



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 19 February 2019  
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

**Present:**

Ashley BERTIE : Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Jenny BIRCH : WMP Head of Economic Crime Unit (ECU)  
 Neil CHAMBERLAIN : WMP Director of Commercial Services  
 Brendan CONNER : Board Member  
 Maria Fox : WMP Superintendent  
 Dr Cath HANNON : Board Member  
 David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Jonathan JARDINE : Chief Executive, OPCC  
 Cllr Dr Lynnette KELLY: Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member  
 Tom McNEIL : Board Member  
 Waheed SALEEM : Board Member  
 Sue SOUTHERN : WMP Assistant Chief Constable  
 David THOMPSON : WMP Chief Constable

7 observers, a note taker and 2 x webcasters.

**Please note:**

1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: ([https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/406373](https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/406373))*
2. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

<b>017/19</b>	The Commissioner opened the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
<b>018/19</b>	<b>Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest</b>  There were none.
<b>019/19</b>	<b>Item 2 – Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from ACC Sarah Boycott, Mark Kenyon, DCC Louisa Rolfe and Gurinder Singh Josan.
<b>020/19</b>	<b>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 22 January 2019 (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b>  The following amendments / clarifications were requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On page 3 at 007/19 in paragraph 2 it refers to a subsidiary bid for the Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF). This should read £190 million and in fact was finalised at nearly £230 million.</li> <li>• The task force that has been set up to tackle youth violence was largely at the instigation of WMP this was in response to events nationally, rather than exclusively in the West Midlands.</li> </ul>

021/19	<p><b>Item 4 – PCC Update</b></p> <p>This item was deferred on this occasion as the items raised were discussed at other points in the meeting.</p>
<b>EMERGING ITEMS</b>	
022/19	<p><b>Item 5 – Acceptance of Petitions</b></p> <p>There were no petitions.</p>
023/19	<p><b>Item 6 – Public Questions</b></p> <p>There were no public questions</p>
024/19	<p><b>Item 7 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b></p> <p>1. Given the reliance of all of our future and current IT investments in tracking in real time the location of all WMP resources:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) What systems are in place to ensure all officers log on at the start of duty?</li> <li>(ii) What is the current level of compliance by officers with the duty to log-on?</li> <li>(iii) What actions are taken to remind those officers who repeatedly breach the log-on duty to remedy their default?</li> <li>(iv) Has recent disciplinary action been taken against any officer for repeatedly failing to log on?</li> <li>(v) How many electronic proximity clocking stations within WMP locations are currently non-operational due to faults? Are these maintained under a service agreement?</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(To be asked by Brendan Connor)</p> <p>The Chief Constable confirmed there were several ways officers and staff can log in on Tensa clocks throughout the Force estate, including on the Force intranet site or by contacting the Shared Services team via phone or webchat if there are any issues. The current system (GRS) is however not particularly linked to other systems but when the Force moves to a new system later in 2019 clockings will feed into other areas such as overtime. At any time 98.5% of smart cards are working without fault and there are several stations to reset a card across the Force.</p> <p>The Chief Constable also confirmed an area of concern is the visibility of officers available for duty at any time. The Force radios do have an auto-affiliation system meaning when the radio is on and a particular wave is selected an officer will automatically show as available and there is currently an auto-affiliation rate of 75%. Whilst the Chief Constable is happy this system is in place along with dip sampling there is work to do in some areas and he is aware particularly as the new systems are put in place there will be an element of culture change required.</p> <p><b>The Chief Constable will review the status of the clocking machine at Chelmsley Wood.</b></p> <p>2. Why is 'tracking my crime' limited to those members of the public who have reported a crime on the internet but not by voice? What measures are in place to ensure that 'track my crime' is available to all irrespective of the method of crime reporting?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(To be asked by Brendan Connor)</p>

The Chief Constable confirmed it is correct that people who have reported a crime by other methods cannot track their crime online, however this issue has been raised at the Change Board and as part of the connect project . The issue relates to issues with current systems, which do not allow an online account to be created if reported by other methods, and work is in place to resolve this.

**The Chief Constable will discuss Mr Connor’s personal case outside of the meeting and update him accordingly.**

3. Will the Chief Constable update us on the progress he is making on tackling theft of vehicles in the West Midlands?

(To be asked by the Commissioner)

Whilst this issue will be covered in further detail in the papers for this meeting the Chief Constable confirmed Operation Cantil focusing on vehicle crime was still on-going, but he welcomed the news a leading salvage company has prohibited cash transactions. These incidents have gone up over the year and the Force continues to treat this as a priority.

