



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD 6th DECEMBER 2016

Performance Report: Building Trust and Confidence in our Police

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board with an update on performance against the 'Building trust and confidence in policing' chapter of the 2016-2020 Police and Crime Plan. This paper will focus on four elements of the chapter; Confidence in Policing, Satisfaction with Service, Taser use and Stop and Search.

CONFIDENCE IN POLICING & SATISFACTION WITH SERVICE

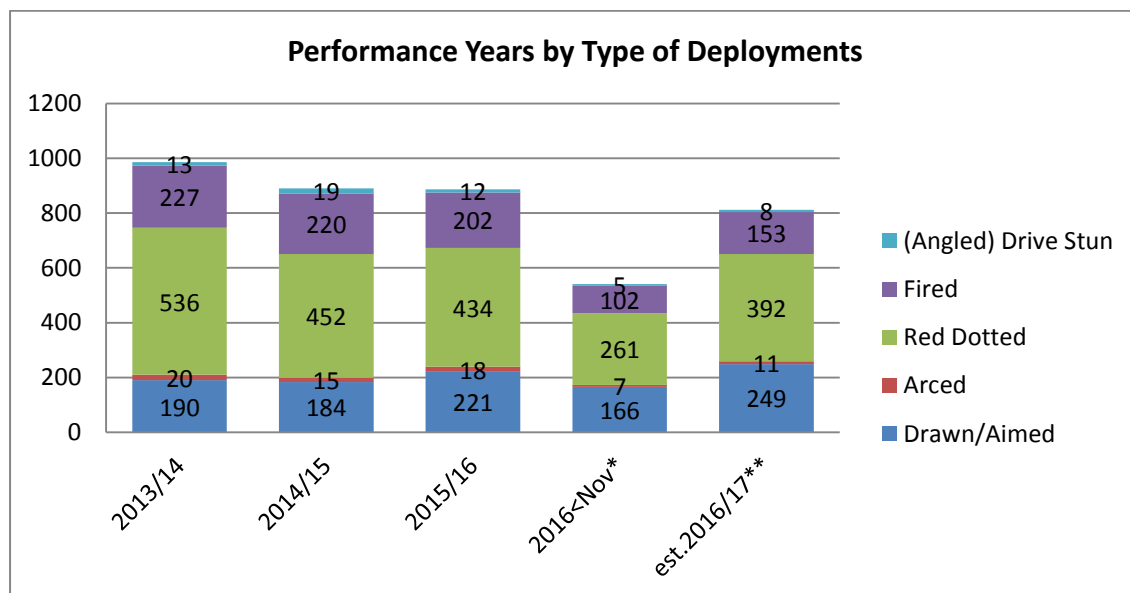
2. West Midlands Police (WMP) Victim and Public Surveys are currently undergoing significant change as part of the Active Citizen project in the WMP 2020 programme. The project involves developing new ways of connecting and working with the public to access information and services, whilst increasing visibility and communication to enable WMP to obtain feedback from the community.
3. The Victim Satisfaction and Public Perception surveys will be replaced in early 2016 with an online solution, which will allow WMP to gather the opinions of a wider cross section of its communities than ever before. The new surveys will represent a significant cost saving for WMP but also reflect the changing nature of the population and greater digital accessibility.
4. Starting from January 2017, victims of crime will receive an email 6 weeks after reporting a crime, to answer a short survey about the service they received. From April, subscribers to the WMNow updates system will be asked about priorities and policing in their neighbourhoods.
5. This changed methodology will not allow comparison with findings of previous research, however it will ensure WMP can target the views of all of its communities and provide more dynamic reporting. An earlier pilot of the survey has shown thorough representation across all demographic groups. A further pilot will be conducted in December.

- In the period between the cessation of the old methodologies and the launch of WMNow surveys, there is no interim solution. A replacement would have created costs that were not provided for under the Active Citizens project.

