



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 1 March 2016 in Committee Room 2 Birmingham City Council House

Present: Jamieson, David – Police and Crime Commissioner
Connor, Brendan – Board Member
Hannon, Cath – Board Member
Hendricks, Ernie – Board Member
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Board Member

In attendance: Thompson, David – Chief Constable
Jardine, Jonathan – Chief Executive
Rolfe, Louisa – Deputy Chief Constable
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources
Kenyon, Mark – Chief Finance Officer
Nicholson, Andrew – Chief Superintendent
Gabbitas, Andrea – Business Support Manager

Observers: 3

025/16 Opening Remarks

025/16

The Police and Crime Commissioner welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

The Commissioner was pleased to state that the online shopping company Amazon had banned the sale of 'Zombie' knives following the recent high profile campaign.

026/16 Conflicts of Interest

026/16

None.

027/16 Apologies

027/16

Apologies had been received from Yvonne Mosquito, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Judy Foster, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

028/16 Notes of the Last Meeting**028/16**

The Board approved the notes of the meeting held in public on 2 February 2016 with the clarification that a further report for wider reassurance would be submitted to a future SPCB meeting regarding strategic health and safety issues and performance.

029/16 Public Questions**029/16**

There were no questions received from the public.

030/16 Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda**030/16**

Three questions had been submitted to the Chief Constable. The questions were as follows:

1. Could the Chief Constable tell us how WMP will be responding to the recommendations in the HMIC report 'Police Effectiveness 2015' in particular the areas for improvement around serious and organised crime as follows
 - The force should complete its serious and organised crime local profile including relevant data from partner agencies, and ensure that it has a local partnership structure in place with responsibility for tackling serious and organised crime.
 - The force should improve the awareness of organised crime groups among neighbourhood teams to ensure that they can reliably identify these groups, proactively collect intelligence and disrupt their activity.
 - The force should ensure that it is exploiting the full range of intelligence sources to provide the best possible understanding of serious and organised crime.
 - The force should improve its understanding of the impact of its activity on serious and organised crime, and ensure that it learns from experience to maximise the force's disruptive effect on this activity.In addition could he also provide a timeframe as to when the issues will be addressed?

(Ernie Hendricks asked the question)

In response the Chief Constable stated that:

- The Force had rated good in this area of business and that additional work was already being undertaken to improve on this rating. The 2020 data dive gave an insight into how information was collated. A better way of storing data was being developed as a large amount was still managed manually.
- With regard to evidencing practice with partnership agencies Organised Crime Partnership Forums were to be in place as soon as possible. In addition serious and organised crime local profiles would become available in the autumn.
- An awareness within Neighbourhood teams had increased with a structure in place to ensure that this is developed. This specific style of briefing will be rolled out to other LPUs.

2. Could the Chief Constable tell us about the measures WMP will be putting in place to address the concerns raised in the HMIC report, 'Police Effectiveness 2015', relating to capacity when tackling sexual offenders highlighted as follows

West Midlands is seeing large increases in the numbers of sex offenders it has to manage, and this demand is likely to grow as forces become more effective at tackling online sexual offenders. Staff highlighted the effect on capacity and resilience, with officers currently managing approximately 90 offenders each. The force is aware of these risks and recognises that it must implement appropriate measures to ensure the unit remains effective.
(Ernie Hendricks asked the question)

In response, the Chief Constable indicated that:

- There had been a 37% rise in persons on the sex offenders register. They were all graded as to risk and their management was focussed on multi-agency public protection arrangements which were fully legally compliant.
 - 2020 would create even more resilience within this sphere of policing which would include specialist officers at local team level able to manage offenders.
3. Will the Chief Constable give an overview of actions WMP took around the incident on the M6 at 1.50am on the 4th February 2016.
(David Jamieson asked the question)

The Chief Constable replied with the following comments:

- Force resources attended and managed the direct risk to other members of the public, once the Collision Investigation Unit arrived on site the incident was handed over to the Highways Agency. A complicated removal of vehicles ensued.
- A debrief of agencies involved, including local authorities, followed a review of the incident.

Mr Jamieson stated that members of the public felt that the incident had not been handled well. There was a need to introduce robust procedures to ensure that if such incidents occurred in the future disruption would be kept to a minimum.

031/16 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme – 1st April 2015 to 1st February 2016 031/16

Paul Norton introduced the report which updated the Board on the performance of the West Midlands Custody Visiting Scheme which is a key contributor to maintaining public confidence in the police.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion, noted the following points:

- The snapshot of examples of comments made by custody visitors during their visits contained in appendix A provided an interesting

insight into the range of issues dealt with by the custody visitors.

