



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 4 October 2016
Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Birmingham City Council House**

Present:

David Jamieson - Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Kenyon - OPCC Chief Finance Officer
Judy Foster - Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Gurinder Josan - Board Member
Cllr Liam Preece - Board Member
Waheed Saleem - Board Member

David Thompson - Chief Constable
Louisa Rolfe - Deputy Chief Constable
Chief Inspector Sean Russell

Observers + Note Taker- 7 individuals

079/16	Conflicts of Interest Waheed Saleem and Dr Sarah Marwick declared their connection to Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust in relation to agenda item 8.
080/16	Opening remarks The Commissioner opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reminding them of the webcasting protocol. He thanked David Wilkin (in his absence) for the excellent work which he has done during his time with West Midlands Police. The Chief Constable reiterated this.
081/16	Apologies Apologies were received from Jonathan Jardine, Ashley Bertie, Ernie Hendricks and Cath Hannon.
082/16	Notes of Last Meeting The Commissioner made reference to item 070/16 on the minutes of the last meeting pertaining to vetting and said that he intended to mention DBS checks in his question about vetting.
083/16	Acceptance of Petitions A petition from the residents of Perry Barr Ward via Councillor Jon Hunt was submitted to the Chief Constable by the Commissioner. The petition is an objection to the local neighbourhood police team being based at Thornhill Road,

	<p>Handsworth with a call for it to be based locally.</p> <p>The Commissioner will speak to Councillor Hunt regarding the petition.</p>
084/16	<p>Questions from the public</p> <p>There were no questions from members of the public.</p>
085/16	<p>Questions from the Board</p> <p>There were 4 questions from the Board.</p> <p>Q1: Asked by Brendan Connor: Would the Chief Constable comment on the progress that has been made to enable the sharing of data between WMP and (a) Local authorities in the West Midlands and (b) NHS Organisations in the West Midlands? Is he satisfied that sufficient progress has been made to date to ensure that the Police and Crime Plan objective is actively supported by partner agencies? What obstacles remain to the effective sharing of data held by 3rd party agencies?</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are good standards of case-based sharing arrangements across the West Midlands with health colleagues and local authorities, and in the area of integrated offender management - Solihull have done good work to bring services together - There is an on-going A&E project with the ambulance service to share information around injuries and admissions in the health system, and the pattern of ambulance attendance around violence - Keen for local authorities to lead on troubled families but the police will still be involved - More work needs to be done to develop strategic bulk data sharing. Data from the insight project 2020 will help to create the capability to share - Ethical issues can arise when manipulating bulk data but WMP will continue to progress this work. - Some officers have extensive access to Birmingham City Council data which helps to identify vulnerable people, especially in real time. This isn't yet replicated in other councils. This is about system availability and access rather than protocol <p>The Commissioner stated that data sharing was in the Police and Crime Plan in the collaboration section.</p> <p>Q2: Asked by Brendan Connor: Does WMP record time spent by officers in A&E departments dealing with offenders or incidents particularly at peak times?</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time spent in A&E by officers is not recorded but there is potential to start monitoring this with changes to policing after November - Some people need medical help before they can be detained in police stations - Police are trying to strike a balance and ensure that they are not routinely holding people with mental health issues in stations when they should be in hospital - The police can be called to A&E or mental health estates to intervene with patients who are violent and disruptive and/or have mental health issues. - There should be clear escalation processes within these mental health

estates

- A lot of work has already been done to avoid the need for police to need to deal with issues in mental health estates
- The police want to be responsive to issues which occur inside hospitals but there is a need to work with hospitals' own security

Q3: Asked by Waheed Saleem: Can the Chief Constable set out what the force is doing to support the prosecution of those involved in FGM considering that there have been no successful prosecutions in the UK?

The Chief Constable responded:

- WMP was inspected by HMIC in this area approximately 18 months ago and is regarded as an advanced force in the country around this work
- The force receive a lot of referrals often from the health sector, often from maternity environments
- There are very few cases where FGM practice is carried out in the UK, it usually takes place overseas
- The force mainly focus' on safeguarding, child protection and education
- There are currently 5 FGM protection orders in place
- The force works with the health service with regards to training to ensure that health professionals recognise FGM and understand the illegal practice around it
- The police will prosecute if possible, but very few happen in the UK
- The police are alert at key times of the year both in terms of referrals and around identifying where vulnerable young women leave the country at those times of the year, who may be subject to the practice. The force also works with airports to identify this
- The force works on educating parents – fathers play an important role as they may not fully understand what the procedure entails and can be pressured into allowing it
- Prevention is the most import thing
- There are good communications with community groups under the banner of Operation Sentinel.

APCC Judy Foster was encouraged by this response. She acknowledged that it was a complex area and said that it was encouraging that the PCC had put resources into this area through the Victims Commission. The importance of data sharing in this area was noted.

APCC Judy Foster: What more can local authorities do to support the police in securing prosecutions?

The Chief Constable responded:

- local authorities have stepped up in this area
- It is now strongly embedded as a training issue in local authorities
- Cases are usually subjected to joint intervention visits by the police and health care practitioners

Board: Does the law need to be made stronger?

