



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

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

**Present:**

Richard BAKER : Chief Superintendent  
 Ashley BERTIE : Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Sarah BOYCOTT : Assistant Chief Constable  
 Dr Cath HANNON : Board Member  
 Mary JACOBS : Engagement Officer  
 David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Jonathan JARDINE : Chief Executive, OPCC  
 Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer  
 Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member  
 Tom McNEIL : Board Member  
 Louisa ROLFE : Deputy Chief Constable  
 Waheed SALEEM : Board Member

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>031/19</b>	The Commissioner opened the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
<b>032/19</b>	<b>Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest</b>  There were none.
<b>033/19</b>	<b>Item 2 – Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from APCC Lynnette Kelly and Brendan Connor.
<b>034/19</b>	<b>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 20 February 2019 (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</b> The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

03519	<p><b>Item 4 – PCC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commissioner began by referring to the horrific shootings at Christchurch New Zealand. This was a truly dreadful attack, and was right-wing inspired. This event highlights why we need to be alert, as this type of event could happen anytime and anywhere in the world. One of the most appalling aspects of this case is that it was being broadcast live as it happened, and people were commenting online. Companies such as Facebook need to take some responsibility for this.</li> <li>• The Commissioner has organised a roundtable next week on school exclusions. Ofsted has been invited as well as some headteachers and other interested parties. SPCB members are also welcome to attend this event. We are looking forward to the Timpson Report on School Exclusions, which has been delayed but which should set out some real actions on this problem.</li> </ul>
036/19	<p><b>Item 5 – Acceptance of Petitions</b> There were no petitions.</p>
037/19	<p><b>Item 6 – Public Questions</b> There were no public questions</p>
038/19	<p><b>Item 7 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b></p> <p>1) What assessment has the Chief constable made of the utility of the ‘Vagrancy Act’ of 1824 and how many times has West Midlands Police used it in each of the last five years?</p> <p>Could the Chief Constable also update the Board on the Force’s planned discussions with the coroner on the recording of rough sleeper deaths? [To be asked by the Commissioner]</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded and said that the issues of homelessness and vagrancy are topical issues. The Vagrancy Act has four possible offences, although the use of powers has been declining. This is largely due to multi-agency work to address homelessness. We try to discourage the use of powers as much as possible, as the objective is to encourage people away from this lifestyle. The meeting with the Coroner was due on 7 March, but has to be rearranged. A further update will be provided.</p> <p><b>ACTION: a meeting to take place between Coroner and Force re homelessness, and the outcomes reported back to SPCB.</b></p> <p>A further question was raised, to discuss how <i>Housing First</i> can help to address issues of homelessness.</p> <p>The Chief Constable said that the aim is to provide accommodation, and anything that provides a referral mechanism is very helpful. The police work 24/7 and good quality referrals are always welcome.</p> <p>The Commissioner added his observation that the Mayor, when first elected, said that homelessness was a priority. Unfortunately rough sleeping appears to be worse now than it was two years ago. Also, we need a better understanding of why and how people are dying on the streets, and we need a proper investigation into why this is happening and what can be done. At the present time, with police doing so much, homelessness should not be a policing issue – it should be handled by the local authorities and the Mayor.</p>

