



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

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

Present:

Richard BAKER : Chief Superintendent
 Ashley BERTIE : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
 Brendan CONNER : Board Member
 Richard FISHER : Chief Superintendent
 Dr Cath HANNON : Board Member
 Ian HEAD : Head of Intelligence
 Ernie HENDRICKS : Board Member
 Davinder JAGPAL : Assistant Director - Finance
 David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
 Jonathan JARDINE : Chief Executive
 Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer
 Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
 Tom MCNEIL : Strategic Advisor/Board Member
 Nicola PRICE : Director of People and Organisation Development
 Louisa ROLFE : Deputy Chief Constable
 Waheed SALEEM : Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
 Gurinder SINGH JOSAN : Board Member
 Sue SOUTHERN : Assistant Chief Constable
 David THOMPSON : Chief Constable
 Matthew WARD : Detective Chief Superintendent

6 observers, 1 note taker and a webcaster.

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/455951.*
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/spcb-19th-november-2019/>.*
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

141/19	The Commissioner welcomed everybody to the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
142/19	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were none.
143/19	Item 2 – Apologies There were none.

144/19	<p>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 17 September 2019 The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
145/19	<p>Item 4 – PCC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Commissioner updated that the Force and OPCC has invested in a new financial investigations unit to help seize the assets of criminals and invest that money into substance misuse programmes. • The Commissioner thanked those that supported the police cadets on remembrance Sunday, specifically Chief Superintendent Mike O'Hara, Chris Thurley and Polly Reed. The Commissioner stated that the cadets are a real credit to the Force and their communities. • This is Dr Cath Hannon's last meeting as a SPCB Board Member before she goes travelling. The Commissioner wished her the best with her travels.
146/19	<p>Item 5 – Acceptance of Petitions There were no petitions</p>
147/19	<p>Item 6 – Public Questions There were none.</p>
148/19	<p>Item 7 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>1. Will the Chief Constable update us on progress he is making on tackling theft of vehicles in the West Midlands, including the work underway with manufacturers to improve the security of their vehicles? (Asked by David Jamieson)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that thefts have reduced by 12%, and overall vehicle crime by 14.5%. The Chief Constable is confident that this decrease will continue. The Force is continuing to devote resources and continuing work on tackling organised vehicle crime. The Chief Constable and Commissioner wrote to the policing minister to suggest changes to improve this area nationally. The Chief Constable and Commissioner had a telephone conference with the national lead on this subject.</p> <p>Action: The CC to provide a representative from the Force to attend a meeting between APCC Waheed Saleem, Brendan Connor and the Moror Insurers Bureau.</p> <p>2. Will the Chief Constable outline WMP's policy on the use of facial recognition software, setting out if the force has made use of it and under what circumstances would the Force use it? (Asked by Ernie Hendricks)</p> <p>This work has been subject to legal action with South Wales Police. The Force try to use areas where they will be progressive and break grounds and are keen to see other Forces take the lead on this area. The Chief Constable has not deployed any lifetime proactive uses of this work. The Force is keen to ensure any use of this technology is within the ethical frameworks. This will probably be explored in the next few years but will be done so with the confidence of the public and good ethical oversight. This is human assisted technology.</p> <p>3. What progress has been made in establishing alternative arrangements for conducting Scene Guarding and Hospital Watches? What results were</p>

	<p>achieved in the pilot project for scene guarding? (Asked by Brendan Connor)</p> <p>Brendan further explained that his concern is that police resources are being taken away from proactive policing to resource these projects.</p> <p>The Chief Constable agreed with the concerns raised by Brendan. The Force is currently assessing a number of business cases in relation to these projects. The nine month pilot did not achieve what was hoped for. The cannabis disposal team have received training to provide scene guarding that would have otherwise used uniformed officers.</p> <p>Hospital watches is a more demanding area. The Force has done a lot of work around reducing demand. The new medical contract used in force custody has reduced the amount of people being sent to hospital. It is being considered more carefully whether it is appropriate to bail people from force custody but there is no power to bail those detained under a court warrant. The Force will continue to assess the situation.</p>
EMERGING ITEMS	
149/19	<p>Item 8a: Confidence and Satisfaction report.</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe and Chief Superintendent Richard Fisher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens perceive the police positively but the Force is not meeting expectations for providing feedback. • A lot of services have changed as crime has become more complex. There is a lot that the police can now do online to assist with investigations and the public can often have an expectation that is quite different to what the Force can offer. • People are more likely to provide a robust analysis online rather than over the phone as they like to be polite. A very clear standard of which the public can judge the service on is needed. • The Force needs to ensure that all staff understand the service offer and are competent in explaining it. • A working group has been created to develop a customer care model. Staff workshops will be run to define the approach and embed it across the organisation. • The Force is now bringing their victims satisfaction work in line with this. Satisfaction on this matter can often be influenced by their overall experience with other support agencies. • Young people are underrepresented in completing satisfaction surveys. • People can use 101 or come into an office to complete a satisfaction survey as well as the online service. • The Force is trying to be honest with what a good service looks like to manage the public expectations when completing a satisfaction survey.
150/19	<p>Item 8b: Violence Reduction Unit</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Claire Dhami.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in violence over the past few years. • The VRU is hosted and held to account by the PCC, and is funded principally by

