by Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe and CS Mark Payne.</p> <p>The Board gave consideration to the report, and the following additional points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSD has made huge efforts to offer service recovery before a complaint is recorded, and has also improved the way the Force approaches local resolutions.</li> <li>• The backlog in vetting has been successfully reduced.</li> <li>• At police misconduct hearings and meetings, there is a discrepancy in the outcomes between those meetings led entirely by the Force, and those directed by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).</li> <li>• Cllr Kelly summarised that the reduction in complaints is very welcome, and the Board strongly supports the work to reduce the number of formal investigations and place more emphasis on service recovery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: The next report on complaints should include a more detailed analysis of the impact of body worn video.</b></p>
<b>067/18</b>	<p>Senior Assistant PCC Ashley Bertie chaired this item</p> <p><b>Item 7B –Independent Custody Visitors and Appropriate Adults <a href="#">(link)</a></b></p> <p>Presented by Andrea Gabbitas.</p> <p>The report provided the annual update on the Custody Visiting and the Appropriate Adult schemes, including information on the recent review of the arrangements for custody visiting. Two volunteer custody visitors, Tony Tindale and Satish Chauhan, also attended the meeting and shared their views on police custody and the welfare of detainees, as well as their views on the custody visiting scheme.</p> <p>The Board gave consideration to the report, and the following additional points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Bertie thanked the two custody visitors for giving up their time and attending the meeting, and also asked that thanks be passed to all custody visitors for their continued hard work and their contribution towards safety in police custody.</li> <li>• The two main issues identified by custody visitors during the year were concerns about healthcare, and also about staff levels in custody suites.</li> <li>• The Force healthcare provider changed in September and since then there has been a notable decrease in the number of times concerns about healthcare in custody have been raised.</li> <li>• Staffing levels in custody has been raised by custody visitors increasingly over recent months. ACC Murray said that overtime is being used to address this, and he will do more to examine this issue.</li> <li>• Increased training is being offered to the custody visitors in order to help them be fully equipped to undertake their role.</li> <li>• There was a question about provision of sanitary items for female detainees. This has been raised as an issue as provision seems to be patchy. Custody visitors are now taking more steps to check there is proper feminine hygiene provision. ACC Murray said that he is satisfied that correct provision is now in</li> </ul>

	place to cater for the hygiene needs of female prisoners.
<b>067/18</b>	<p><b>Item 7C – Custody</b> <a href="#">(link)</a></p> <p>Presented by Acting ACC Alex Murray.</p> <p>The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the past year there has been a 16% reduction in the number of arrests and nobody has been placed in custody using s136 Mental Health Act powers. Over the past three years there has been a 50% reduction in the number of children being arrested.</li> <li>• If children are remanded in custody for their own safety there is a problem because there are no secure beds in the West Midlands and only very limited PACE beds. Sometimes a decision is taken to retain the child in police custody to avoid a very long journey to a secure bed in another area, where this is considered to be in the child’s best interest.</li> <li>• It is alarming that the local authorities in the area do not respond in the majority of cases when they are asked to provide a secure bed, resulting in children being taken long distances to be accommodated, or they are placed in a juvenile detention cell in a police station. Local authorities are aware of the shortage of beds and the Combined Authority is doing work to examine the provision of secure beds. The Commissioner and members of the Board emphasised that it is very important that this work continues with urgency, looking at both short term and long term detention of children.</li> <li>• The use of strip-search was raised in the joint inspection of custody. This is now more rigorously recorded by the Force.</li> <li>• The practice of detainee-watch for those who require additional observation requires a lot of officer time. These are managed by custody staff rather than other officers. Improvements in the risk assessments by healthcare providers have resulted in less need for observation. There is still a requirement to guard detainees in hospital and this is resource intensive. A risk based decision has to be taken on this.</li> </ul> <p>(there was a short break at this point in the meeting)</p>
<b>068/18</b>	<p><b>Item 7D – Access to services</b> <a href="#">(link)</a></p> <p>Presented by the Chief Constable, supported by CS Sally Bournier and CS Stephen Graham</p> <p>The Board gave consideration to the report, and the following additional points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report describes how the Force is responsive to calls for help and outlines the service levels the Force provides. This has to be balanced against the other demands on policing, and during a time when resources have reduced this balance is challenging.</li> <li>• The public can expect a very prompt response to 999 calls (average of 6 seconds) and this remains high priority. The offer to the public calling 101 needs to be redefined. In the past the offer has been 30 seconds, but the way the Force responds to calls for service has altered since that offer was made. The emphasis on a speedy telephone pick-up has reduced. The public can expect to wait about 2 minutes for a telephone pick up, and the Force then aims to resolve concerns straight away in about 75% of cases. The emphasis is to provide a</li> </ul>