The Chief Constable responded:

- He does not think this is a legal issue as most of the cases are outside the jurisdiction of the UK, so it can be difficult to gather evidence.
- More work can be done around educating families
- WMP FGM orders were the first to be taken out in the country
- Young women or girls who fear that they are going to be subjected to this

are worried that if they come forward they may be getting their parents into trouble. The message from the force is that these girls should come forward and trust them, a teacher or a health professional. It will be dealt with in an appropriate and sensitive way

Q4. Asked by David Jamieson.

Can the Chief Constable provide an update on the progress of West Midlands Police and Central Motorways Police Group in addressing the 11 recommendations that emerged from the M6 hearing in March this year?

The Chief Constable responded:

- The recommendations were largely about how agencies could work together or what procedures they need to follow to be more effective
- Ensuring that the Central Patrol Motorway Group (CMPG) were able to make Highways England aware of spillages and/or damage to carriageway at the earliest opportunity, and also allow a level of assessment earlier on.
- A Senior Investigation Officer assessment now takes place at the incident.
- Highways England has amended its Crisis Management Manual to be clear about major incidents
- There will be a further update report to the Board
- Exercises are being planned which include a severe weather exercise

The Commissioner: do you think that the enquiry and the work that has been carried out in recent months have helped the culture of cooperation between WMP officers, Highways England and the local authority highways engineers?

The Chief Constable responded:

The enquiry has stimulated the joining up of procedures for extraordinary events

- On a day-to-day basis WMP staff sit alongside Highways England staff, and the incident has focused on better joint plans rather than individual agency plans

The Commissioner: if that incident happened today, are you now confident that we would jointly be dealing with all the agencies better than we did in February?

The Chief Constable responded that he was confident in that there has been a lot of work on how to collaborate together more effectively, and that:

- The timeframe around the assessment should be reduced at the front which was one of the big issues
- More awareness about the need to collaborate and a better understanding of major incident procedures
- The challenge is that this is an increasingly busy road network so this will need to be monitored as traffic volumes increase

The Commissioner: it was agreed that 6 months after the hearing, agencies would reconvene to look at the progress which has been made. We are awaiting clarification on which agency will coordinate this.

<p>086/16</p>	<p>Professional Standards (PSD)</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report and stated that WMP's approach in terms of recording and the accuracy of processes in complaints handling was recognised by HMIC and the IPCC as good practice. WMP are working very hard to ensure that the team is knowledgeable about the regulations.</p> <p>The Commissioner asked about timeliness of investigations, and how this compares to other similar forces?</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IPCC set out a target response time of 100 days - Steps are been taken to address lengthy investigations - Supervisor and management training is to be provided so that poor conduct can be challenged at an earlier stage - There has been a substantial reduction of staff in unit, and this needs to be addressed - Data does not currently capture how many cases involved the officer making an apology to the complainant - It is expected that body worn cameras may reduce the number of complaints. The cameras are also popular with officers <p>In response to a question about the work of the vetting unit, the Chief Constable said that the force work within national vetting standards and that he was very supportive of vetting staff as although there are nationally regulated codes, they need to make difficult decisions.</p> <p>There was then a discussion about disproportionality in police misconduct and complaints procedures. The Deputy Chief Constable said that the Force is working hard to address unconscious bias and keen to bring work carried out by PSD back to the Board.</p>
<p>087/16</p>	<p>Performance – Strengthening Communities and Growing the Economy</p> <p>Chief Inspector Sean Russell presented the section of the report on mental health, and highlighted the work underway within the force and also within the West Midlands Mental Health Commission. In response to a number of questions the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are now a number of places of safety covering the force area - Huge progress has been made over the last 18 months - There is a lack of provision of places of safety for children in the Black Country. The force is working with agencies to develop this area of work. - Changes in provision in Birmingham for age group 0-25 - there are now two providers - The force is working closely with partners across the criminal justice system, in particular the Community Rehabilitation Company and Probation service, to ensure that mental health is recognised as a priority and that early interventions are in place across the service <p>Mark Kenyon introduced the section of the report on economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The OPCC consulted on business crime in Feb 2016 - The strategy has been positively received by business across the region - The economic development survey will be an online survey in future -

088/16	<p>Police and Crime Plan</p> <p>The Board made a number of observations about the Police and Crime Plan, which had previously been considered in draft form by the Police and Crime Panel.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Plan was a comprehensive piece of work in terms of engagement and congratulated the team on the successful production of the Plan.</p>
089/16	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>The Annual Report had previously been considered by the Board, and was endorsed.</p>
090/16	<p>SPCB Workplan</p> <p>The SPCB Workplan was presented to the board and there were no comments or queries from the Board.</p>
091/16	<p>Update</p> <p>The Chief Constable provided an update on a number of current issues, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent media reports regarding the Birmingham pub bombings indicated that information was sourced from the police regarding new DNA evidence. This was inaccurate - The Conservation party conference was a success in terms of the police operation <p>The Commissioner stated that all conferences were welcome to the city. He thanked the Chief Constable and asked him to pass on his thanks to the officers involved in the planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment – more than 9000 expressions of interest were received and more outreach work will be done to attract applications - Road Policing – work is on-going to improve cycling awareness. A lot of work has been carried out by the Central Motorways Police Group (CMPG)
092/16	<p>Private session</p> <p>There was a private session after the meeting.</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the public meeting.</p>
093/16	<p>The meeting closed at 12.25.</p>