



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 23 July 2019  
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

**Present:**

Jane BAILEY : Chief Inspector  
Ashley BERTIE : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner  
Sue DAVIS : Chair of Joint Audit Committee  
Alethea FULLER : Head of Policy and Commissioning  
Dr Cath HANNON : Board Member  
Ernie HENDRICKS : Board Member  
Andy HILL : Superintendent  
David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner  
Chris JOHNSON : Assistant Chief Constable  
Megan JONES : Policy Manager  
Gurinder JOSAN : Board Member  
Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member  
Jayne MEIR : Assistant Chief Constable  
Tom MCNEIL : Strategic advisor/Board Member  
Waheed SALEEM : Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mat SHAER : Superintendent  
Sue SOUTHERN : Assistant Chief Constable  
David THOMPSON : Chief Constable

5 observers, 2 note takers, 3 petitioners and a webcaster.

**Please note:**

1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: [\[LINK TO WEBCAST\]](#)*
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: [\[LINK TO REPORTS\]](#)*
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

<b>093/19</b>	The Commissioner welcomed everybody to the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
<b>094/19</b>	<b>Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest</b>  There were none.
<b>095/19</b>	<b>Item 2 – Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Chief Executive Jonathan Jardine, Chief Finance Officer Mark Kenyon, Board member Brendan Connor, Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe

096/19	<p><b>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 18 June 2019</b> The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
097/19	<p><b>Item 4 – PCC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police and Crime Panel met last week and confirmed the appointment of Ashley Bertie as Deputy PCC.</li> <li>• Work is continuing apace to develop a Violence Reduction Unit for the West Midlands. A cross partnership Executive Group has been developed and met today in order to develop the more detailed information requested by the Home Office in order to finalise the bid.</li> <li>• SPCB member Dr Cath Hannon received an award at the PCC Outstanding Citizen awards last week for her work with victims.</li> <li>• ACC Chris Johnson received a Queens Medal after 29 years of police service, and the Commissioner offered the congratulations of the Board.</li> </ul>
098/19	<p><b>Item 5 – Acceptance of Petitions</b> A petition was presented by Jonathan Hopkins and two colleagues from Plan International UK concerning girls and young women in the West Midlands facing street harassment.</p> <p>Alethea Fuller responded to describe some of the work supported by the Commissioner to support Victims, and in particular support to victims of stalking and harassment. All of these services are available on the website of the Commissioner.</p> <p>The Chief Constable also responded, and said that the Force is happy to work as part of a partnership response to this, on elements that are picked up as part of the wider Victims Strategy. All stalking offences should be reported as crimes.</p>
099/19	<p><b>Item 6 – Public Questions</b> There were no public questions</p>
100/19	<p><b>Item 7 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</b></p> <p>1. Would the Chief Constable provide an update on the progress West Midlands Police is making on recording whether young people (under 18s) who have been involved in crime have also been excluded from school? (asked by David Jamieson)</p> <p>The Chief Constable reported that work is on-going as part of Operation Guardian, and it will become usual practice for knife crime incidents for the Force to collect data on the educational status of the young people involved. The Chief Constable will confirm a date when this data collection will commence.</p> <p>2. Following the recent prosecution of the modern slavery gang, can the Chief Constable set out what businesses and the public should be doing to support the police in tackling this scourge on society? (asked by Waheed Saleem)</p> <p>The Chief Constable reported that the public is much more aware of modern slavery due to media coverage, but there is still much more to do on this. If people have concerns they can be reported to the Government Modern Slavery helpline, or to</p>