	<p>2) Will the Chief Constable update us on progress he is making on tackling theft of vehicles in the West Midlands? [To be asked by the Commissioner]</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that the Force has a plan in place to address this, led by Force CID. A toolkit is available to NPUs. There is an operation still underway which has seized £7 million of stolen assets and more than 800 stolen vehicles have been recovered. It appears that many of the people arrested are at the lower end of organised crime groups, and the groups will be the target of further investigation.</p> <p>There is also national work underway, as this problem is growing in all forces. Chief Supt Chris Todd is part of the Vehicle Crime Task Group which is doing good work around second hand sales, salvage industry and other avenues.</p> <p>What is needed as a next step is increased work to disrupt the organised crime groups, particularly at a higher level within such groups. The NCA strategy is moving towards high impact crimes, which means that they may be in a position to help target the issues nationally.</p>
<b>EMERGING ITEMS</b>	
039/19	<p><b>Item 8: Brexit and Policing <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b> Presented by Chief Supt Rich Baker.</p> <p>The Chief Constable began by saying there are two elements to consider. If there are no treaty arrangements, policing powers will cease to operate as they currently do. The second issue is of general resilience. The fundamental challenge is that we don't know what form Brexit will take.</p> <p>Supt Richard Baker introduced the report and the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if there is an extension to Article 50 the Force will continue to have access to policing tools in the usual way. There will be a transition period until 2020, and from then onwards it is highly likely that the use of policing tools will change. The negotiations in the interim period provides some time to agree and understand the new tool.</li> <li>• The Commissioner asked about data held by the Force and other European states, and whether this would be retained. Supt Baker said that the amount of information held is already limited by GDPR, and going forward this will form part of the discussions about the new deal. The UK submits about 40% of the data towards Europol. In a no-deal or third nation scenario the relationship with Europol could change considerably.</li> <li>• By 29 March there will not be a large number of back records converted, and this is being worked through by each department. A risk matrix is being developed nationally by the ICC.</li> <li>• The Extradition Act 1957 may need to be used in the event of no deal. The European Arrest warrant takes about three – four months, and it is anticipated that the Act would increase this to about 15 months. Also, some countries, such as Germany, do not routinely extradite their own nationals to other countries to</li> </ul>

	<p>face prosecution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of resources, will the Force pay for this, or will be funded nationally? This is still being negotiated and discussed nationally to provide local forces in their work on back record conversion.</li> <li>• In terms of hate crime, it is underlying fear that prevents people reporting. What plans are in place for community reassurance on this? There have not been increases in hate crime. The Chief Constable has met with the EU consulates to discuss these issues.</li> <li>• The levels of joint engagement, sharing of best practice and planning with other partners is very strong.</li> <li>• Proactive work is ongoing with the PNC to identify individuals who need to be deported, and steps are being taken to speed up this process to ensure these deportations take place before the legislation is lost. Further updates will be provided on the progress of these arrests.</li> <li>• The Commissioner finished by saying he has a serious concern that some criminals may get themselves to other countries and avoid arrest and justice.</li> </ul>
040/19	<p><b>Item 9: WMCA and Policing Governance.</b><a href="#">(LINK)</a> Presented by Jonathan Jardine.</p> <p>The Police and Crime Plan includes a commitment to close working with the Combined Authority (CA), and the Commissioner is an observer at the CA.</p> <p>In terms of the transfer of governance, there has been close cooperation with the CA. The agreement put in place in February 2018 states that the final governance model must be approved by each constituent authority, the Mayor and the Commissioner. This provides that the Commissioner has a decision making power in this. It is concerning therefore that the latest report from the CA uses a different form of words. The precedent from the only similar model, Greater Manchester, was clear that the support of the PCC was integral to the decision to proceed with the merger.</p> <p>The purpose of this item is for SPCB members to advise the Commissioner whether he should use his decision making power to support the merger, using the three tests outlined in the report. The following advice was offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing provided by the CA indicates how the governance role will be effectively managed by the CA. It is not clear how the proposed governance arrangement will secure accountability of the Chief Constable (will it be to the Mayor or to a Deputy Mayor?); nor how the proposal will allow policing functions (such as borrowing) to be facilitated.</li> <li>• The quality of the consultation with the public – it is understood that in terms of people making multiple submissions to the consultation, there is an investigation by Solihull Council and also by the Conservative Party. We don't know the outcome of the investigation into these serious allegations.</li> <li>• Impact on governance – the CA Board has met only three times in the last six months but attendance appears to be very low at around 50%. This is the same for the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee where 10 out of 16 members have only attended once or less, and the pattern is repeated in many of the Boards and Committees, such as the Investments Board and the Public Service Reform Board. There are few meetings, and attendance is extremely low. In view of</li> </ul>