	<p>reliable service with a quality response, and to continue to provide other channels for the public to contact the Force. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force aims to attend 25-30% of calls, which is a change. Call takers make a judgement and grade calls to determine what response is required, and when attendance is required.</li> <li>• Overall, the Force aims to provide a reliable and quick response to 999 calls, and for other calls the emphasis is upon providing an appropriate quality response, rather than a speedy response.</li> <li>• There is an ongoing issue with inappropriate use of 999 calls (62% of the calls). Corporate communications continues to deliver public messages to encourage appropriate use of the 999 service, and a publicity campaign is planned.</li> <li>• We can expect a surge in demand for policing during warm weather. This is compounded by officers and staff wishing to take holidays over the summer period. Much work has taken place to predict and manage summer demand, in a similar way that the Force plans for major events.</li> <li>• Board members queried the number of cases where the grading of a call is altered during the management of the case. There is a regime of monthly audits to assess call grading and response, together with daily monitoring to ensure urgent cases are being properly dealt with.</li> <li>• The impact of response times to different types of emergency is not analysed in the same way as is done by fire or ambulance services, but it is acknowledged that a quick response to emergency calls gives a better chance of securing the safety of a victim, or catching a perpetrator.</li> <li>• In summary the Commissioner highlighted that the Force is required to respond to increasing numbers of calls from the public at a time when resources are going down.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <p><b>1. The next report on Access to Services should include analysis of response to P3 calls.</b></p> <p><b>2. A further report should be presented to SPCB this year to explore public satisfaction with access to police services.</b></p>
069/18	<p><b>Item 7E – Reporting and recording <a href="#">(link)</a></b></p> <p>Presented by DCC Louisa Rolfe.</p> <p>The Board gave consideration to the report, and the following additional points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first part of the report examined hidden and under reported crime. Nationally domestic abuse reports have increased by 88%.</li> <li>• The second part examined analysis of the increases in reporting, and also accuracy of recording. HMICFRS inspected the Force and made some recommendations which are outlined in the report.</li> <li>• The HMICFRS Inspection indicated 83% compliance. The Force is generally moving in the right direction, although performance on compliance with recording rules fluctuates from week to week.</li> <li>• There cannot be 100% confidence that all officers have full understanding of the reporting and recording rules, because these rules are extremely complex. The number of officers who have completed the online training in regularly tracked and 58% have completed so far.</li> <li>• A large proportion of police resources is placed in public protection teams so that a good response can be given. Increases in reporting are partly due to the extra work of the Force and also greater public awareness.</li> <li>• The Commissioner highlighted concerns about hate crime on public transport</li> </ul>

	<p>systems. More work with public transport colleagues would be helpful to address this.</p> <p><b>Action – Information be provided to SPCB members with an analysis of the impact of the new third party reporting centres and the impact of this on the existing centres. This should include an analysis of the impact on hate crime.</b></p>
	<b>Regular Items</b>
<b>070/18</b>	<p><b>Item 8A Strategic Policing and Crime Board Workplan <a href="#">(link)</a></b></p> <p>The workplan was noted.</p> <p><b>Actions –Additional future reports on document handling, Commonwealth Games, and a further report on Public Satisfaction with Service should be added to the workplan for this year.</b></p>
<b>071/18</b>	<p><b>Item 8B – Chief Constable’s Update</b></p> <p>The Chief Constable provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A young man was stabbed to death in Sutton Coldfield on 17 May. This is ongoing and a person has been charged.</li> <li>• Knife crime badly affects the West Midlands. The work of the Commissioner, the Force and the ongoing work in schools and hospitals aims to address this. Some of the challenges are long term but the Force also uses enforcement activity such as Stop and Search in order to address the risk.</li> <li>• There was a shooting in East Birmingham on 15 May which remains under investigation.</li> <li>• There have been a number of firearm incidents in East Birmingham, and the Chief Constable emphasised that the Force responds promptly to any reports of firearms. There have been a number of s60 searches in the area.</li> </ul> <p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable for the update and closed the public meeting at 12.35 pm</p>

**Non-confidential notes of private meeting of Strategic Policing and Crime Board held on Tuesday, 22 May 2018  
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

<b>C1</b>	<p><b>Use of surveillance</b></p> <p>Presented by ACC Gareth Cann and Supt Darren Walsh.</p> <p>The report described the surveillance mechanisms used by the Force and the work of the Professional Standards Department.</p>
<b>C2</b>	<p><b>Professional Standards</b></p> <p>Presented by CS Mark Payne</p> <p>The Board considered the report which provided an overview of the Force work on counter-corruption. CS Payne provided an update on current cases and informed the Board that within the Force a new confidential reporting line is due to go live on 11 June.</p>

The meeting closed at 1.45pm