	<p>police or the various charities involved in this work. There is also work to be done with local businesses to ensure they are aware of this as part of their procurement activity.</p> <p>3. Could the Chief Constable outline the guidance given to officers and staff in regards to social media, including the guidance and training they receive to promote the work they do and give out crime prevention advice?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(asked by Gurinder Singh Johan)</p> <p>The Chief Constable said that the digital platform is now in place and has over 4000 sign-ups. Social media does provide opportunities and the Force makes good use of Facebook and Twitter. There is careful balance to be achieved between highly controlled and corporate social media, and more informal social media engagement. The Force has one of the most active social engagement programmes of all forces in the UK. Careful consideration to security has taken place, following the hacking of the MPA twitter site recently.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Chief Constable to provide an update on the timescale for when it will become mandatory for officers to record whether young people who have been involved in knife crime are in education.</b></p>
<b>EMERGING ITEMS</b>	
101/19	<p><b>Item 8 – Emerging Items - Force Management Statements</b></p> <p>The Chief Constable began by apologising for the late submission of this report. ACC Southern then went on to introduce the report, summarising the key points from the report. The following key points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Force has a red rating on protecting vulnerable people, and this is entirely a resourcing issue.</li> <li>• Inspections tend to be formulaic, and the PEEL framework is becoming dated. The FMS gets the inspectors to focus more on outcomes and less on process, and this is an opportunity to reconsider the PEEL framework.</li> <li>• The issue in investigations is the complexity and also the seriousness of some of the offences and this has been assessed as amber. It has not been assessed as red because the volume of offences is much lower than those in the vulnerability category.</li> </ul>
102/19	<p><b>Item 9 - Unauthorised Encampments update (DPCC Ashley Bertie Chaired this item)</b></p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Chris Johnson who provided a summary of progress, and the main points from the report. The following key points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for a consistent approach and response from all partners.</li> <li>• The legislative approach and response is much clearer now than previously, and the responses and escalations from each local authority are now aligned.</li> <li>• Relationships between key stakeholders are very positive, but more work could be done with travellers. A liaison officer for the travelling community has been considered, although the travelling community in the West Midlands is relatively small, and the liaison at national level is considered to be sufficient.</li> <li>• The Commissioner has done much to bring stakeholders together, and has prioritised this work. The summit events organised by the Commissioner were a catalyst for the improved approach. There has not been direct engagement with</li> </ul>