TASER DEPLOYMENTS

- Performance data from the last 3 years shows that overall Taser use has fallen year on year and this year's current results suggest a similar decline. The data also shows that use by firing, red dotting and angle drive stun has also fallen, whilst the drawing and aiming of the Taser has increased. This demonstrates that the presence of Taser and the drawing/red dotting of it is becoming an increasing tactical option in resolving a significant number of incidents, without requiring the firing or drive stun of the device.
- Figure 1.0 lists the use of Taser by WMP officers for the last three full performance years, the current available data up to and including most of November 2016 and the estimate figures for year-end 2016/17.

Figure 1.0 – No. of Taser Deployments by Type per Performance Year



- Comparing types of use within each calendar year there is a fairly consistent ratio of type used over the 4 year period (+/- 10%).
- Red-dotting is consistently the most used type of deployment accounting for at least half of all deployments every year.
- The ratio of drawn/aimed (the lowest form of force used) is relatively equal to that of fired (higher level of force used) throughout the last four years.

9. Table 2.0 compares total deployments by Local Policing Units (LPUs) against their recorded number of violent crimes over the last performance year. For comparative purposes, each LPU's total is also listed as a percentage of the force's total.

Table 2.0 - Split over 2016/17 by Local Policing Unit and Correlation to Violent Crime

Taser Use Vs Violent Crime Figures (2016/17)				
LPU	Taser Use	Taser Use %	Violent Crime	Violent Crime %
BE	61	11	5599	13
BN	48	9	2707	6
BS	47	9	4712	11
BW	81	15	6819	16
CV	78	14	4664	11
DY	24	4	3725	8
SH	9	2	2261	5
SW	61	11	5047	12
WS	54	10	3739	9
WV	58	11	4560	10
CMPG	3	1		
FOU	9	2		
OSU	8	1		
Off				
WMP	0	0		
Total	541	100	43833	100
*including incidents involving dogs etc and multiple officer deployments				

- Over the current performance year so far (1st Apr – 23 Nov 2016) Taser has been deployed 541 times by WMP officers (incl WMP based Central Motorway Police Group officers).
- Higher use LPUs are Birmingham West & Central, Sandwell, Coventry and Birmingham East. Lower use LPUs are Solihull and Dudley, just as they were for the performance year 2015/16;
- The majority of LPUs have a correlation between their use of Taser and levels of violent crime within a margin of +/- 2%. Namely, the LPU's use of Taser is comparable to their violent crime figures when compared as percentages. For example, Birmingham West & Central accounts for 15% of the force's Taser use and has 16% of all recorded violent crime.

Breakdown of use

10. Table 3.0 lists the characteristics of subjects dealt with by Taser during the performance year 2016 to date. Details include gender, age, ethnicity and whether any aggravating factors were suspected at the time, such as mental health issues or intoxication (drink and/or drugs).

Table 3.0 – Subject Characteristics

YEAR 2016/17 to date (1st Apr – 23 Nov)		Taser Use	
Subject		No.	%Tot
Gender	Male	506	94
	Female	31	6
	Not Stated	1	0
	Dog	3	1
Age	<18	32	6
	18-38	387	72
	39-59	113	21
	59>	4	1
	Not Stated	5	1
Ethnicity	Asian	71	13
	Black	95	18
	Mixed	34	6
	Other	8	1
	White	326	60
	Not Stated	7	1
Ailment	Mental Health / EMD	100	18
	Intoxication	162	30
	Mental Health / EMD & Intoxication	130	24
	Total M.H.	230	43
	Total Intox	292	54
	Total	541	100

11. The above data allows for a comparison of subject characteristics dealt with by the force overall (for example, white subject numbers versus ethnic minorities). Throughout all departments there were consistent characteristics for the majority of subjects dealt with by Taser:

- The majority of subjects were male;
- The majority of subjects were between 18 and 38 years of age;
- The majority of subjects were white;
- Half of all subjects were classed as having a mental condition at the time of contact (this may be either a predisposition or assessed as displaying characteristics meaning they may be an Emotionally / Mentally Disturbed Individual by the officer); and;
- Circa half of all subjects were believed to be intoxicated by drink and/or drugs

Number of Taser Units

12. Table 4.0 below compares WMP against other similar police forces by listing the number of Taser units possessed by each force, how many ATOs each force currently has and how many Taser deployments were recorded. The number of ATOs indicated does not include Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs).
13. For comparative purposes, the West Mercia and Warwickshire Alliance and Staffordshire Police Services have been chosen as they are neighbouring forces. Greater Manchester Police (GMP), West Yorkshire Police (WYP) and Merseyside Police form part of the HMIC determined Most Similar Group (MSG), due to having similar area demographics.