The Commissioner also thanked manufacturers who have been in contact following his release of car theft data, which enables consumers to make informed decisions when purchasing vehicles, and urged them to continue to engage in the process of improving vehicle security.

4. Will the Chief Constable endorse the principles behind the Volunteering England and Trade Union Congress Charter, that seeks to strengthen the relationship between paid employees and policing volunteers?

(Asked by Ashley Bertie on behalf of Ernie Hendricks)

The Chief Constable confirmed the Force currently has over 800 volunteers and they are looking to increase this number. They are however working hard to balance the use of volunteers without using them to fill the roles of salaried staff in times of austerity. There is nothing in the document that he feels would be an unreasonable expectation on the Force.

5. Would the Chief Constable outline the number of rough sleeping deaths in the West Midlands last year and explain the steps West Midlands Police are putting in place to properly record the locations and causes of the deaths?

(To be asked by the Commissioner)

The Chief Constable confirmed there is a national rough sleeper taskforce that publishes guidance on this subject. However West Midlands Police are not involved in all of these incidents so would only have data on cases they have investigated. Since May they have records of 5 deaths where the person was identified as a rough sleeper and the ONS data released in December 2018 places the figure at 45. The Force is however meeting with the Coroner for the area in March 2019 to discuss this issue, as part of its commitment to partnership working.

**POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES: Reducing Crime**

**Item 8c – Tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime ([LINK](#))**

<p><b>025/19</b></p>	<p><i>Presented by Chief Constable David Thompson, ACC Sue Southern and Maria Fox.</i></p> <p>The following key points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force understands these crimes have a direct impact on the public and their confidence is policing. Whilst it is concerning crime has increased in a number of areas this data does need to be put into context, for example there have been changes in recording standards meaning reports of burglary now include the burglary of outbuildings and changes in practices means a burglary of a house of multiple occupancy will now count as several incidents.</li> <li>• In regards to robbery the levels are higher than in the previous year and the increased levels of violence used is concerning, as this is a clear risk to the public. WMP continue to advise people in a carjacking situation to stay in their vehicle and if they feel they are being followed to drive to a police station and/or to call the Force.</li> <li>• The aim would be to close off the stolen vehicle as a commodity market.</li> </ul> <p>During questions from the Board the following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper deliberately does not discuss the effect austerity had on resources as the public would expect the Force to be on top of emerging trends and demands on resources. Whilst the fact remains there are less officers and staff and crime rates are rising, the Force is investing in technology. More resources are needed but as the West Midlands can generate less money through council tax than other areas - this is challenging.</li> <li>• Brexit could have an impact on investigations, particularly in the event of a no-deal. The Force has strong relationships with international colleagues and are confident this will continue.</li> <li>• The Force is working with the OPCC and other Forces to look at improving analytics and to establish good predictive models in policing.</li> <li>• There is a policy to charge offenders with the most serious offences available to the Force, but the Force also continues working with partners such as Liaison and Diversion teams within custody and Youth Offending Partnership.</li> <li>• There continued to be a national debate on the increase in violent crime and how it is has changed.</li> <li>• A key priority for the Force is reducing the number of outstanding offenders and this is reviewed on a daily basis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>026/19</b></p>	<p><b>Item 8a – Fraud (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b></p> <p><i>Presented by ACC Sue Southern and Jenny Birch</i></p> <p>The following key points from the report were highlighted and discussed in questions from the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is now only Action Fraud which makes referrals to local forces to determine a best course of action.</li> <li>• There is a national framework on how to deal with fraud cases that involves offering advice to help people prevent themselves from becoming a repeat victim of fraud and diverting people who are vulnerable to cybercrime from the Criminal Justice System.</li> <li>• WMP were completing a deep dive into the figures showing they have a 3% prosecution rate from April to September 2018, compared to 5% nationally.</li> <li>• The Force is working with financial institutions to obtain more information on cyber enabled crime, which accounts for 84% of fraud in the WMP region.</li> <li>• All victims whose cases have been referred to WMP have a level of contact appropriate to the crime. The citizens in policing project has also recruited</li> </ul>