	<p>this, it is questionable what value would be added to policing governance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CA has suggested that nothing would change and it would be ‘business as usual’ retaining something similar to the SPCB. However, based on the analysis in the previous point, it seems there would be a significant risk in moving to a CA model of governance. We need further assurances on how the oversight functions would work.</li> <li>• Under the key powers of the Mayor, there is a big role in transport as well as the growing problems with homelessness and mental health. The Mayor has a lot to do and a long way to go to demonstrate that anything has been achieved in these areas. This is not the right time for the Mayor to take on another huge area of responsibility and work.</li> <li>• The media stories that some councillors have been urged to submit more than one response to the consultation are troubling, and need to be explored and resolved before a decision is made. We don’t know the number of responses involved in the alleged multiple submissions. This undermines the entire consultation.</li> <li>• We are yet to receive a proper answer to the most important question– <i>how will policing governance be better under the Mayor?</i> It is perverse that this has not been addressed.</li> <li>• The Combined Authority is due to make its decision on the matter on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the discussion assisted the Commissioner in his deliberations in preparation for this meeting.</li> </ul>
	<b>BREAK</b>
	<b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES: Standing up for Young People</b>  <b>APCC Ashley Bertie Chaired this section of the meeting.</b>
041/19	<p><b>Item 10a – Youth Commission <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b>  <i>Presented by Mary Jacobs.</i>  The Youth Commission has been in place since 2014. In 2018 the model was successfully revisited, and new Youth Commissioners were elected by 5000 voters across the region, resulting in high quality youth commissioners now in place.</p> <p>The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The top priority for the Youth Commission is knife crime. The Commission is exploring what it can contribute to this.</li> <li>• The Commission is exploring how people with lived experience can contribute in terms of victims’ services, knife crime and also drug and alcohol services.</li> <li>• The idea of a youth commissioner taking on a role as a trustee for the Building Blocks charity has been explored. They are interested but there are practical hurdles as the meetings tend to be during college hours. A youth commissioner did act as trustee but unfortunately could only do it for six months. This will be explored further.</li> </ul>
042/19	<p><b>Item 10b – Building Blocks <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b>  <i>Presented by mark Kenyon, who gave an introduction to the charity and the projects it has supported.</i>  The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PCC has increased the support to the charity by providing the support of the Head of Business Services, Polly Reed, to help the charity meet its business objectives.</li> <li>• The charity supports the focus around young people which is so important in the</li> </ul>

	<p>West Midlands, and it will be good to see how the work unfolds over the coming months and years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>043/19</b></p>	<p><b>Item 10c – Cadets, Apprenticeships, Work Experience and Princes Trust <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b> Presented by ACC Boycott and Chris Thurley.</p> <p>The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The target for recruitment of Specials is ambitious at 650, and this is being supported by work with the Business Improvement Districts, as well as effective administrative processes to support the recruitment.</li> <li>• Recruitment of police officers is also ongoing, although the two recruitments are being managed separately. For specials, the Force is exploring how to tap into local communities and structures, and also address the diversity of the specials.</li> <li>• There have traditionally been high levels of attrition for Specials. This has been explored and it seems that a number of specials were not actively engaging and attending. This has resulted in a number of these people leaving the specials. Joining the specials is not ruled out as a way of accessing a career as a police officer, but it is not a natural career path and the two are separate.</li> <li>• Specials have a role in the public protection unit. One individual takes on this role and his role is unique as he has medical qualifications, enabling him to take on a frontline voluntary role.</li> <li>• There is a Board which looks at development opportunities for specials and this is at the early stages of looking for opportunities for specials within investigation.</li> <li>• Junior PCSO schemes operate mainly in Sandwell. These are run locally, and information is being gathered on the successes of these new arrangements, including the diversity mix achieved. More information will be provided on this.</li> <li>• There is an ambitious target for 500 cadets. Based on the operational challenges it is not realistic that we will reach 500 by 2020. The emphasis has been on achieving a steady and sustainable approach to developing the scheme, rather than higher numbers. Notwithstanding this, there is a waiting list for both cadets and volunteers and we need to make sure we use this enthusiasm to reach the target of 500.</li> <li>• The challenge of running a cadet scheme is training and maintaining the leaders. There are currently 27 leaders, but to achieve 500 would need more than 150 cadet leaders. There is a limit in the amount of time internal colleagues are able to devote to the cadet scheme, and so external recruitment is underway for cadet leaders. The Force is not in a position to pay for cadet leaders and so this is challenging.</li> <li>• The Commissioner asked why the target of 500 has been changed. The Commissioner expressed serious concerns about this change and does not agree that the target is overly ambitious.</li> <li>• The Chief Constable said that the current ability to grow cadet leaders is constrained, and there are opportunities to explore volunteers from schools which is being followed by the team in POD. It would be useful to do some joint work with the PCC and his staff team in order to explore what more can be done to achieve the ambition and the target. The Commissioner agreed that this work should be prioritised and this should take place in the next week.</li> <li>• In terms of safeguarding, the Force is working on a ratio of one leader to ten cadets. Of the current leaders however, most are internal and are constrained by their shift patterns. This means that in reality only a third are available at any one time. The way forward is to explore and expand the number of external volunteers.</li> <li>• The referral process for Princes' Trust is through the Integrated Offender</li> </ul>