Table 4.0 – WMP vs. Comparative Police Services (May 2016)

	WMP	Alliance	Staffs	Mers	GMP	WYP
No. of Taser Units	632	600	210	366	405	359
No. of ATOs	437	213	314	335	687	415
No. of Taser Uses	887	127	398	242	1065	342
Total Officers	7266	2931	1700	4000	6189	4564

**Total officers for the comparative forces are based on estimates provided by each force's Taser SPOC (May 2016).*

14. The following comparisons may be made:
- Comparing WMP to GMP whom have a similar metropolitan policing area, the number of Taser units held, the number of trained ATOs and total number of Taser deployments for that 12 month period is similar; and
 - West Mercia and Staffordshire Police have fewer units, ATOs and incidents than WMP which is to be expected given they are predominantly rural, smaller forces.
15. Number of Taser Trained Officers

Following a Taser audit in May 2016 it was established that WMP current has 437 ATOs. This number does not include Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), of which there are currently 161. The breakdown per Local Policing Unit and Department is as follows;

Department / LPU	Number of ATOs
Birmingham East	26
Birmingham North	30
Birmingham South	36
Birmingham West & Central	33
Coventry	39
Dudley	34
Sandwell	34
Solihull	35
Walsall	33
Wolverhampton	35
Central Motorway Policing Group	42
Learning & Development	9
Operational Support Unit	51

Total	437
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Taser and complaints

16. The table below shows the total numbers of Taser use across the last three performance years and how many Taser-related complaints have been received in WMP.

	Performance Year		
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Total Use	986	890	887
Complaints received	23	16	2

17. Complaints in 2015/16

- 2 complaints received (2 assault allegations)
- 1 referral to IPCC (referred back to WMP)
- Both complaints are live.
- 1 complaint refers to use of Taser in the custody block - this matter is still live.

18. It can be shown from the information provided by the Professional Standards Department that the nature of the complaints remains fairly consistent (assault / oppressive conduct), however the volume of complaints received has fallen year on year with a significant reduction to just two complaints in 2015/16.

STOP AND SEARCH

19. West Midlands Police has seen a significant reduction in Stop and Search since 2011, with an increase in arrests and positive outcomes (including Community Resolutions, Cannabis Warnings, Fixed Penalty Notices). Key to the improvements was the rollout of a bespoke training package to frontline officers and the introduction of eSearch (the online recording system for stop and search), which provides instant and accurate data concerning stop and search outcomes.

20. The figures below demonstrate how the overall use of Stop and Search powers has fallen year on year since 2011 and how positive outcomes have increased;

- 2011/12 – 64,000 searches, 4% arrested
- 2012/13 – 49,500 searches, 6% arrested
- 2013/14 – 28,000 searches, 11% arrested; **Refresher training delivered to all front-line Officers, including Supervisors, November 2013 to April 2014**
- 2014/15 – 15,500 searches, 13% arrested (23% positive outcomes)**eSearch introduced, providing instant, accurate data, including outcomes**
- 2015/16 – 18,127 searches, 16% arrested (25% positive outcomes)
- 2016 to date (30/11/16), 9455 searches (down on same period last year; 11,274), 18.5% arrested (28% positive outcomes; over 1 in 4 searches positive)