- Custody visitors had raised a number of concerns regarding the provision of healthcare professionals to custody such as the timeliness of attendance at custody sites. The performance of the service providers, Primecare, was managed and reviewed against an agreed performance framework by West Midlands police.
- The importance of the scheme should not be underestimated. The custody visitors were all volunteers and were providing independent assessments.
- The volunteers conducted visits at the counter terrorism custody suite as well as at the Force's standard custody suites.
- A number of Custody Visitors also acted as appropriate adults for vulnerable adults within custody, this ensured that legal requirements were complied with. The Force were assisting Coventry University with a review of appropriate adult provision.
- Both the Commissioner and Chief Constable asked that their thanks to all the volunteers who did an extensive amount of work be put on record. This area of work was very important and an event for the volunteers to thank them for their services would be held in July.

032/16 Performance against the 2015/16 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan

032/16

Louisa Rolfe, Deputy Chief Constable, introduced the report which updated members on performance and progress against the milestones and deliverables included within the Police and Crime Plan.

The DCC explained that performance was stable compared with similar Forces. Confidence had slightly decreased but was above average. There was a disparity of 17% across Local Policing Units with regard to perceptions of safety. Public place violence had reduced following an upturn earlier in the year whilst burglary had dropped following specific taskings after a spike in offences.

The Chief Executive drew attention to the development of a West Midlands Combined Authority which had engaged with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Victims Fund demonstrated the direct commissioning of services and which was a business change for the PCCs office. The Gangs and Violence project would be launched in the near future with a report due back to Board in September. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that the contribution of the Youth Commissioners had impacted positively on the safer transport input in policing. This was to be commended. West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime had been awarded CoPaCC's Transparency Quality Mark 2015, recognising the work that is done to make the public aware of how the police spend their money and the decisions the PCC makes.

Following a question from the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Wilkins updated the Board with regard to the new custody site builds being undertaken by Willmott and Dixon. Financial costs are being recovered due to the delay in completing the works, and these will offset the costs of operating cover for the sites.

The Commissioner was pleased with the overall Force performance.

033/16 Outcome of Performance Workshop

033/16

The Chief Executive introduced the report which provided a summary of the discussions at the Performance Workshop held on 16 February 2016. It was noted that the Gangs and Violence Commission would be launched in the near future.

034/16 Dip Sampling of Completed Complaints Files

034/16

Andrea Gabbitas introduced the report which provided information about the outcome of the dip-sampling of completed complaints files undertaken by members of the Board on 3 December 2015. A total of 20 completed files for complaints of incivility were inspected. There were no matters of concern in how the investigations took place.

The Board considered the report and noted its contents. The Board considered that the exercise was a very good way of offering assurance to the public that complaints were being dealt with properly by the Force.

Councillor Sawdon stated that a lot of time was spent on complaints that did not seem to deem a full response. In reply Chief Superintendent Nicholson advised that a service recovery team look at incoming cases within 48 hours of receipt and undertake a local resolution those cases which were deemed suitable.

035/16 Professional Standards Quality of Service

035/16

The Deputy Chief Constable, Louisa Rolfe, introduced the report which provided an overview of the recent work of Professional Standards Department. Chief Superintendent Nicholson stated that there had been a slight rise in complaints but the Force was broadly in line with other similar Forces.

The Board considered the report and during the discussion noted the following points:

- A rise in referrals to the IPCC was possibly due to the increase in the number of staff and the associated capability to accommodate more referrals.
- Police misconduct cases (those that are identified internally and do not involve a complaint from the public) had seen a small decrease during the first half of 2015.

- The current system of misconduct hearings being held in public was compliant with the statutory process. Hearings had seen a very low public attendance.
- Rate Your Local Police had been re-introduced towards the end of 2015 and its usage had been light but was beginning to improve.
- The Policing and Crime Bill, as currently drafted, would allow the PCC the right to inform the chief constable that it is taking over certain functions in the process of handling complaints which were previously performed by the chief officer.

036/16 Fees and Charges 2016/17

036/16

The PCC Chief Finance Officer and Director of Resources introduced the report which detailed the proposed fees and charges to be made by West Midlands Police in 2016/17 to users for certain services.

It was suggested that the cost of a shotgun license should cover the actual administrative cost. It was clarified that the license fee was set nationally.

037/16 West Midlands Police Strategic Assessment 2016/17

037/16

The Chief Constable introduced the 2016/17 West Midlands police Strategic Assessment which identified Violence and Intervention and Prevention as key priorities for the Force. There is a drive for a stronger partnership approach to prevention dealing with root causes rather than outcomes.

Board members commented that the Strategic Assessment was an impressive report which was an outstanding proactive and preventative document.

038/16 Chief Constable Update

038/16

The Chief Constable provided an update on the following matters.

- HMIC Peel assessments had identified areas where the Force could strengthen its position. There had been a really positive improvement around vulnerable people with an ambition to make more improvements.
- The Force had made a number of terrorism related arrests of persons travelling from within the West Midlands.

Meeting closed at 12.39pm