	<p>volunteers to assist with supporting victims of fraud and whilst they have not started their roles yet this will be evaluated by the OPCC and WMP in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WMP was due to attend a workshop at the end of February 2019 to review a national fraud strategy and corresponding frameworks. This will include how to unpack data held by various organisations.</li> <li>• Until the NECC and regional fraud centres are fully established it is difficult to assess their impact, however WMP is confident in its mandate, focus and vision and that the partnership work involved will be key.</li> <li>• WMP was in the process of recruiting a new protect co-ordinator, who will be responsible for ensuring PCSOs are delivering messages that are in line with current analysis and thinking in this area.</li> <li>• The ECU also have officers sitting within geographical teams and the Public Protection Unit and a specialist team triages referrals so they are handled by the correct team.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p>027/19</p>	<p><b>Item 8b – Proceeds of Crime Act (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b></p> <p><i>Presented by ACC Sue Southern and Jenny Birch</i></p> <p>The following key points from the report were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a healthy improvement in recoveries over £530K.</li> <li>• The ECU is recruiting new members of the financial investigations team which had received a high number of applications.</li> <li>• There are 1000s of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) sent to the Force across the areas of money laundering, vulnerability and intelligence. The ECU intends to review the process of how these are handled and reviewed.</li> <li>• WMP were piloting the use of Unexplained Wealth Orders but have experienced problems as Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs’ information cannot be used in civil matters. WMP particularly wants to increase the use of these orders to show criminal lifestyles do not pay.</li> <li>• The ECU is working with the Crown Prosecution Service around charging decisions</li> <li>• The National Crime Agency was working on best practice advice on dealing with crypto-currency in this context.</li> <li>• The issue of pre-paid cards had been raised with Visa Europe and Europol as these cards are not controlled and there are few records of them.</li> </ul> <p>The following was discussed during questions from the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The allocation of funds obtained in this context is dealt with exclusively by the asset recovery and insentivisation scheme. There is work to be done on making payments more easily identifiable and the finance team do chase when expected payments are delayed. The Commissioner also expressed his opinion that forces should retain a higher percentage of these recoveries.</li> <li>• The ECU works with Neighbourhood Policing Units (NPU’s) so that they are aware of potential opportunities for recoveries. The ECU also monitors detained property logs to look for any potential recoveries.</li> <li>• WMP is not aware of any financial contributions from the National Crime Agency (NCA) in recent years, however if the NCA seize property as part of its operational activities WMP will assist them where possible. <b>The Force will review this in further detail and will report back to the Board.</b></li> <li>• Whilst the report does not include recoveries made by a dedicated officer at Birmingham Airport, as their role covers a number of agencies, WMP continues</li> </ul>

	to work closely with them.
	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b>
<b>028/19</b>	<p><b>Item Finance – Budget Monitoring (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b></p> <p><i>This report was presented by Neil Chamberlain</i></p> <p>The following key points were highlighted and discussed in questions from the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a revised budget reflecting the figures from January 2019.</li> <li>• The discussed underspend of £1.2 million should be viewed in the context of a £530 million budget. West Midlands Police will still be using reserves and this underspend will mean they use less of the reserves.</li> </ul>
<b>029/19</b>	<p><b>Item – Strategic Policing and Crime Board work plan (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b></p> <p><i>Presented by Jonathan Jardine, OPCC Chief Executive</i></p> <p>Note this item was discussed after the questions from the board on this occasion.</p> <p>There have been 2 amendments to the work plan since the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report on the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) that was due to be presented at the meeting will be deferred to March 2019.</li> <li>• There will also be reports on Brexit and the West Midlands Combined Authority in March 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>030/19</b>	<p><b>Item– Chief Constable Update</b></p> <p><i>Presented by WMP Chief Constable Dave Thompson</i></p> <p>The Chief Constable highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There had been a number of violent incidents in the week prior to the meeting and while he could not go into great detail as criminal investigations were on-going, WMP will continue to work with schools and other partners on this issue, particularly in the lead up to the summer where demand for police services traditionally spikes. He feels this is not an issue they can resolve simply by arrests alone and urges parents and carers to discuss it with the young people in their care.</li> <li>• There has been significant work on diversity and inclusion throughout the Force and the CC was proud that the National Sikh Police Association was launched in the West Midlands and is being led by officers from the West Midlands, which has the largest Sikh community in the UK. This is in addition to the Senior Women in Policing Conference being held in Birmingham in March 2019 and LGBT history month being marked across the Force.</li> <li>• Congratulations to DCC Rolfe for being awarded an OBE and Mike Rodgers for being awarded a MBE in the New Year’s honours list.</li> </ul>
	The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the panel, for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 12:49 PM.