	<p>the Home Office with contributions from other organisations including the Commissioner’s office, West Midlands Police, Public Health England, local authorities and the Combined Authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VRU will embed the public health approach. • Focus will be on preventing violence, vulnerability and exploitation. • This year the budget is just over £4m. £3.37m from the Home Office, £500k from the Commissioner and contributions from local authorities and the police. • Six critical success factors have been identified and these are strong foundations, primary prevention, secondary prevention, tertiary prevention, criminal justice & enforcement and attitudinal change. • The ask of the board is to commit to working with the VRU. • The gangs and violence work is essential and critical to the work of the VRU. There is a VRU board being established and a number of forums will report into this board including the gangs and violence commission.
Police and Crime Plan Priorities	
151/19	<p>Item 9a – Responding to National Threats – Counter terrorism</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Assistant chief Constable Sue Southern and Detective Chief Superintendent Matthew Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall threat level of the UK has been reduced to substantial as of 4 November 2019. • The majority of the west midlands CTU continues to focus on overseas terrorism. • The Force have invested heavily across the 7 local authorities in the West Midlands. Two years ago a pilot was started using mental health teams in the CTU. Young people with mental health issues are given every range of support possible. CTU continue to invest very heavily in some of these areas with a focus on safeguarding of young people. • There are trigger plans in place for those who have left the UK should they come back into the UK. As part of national CTU policing. There is a very robust consequence management plan strategy. When carrying out arrests or responding to incidents, CTU now work very closely with the relevant people. • Channel is a voluntary programme run by local authorities. It involves working with people who are at risk of becoming extremists to divert them from taking that path. <p>Action: National prevent figures to be provided to the board.</p>
152/19	<p>Item 9b – Responding to National Threats – SOC and ROCU</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Assistant Chief Constable Sue Southern and Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Baker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic priorities of the ROCU closely mirror those of the National Crime Agency. • The West Midlands manage the largest number of organised crime groups in the region. • The ROCU have led 450 SOC disruptions over the past 12 months and supported a further 855. • These are similar figures to last year. The process for recording figures is fairly new and still evolving. Performance has been a main focus over the past 12

	<p>months. Assistant Chief Constable Southern has a personal performance indicator from the Chief Constable. The units are not comparable nationally as the units are set up differently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force has recently been highlighted for a pilot site in relation to county lines. This is something that will continue to be focussed on in terms of targetting mid level drug dealers. • Organised vehicle crime is a main focus.
153/19	<p>Item 9c – Responding to National Threats - Nabis</p> <p>The report was presented and summarised by Assistant Chief Constable Sue Southern and Ian Head.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NABIS is a national capability and has two hubs in Birmingham and Manchester and are jointly hosted between the two forces. • We have not seen any 3D printed guns discharged. The threats to the UK at the moment are handguns, pistols , revolvers and shotguns. There is ongoing work with the National Crime Agency and Border Force around suppliers. • 3D Printed guns could have an impact on NABIS ability to identify links. It's a topic that is being discussed over Europe. • NABIS are working extremely closely with forces to educate them on pinch points and misunderstandings. • Funding for NABIS is secured in years going forward. • There are far more firearms out there than are being used. 90% of firearms that have been seized by NABIS have never been used in crime in terms of a discharge. This shows that there is a threat out there.
REGULAR ITEMS	
154/19	<p>Item 10a – Finance Budget Monitoring</p> <p>The report was presented and summarised by Mark Kenyon and Davinder Jagpal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are forecasting a revenue underspend of £4.7m. The underspend is allocated to recruitment and has been caused because recruitment has not progressed at the speed anticipated.
155/19	<p>Item 10b – Headline Performance Report</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total recorded crime has been consistently lower than our most similar forces. • The Force is currently behind the national average of complaints that are made and should be dealt with quicker. There is quite a significant caseload and a backlog which has caused this challenge. The number of complaints about officers has fallen. By reducing the volume, those that are recorded as complaints are now more complex.
156/19	<p>Item 10c – SPCB Workplan</p> <p>This report was circulated prior to the meeting and can be viewed online.</p>
157/19	<p>Item 10d – Chief Constable update</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five days ago the Force charged three men with the murder of a 15 year old from Wolverhampton. There has been a level of work around this.• This week is the 45th anniversary of the Birmingham pub bombings. The Force is continuing to do work around this.• This is a difficult period of time in terms of officer injuries. The Chief Constable is thankful for the public support around this.
	<p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the Board members for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 13:00hrs.</p>