	Manager team, to identify young people who will get the most benefit from the Scheme.
	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b>
<b>044/19</b>	<p><b>Item 11a Finance – Fees and Charges <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b>  <i>This annual report was presented by Mark Kenyon</i></p> <p>The following key points were highlighted and discussed in questions from the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Home Office sets the fee to be charged for gun licenses. At the current rate this means that the Force is making a loss on this service, in the region of £100k per annum.</li> <li>• At the recent Aston Villa derby game, 500 police officers were deployed, and six months of planning was required. A view was expressed that the Home Office should support police forces by introducing legislation to allow them to charge football clubs for the full cost involved in policing matches.</li> </ul>
<b>045/19</b>	<p><b>Item 11b Strategic Policing Requirement <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b>  Presented by DCC Louisa Rolfe, who gave a brief summary of the points from the circulated report.</p> <p>The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each part of the work outlined in the report relies on effective stakeholder engagement and governance. This will be discussed in detail during the next meeting of the Joint Audit Committee. It is currently overseen predominantly in the operational policing sphere but it also sits across other areas, with effective overall governance in place.</li> <li>• There is a growing threat from far right organisations which is actively monitored by the CTU. More information on this will be provided for SPCB members.</li> <li>• The report helps to fulfil the statutory duty of the Commissioner to have regard to the SPR. This is the sixth such report. A new element is the issue of the resource burden of hosting the CTU, which currently accounts for 10% of WMP resources. The Force has moved to a position where the vacant posts in CTU are open to other forces in the region, which has been helpful although doesn't relieve the entire burden. The Force is now part of the Detective Academy which is also helpful.</li> <li>• The missing persons team/ Locate team is to be reviewed in view of the change in national policy, and will be managed by ACC Southern.</li> </ul>
<b>046/19</b>	<p><b>Item – Strategic Policing and Crime Board work plan <a href="#">(LINK)</a></b>  <i>Presented by Jonathan Jardine, OPCC Chief Executive.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that a further item on the police cadet programme be added to the work plan.</p>
<b>047/19</b>	<p><b>Item– Chief Constable Update</b>  <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>• The issue of off road biking is very concerning and also dangerous for local residents. There is considerable work by the Force on this including initiatives such as sprays that can be used to mark individuals. The Chief Constable was particularly pleased to see 29 convictions last week under the offence of Public Nuisance. This is one of the largest successful operations in the country. This offence infuriates the public but is notoriously hard to police. It is hoped that this successful result sends out a strong message to offenders.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regard to knife crime – this remains very high profile and there have been three very recent murders in Birmingham. Offenders have been charged and are now in the hands of the courts. Much work has taken place including increases in the amount of stop and search, using s60. This sent out a strong message and 1600 people were searched, with a positive outcome of more than 9%. The aim now is to continue to use s60, but in a more targeted way.</li> <li>• Stop and talk has also been a useful tool with schools and young people, and this work will continue to try and target the fear based weapon carrying.</li> <li>• The Violence Reduction work has been very positive and there is potential more resources coming to the West Midlands to continue this. The challenge is to make sure we can get the right interventions to the right young people, working closely with partners to achieve this. The announcement over further funding is still awaited.</li> </ul>
	<p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the panel, for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 1.10 PM.</p>