	<p>the Mayor on this subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commissioner emphasised that the majority of people who choose a travelling lifestyle are law abiding and are welcome. It is a small minority who create mess and damage and give a bad reputation to the travelling community.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Police and Crime Plan Priorities: Reducing Reoffending (Assistant PCC Waheed Saleem Chaired this item)</b></p>
<b>103/19</b>	<p><b>Item 10a: IOM, PIPT and Diversion</b></p> <p>The report was introduced by Policy Manager Megan Jones who gave some background on the work of the Gangs and Violence Commission, and was then presented in more detail by Chief Superintendent Mat Shaer. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper highlights many excellent areas of work which is very heartening, particularly the diversionary activities now in place. All diversionary activity which can bring about long term reduction in offending is welcome, and innovative approaches across the CJS should be pursued.</li> <li>• Data driven insight has resulted in large numbers being generated. These cases will go to Ethics Committee for consideration, after which the Force will decide how individuals will be selected to determine what the cohorts will look like. Vulnerability will be part of this determination.</li> <li>• The creation of 1500 MAPPA records will result in additional demand, and will be dealt with jointly with probation and other partners. This will have a resource implication for the Force, including administrative work in order to manage the records. 625 hours has been estimated for the administrative work.</li> <li>• The reforms have led to a fragmented position and there is work to do with the Commissioner, CRC and probation to ensure a coherent and joined up approach.</li> <li>• Training is jointly assessed with academic partners and randomised samples have been used to inform the information provided to academics in order to undertake this evaluation.</li> <li>• Data was not available on the outcomes from the out of court disposals, but it was agreed that it would be useful to track individuals and see their reoffending following out of court disposals. This would help to determine further diversionary activity. It is important to avoid people not being offered out of court disposals, and being given short prison sentences instead, because this is likely to increase reoffending rates.</li> <li>• On FCID, the specialist officers who had expertise and who were leading on of court disposals have been integrated into wider investigations, due to demand for resources. It is important that they take their skills with them to cascade to other colleagues. Hopefully this will upskill others, and result in out of court disposal numbers climbing again</li> <li>• There is involvement of third sector providers as well, and a number of organisations are members of the local Criminal Justice Board.</li> </ul>
<b>104/19</b>	<p><b>Item 10b Reducing Reoffending: LCJB</b></p> <p>The report was presented by Chief Superintendent Mat Shaer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper highlights structures and key priorities for delivering efficient and effective criminal justice.</li> <li>• The reducing reoffending delivery group has focused on substance misuse and improving the number behind out of court disposals.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The four PCC's in the wider west midlands, including Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Mercia are ambitious to look at regional governance around criminal justice.</li> <li>• The national charging process which will streamline the way the Force receive charging advice has a go-live date in October.</li> <li>• The Force is moving forward with the digitalisation of remand cases for bank holidays and Saturdays.</li> <li>• The Force are in dialogue with the NPCC knife crime lead and have volunteered to be part of an Out of Court disposals pilot for young people involved in knife crime which sits alongside Operation Guardian.</li> <li>• Increasing Registered Sex Offender numbers will affect partner capacity as much as it will affect The Force's capacity. The Force is exploring this issue and how to address the additional demand. They will take a risk based approach going forward, prioritising those that pose the greatest risk.</li> <li>• The PCC informed the board that Boris Johnson had been elected the leader of the conservative party during the meeting. The PCC also informed the board that 20,000 officers were promised as part of Boris Johnson's campaign.</li> </ul>
	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b>
<b>105/19</b>	<p><b>Item 11a Annual Report – Joint Audit Committee</b> The report was presented by Sue Davis CBE, Chair of the Joint Audit Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sue Davis is pleased with the work of the committee over the past year.</li> <li>• Following the implementation of a programme of work based on risk within the Internal Audit service 2-3 years ago which has led to more audits, there has not been any resistance from services which was originally anticipated.</li> <li>• An outstanding list of audit recommendations over the past few years has now been cleared.</li> <li>• Attendees of the committee are diligent and well prepared.</li> </ul>
<b>106/19</b>	<p><b>Item 11b External Grants to Organisations</b> The report was presented by Alethea Fuller and details grants provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2018/19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of grants has increased due to an increase in successful applications such as the Early Youth Intervention Fund and the ability to commission and deliver more services.</li> <li>• There has been an underspend for Grant &amp; Funding to external organisations as the PCC were able to use other funding that came in through the year to deliver on these services. This means that some projects can be prolonged past their initially anticipated timeframe of 1 year.</li> <li>• There is an underspend on the Active Citizens Fund and Community Safety Fund.</li> <li>• The Victims Fund, Youth Offending Service and Early Youth Intervention Fund have been completely spent.</li> <li>• The £40,000 allocated to ROCU as part of the Active Citizens Fund has not yet been spent as the project design is still in development.</li> <li>• There is an assurance from Birmingham City Council that the underspend of £41,560 allocated to them through the Community Safety Fund, will be spent this upcoming financial year.</li> <li>• The Community Safety Partnership are confident that they will allocate all of the funding for the Community Safety Fund and will scrutinise all local authorities to</li> </ul>

	ensure they do spend the allocation in areas that will make a significant difference to their local community.
107/19	<p><b>Item 11c– Strategic Policing and Crime Board work plan</b>  <i>Presented by Alethea Fuller.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This report contains the proposed work plan for the SPCB for the coming year.</i></li> </ul>
108/19	<p><b>Item 11d– 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 Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner recently visited Holte School as part as the Life or Knife campaign to encourage schools to expand the conversations they have with young people to involve their parents.</li> <li>• The Chief Constable is grateful to the parents of James Brindley who continue to support the police and have compiled a series of videos which help parents have a conversation around knife crime with their children.</li> <li>• The police will continue to add content to the Life or Knife website.</li> <li>• The work around suppression of knife crime and violence is now underway. There has been good progress around robberies in Birmingham City Centre. A number of cases are not progressing through the courts around serious violence and coming to conclusions.</li> <li>• Government money has been made available to assist in reducing the time taken to turn round cases in police investigations. From September, the Force will begin a large scale introduction of extra investigative assistants.</li> <li>• There have been a number of firearms recovered in police operations over the last few weeks and disrupting the supply of firearms in the West Midlands remains very important.</li> <li>• The Birmingham Gangs and Organised Crime team have been doing some exceptionally good work recently, but it is still a priority for the Chief Constable to put more resources into the team.</li> <li>• The Chief Constable spoke about a shooting in Coventry over the weekend and wants to encourage the public to let the police know about what’s taking place in their communities.</li> <li>• The police have deployed a number of operations such as operation Hercules around vehicle based nuisances such as car cruising.</li> </ul>
	The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the Board members, for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 12.45PM.