Disproportionality Rates

21. There is a robust governance structure for Stop and Search in WMP through the quarterly Gold group meeting chaired by ACC Cann, with a supporting structure of Silver and Bronze leads and local Stop and Search Scrutiny panels on each LPU. This allows for close monitoring of Stop and Search disproportionality data, identification of any changes in trend and the subsequent development of any mitigating action plans.
22. In 2013/14, Black people were 4.6 times more likely to be subject of Stop and Search in WMP. This reduced to 2.7 times more likely in 2014/15. The current figure for 2016/17 has increased to 4.2 times more likely, The Current national average for black people to be subject of stop and search is 6 times more likely.
23. Through close scrutiny of the data it has been identified that the rise is due to an increase in Stop and Search activity on young black males involved in anti-social behaviour in Birmingham City Centre. An action plan for Birmingham West & Central Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) is now in place (to include further training) and numbers of such searches are already reducing significantly. As a consequence, it is anticipated the current WMP figure of 4.2 times more likely, will start to reduce.
24. In 2013/14, Asian people were 2.0 times more likely to be subject of Stop and Search in WMP. This reduced to 1.5 times more likely in 2014/15. There has been a slight recent increase to 1.7 times more likely, which is consistent with the national average.
25. The latest disproportionality rates are shown in the tables below. The first table shows YTD figures and the 2nd table; October 2016 to date (14th November 2016).

2016-17 as at 14-Nov-2016									
	White		Asian			Black			Total
	S & S	Pop	S & S	Pop	Disp Rate	S & S	Pop	Disp Rate	
BE	565	154,666	591	142,954	1.1	137	22,797	1.6	1,455
BN	393	155,673	100	16,498	2.4	96	11,852	3.2	653
BS	308	234,013	64	33,006	1.5	87	16,627	4.0	508
BW	518	77,279	573	93,180	0.9	775	45,083	2.6	2,064
CV	474	234,029	118	51,598	1.1	63	17,764	1.8	718
DY	395	281,610	63	18,941	2.4	37	4,671	5.6	548
SH	472	184,247	145	13,561	4.2	68	3,239	8.2	764
SW	333	215,469	168	59,260	1.8	96	18,357	3.4	668
WS	477	212,479	112	41,026	1.2	78	6,369	5.5	748
WV	468	169,672	131	44,956	1.1	144	17,309	3.0	831
Total	4,407	1,919,137	2,065	514,980	1.7	1,581	164,068	4.2	8,961

01/10/2016 - 14/11/2016									
	White		Asian			Black			Total
	S & S	Pop	S & S	Pop	Disp Rate	S & S	Pop	Disp Rate	
BE	103	154,666	96	142,954	1.0	25	22,797	1.6	252
BN	49	155,673	10	16,498	1.9	13	11,852	3.5	83
BS	54	234,013	11	33,006	1.4	21	16,627	5.5	91
BW	97	77,279	94	93,180	0.8	95	45,083	1.7	311
CV	56	234,029	17	51,598	1.4	10	17,764	2.4	92
DY	47	281,610	12	18,941	3.8	6	4,671	7.7	78
SH	67	184,247	31	13,561	6.3	17	3,239	14.4	127
SW	47	215,469	23	59,260	1.8	22	18,357	5.5	100
WS	73	212,479	14	41,026	1.0	9	6,369	4.1	112
WV	79	169,672	18	44,956	0.9	15	17,309	1.9	128
Total	672	1,919,137	326	514,980	1.8	233	164,068	4.1	1,374

26. Academic research has now been commissioned through Warwick University to test ten hypotheses, to identify the causes of disproportionality in the West Midlands. The work will be funded by the WM OPCC and it is anticipated the research will take between 12 and 18 months. The ten hypotheses have been shared with NPU Stop and Search Scrutiny Panels and updates are also given at the twice-yearly PCC's Stop and Search Commission.
27. There is also internal work being undertaken around disproportionality, using other data-sets outside of the dated census data (2011), for example, education and health data, in an attempt to calculate / identify 'more accurate' disproportionality rates. This work will also involve reducing age ranges for the calculations, to concentrate on the age group who are predominantly subject to Stop and Search (ages 16 to 49 account for 97% of all Stop and Searches). Andy Brumwell will be giving a presentation around the work at Stop and Search Gold on 12th December 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

28. None apparent

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

29. None apparent

RECOMMENDATIONS

30. The Board is asked to take note of the contents of this report

Chief Constable David Thompson