



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 15 October 2019
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Present:

Richard BAKER : Chief Superintendent
Ashley BERTIE : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Phil DOLBY : Superintendent
Dr Cath HANNON : Board Member
Ernie HENDRICKS : Board Member
David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer
Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
Tom MCNEIL : Strategic Advisor/Board Member
Waheed SALEEM : Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
David THOMPSON : Chief Constable
Vanessa JARDINE : Assistant Chief Constable
Alethea FULLER : Head of Policy and Commissioning
Christopher TODD : Chief Superintendent

2 public visitors, 3 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/449279.
2. The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/spcb-15th-october-2019/>.
3. Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text

126/19	The Commissioner welcomed everybody to the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
127/19	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were none.
128/19	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from Jonathan Jardine, Brendan Connor, Gurinder Josan Singh, ACC Southern, ACC Johnson, DCC Louisa Rolfe.
129/19	Item 3 – Notes of last meeting – 17 September 2019 The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. WMP provided verbal update on Brexit at this meeting – Action Closed.

	<p>CC provided written update on progress being made on tackling theft of vehicles in West Mids – Action Closed.</p> <p>A few actions were left outstanding from previous meeting (17 Sept), for provision of information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on timescales for capturing data on young people for Project Guardian. - Overlay data on categorisation of risk and provide a more detailed analysis where applications for the DV and Disclosure scheme are made. <p>The Chief Constable informed the meeting that this work has been done.</p> <p>Action: CC to provide responses to outstanding actions above. (Update as of 5.11.19 – Force have provided this information)</p>
130/19	<p>Item 4 – PCC Update</p> <p>The Commissioner acknowledged the successful launch event of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) on 2 October in Wolverhampton. The meeting was informed that the VRU team are now in place and have begun their work. Documents from the Queen’s Speech suggest that funding for serious violence will continue in 2020/21 but it is unclear how this will be distributed across areas.</p>
131/19	<p>Item 5 – Acceptance of Petitions</p> <p>There were no petitions</p>
132/19	<p>Item 6 – Public Questions</p> <p>There was one public question, asked by Councillor Kath Scott, as follows: On the 20th March 2018, I handed over a petition of over 2000 signatures to the West Midlands Police and Crime commissioner. This included 200 comments from Sutton Coldfield Residents, expressing their concerns over the possible police station closure.</p> <p>Could the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, today, please provide me and the petitioners an update on the progress of the proposals to ensure officers remain based in Sutton Coldfield, with a local public front desk, delivering local policing?</p> <p>In response to the question, the Commissioner praised Councillor Scott and her colleague, Councillor Pocock, for their work in the campaign to keep a front desk and officers based in Sutton Coldfield.</p> <p>The Commissioner reported that work has been underway to make sure that both local officers and a publicly accessible front desk are retained in central Sutton Coldfield.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the Commissioner attended a public meeting of Sutton Coldfield’s Town Council and committed resources towards a joint working group, bringing together members of his office, the police estates team, local senior officers and town councillors. The working group is now underway.</p>

	<p>He confirmed that a public front desk will be retained in the centre of Sutton Coldfield. No local sites have been ruled in or out yet. The team are still working through options, and these will be subject to further consultation.</p> <p>The Commissioner maintained that any site will need to be at least as central to Sutton Coldfield as the present site.</p> <p>The Chief Constable confirmed the need for a front desk to maintain operations in Sutton Coldfield but also pointed to other areas of investment that the Force are carrying out to help boost operational effectiveness.</p>
133/19	<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?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(asked by David Jamieson)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that this remains a priority area for the Force. He pointed to the recent case of PC Phillips, to show that vehicle crime does not just cover instances of vehicle theft. The Force has been working closely with the Commissioner to help influence industry partners, with regards to vehicle security. Operationally, progress is being made, as reported within the written answer to the Commissioner from the previous SPCB meeting. This includes: vehicle theft numbers falling compared to last year, Operation Cantil continuing to catch a high number of offenders and the work of Operation Mainstream.</p> <p>The Commissioner hopes there will be legislation change to make the Force's job easier.</p> <p>2. What assessment has the Chief Constable made of the impact of the ending of the West Mercia and Warwickshire Policing alliance on West Midlands Police and what conversations have been had around providing assistance to Warwickshire Police to ensure their stability?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(asked by David Jamieson)</p> <p>The Chief Constable informed the meeting that the Force continues to work closely with all forces across the wider region. The Force's most substantial collaboration with local forces, ROCU, is not affected, and the Chief Constable is continuing discussions with Warwickshire, making sure any decisions made will be of mutual benefit to both forces. On a practical level, officers from the different forces work well already. This will continue.</p> <p>The Commissioner confirmed that where appropriate, collaboration will continue Warwickshire and West Mercia, but emphasised that any decisions should not disadvantage the taxpayer and policing in the West Midlands.</p>

3. Following the government’s announcement of additional funding to uplift the number of Tasers available to officers. What assessment has the Chief Constable made of the need of more WMP officers to carry Taser and its impact on policing by consent?

(asked by Ashley Bertie)

The Chief Constable responded that Tasers are not a compulsory part of officer personal protection equipment. Officers volunteer and then need to pass a training course, before they receive one. There are vigorous training/licencing regimes in the UK.

Based on the WMP’s assessment, there has been a recent uplift in the number of officers carrying tasers in the West Midlands which has been funded through the PCC’s 2019/20 budget. The Force is to undertake a review of the usage of taser and assess how best they can be used in future. The Commissioner will be informed of the outcome of this review.

4. As we celebrate Black History Month can the Chief Constable tell us what work WMP is doing to recruit a workforce which looks more like the people of the West Midlands?

(asked by Waheed Saleem)

The Chief Constable acknowledged the importance of Black History Month. Through programmes such as ‘Humans of WMP’, the Force is publishing positive stories of officers from BME backgrounds. The Chief Constable highlighted the good relationships that the Force has with the various associations and the work of the Positive Action team. After recent recruitment announcements, there is a big opportunity to recruit a more diverse workforce. The Force will use mainstream marketing facilities. The Chief Constable stressed that there are a diverse number of roles available in the Police – not just the traditional police officer role.

EMERGING ITEMS

134/19 Item 8: Verbal Update on Brexit

C/Supt Baker and Supt Dolby provided a verbal update on Force preparations in the event of Britain’s exit from the EU. The main points included:

Conversion with Interpol is on-going – All crimes have been registered by crime type and prioritised based on severity. Forces are working towards Brexit happening on 31 October. Forces Nneed as much as possible submitted by 18th October – may be a delay for processing after this date.

All outstanding current EU Arrest Warrants have been converted so that extradition is still possible, should these individuals be found in EU countries after Brexit.

The International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) is still working well with the Force

	<p>and – presentations are being delivered to aid preparations.</p> <p>The Commissioner enquired about data sharing agreements post-Brexit – No legal framework in place for this currently. It is believed that arrangements will stay as they are for 1 year post-Brexit, to allow more time for arrangements to be made. In the event of No Deal, UK lose all access to crime prevention systems within EU.</p> <p>A number of additional points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New offences after Brexit – These will be immediately recorded on Interpol. • Cases that haven't yet been converted - Force confirmed that the officer in charge of a case will review on case by case basis. If no international footprint to an offence, no need to convert to Interpol. Vast majority are non-international so no need to convert – hence 5% conversion rate. • Other elements that the Force are preparing for – Force is currently the subject of mutual aid requests - planning is underway for who can be sent, depending on skills. If WMP need assistance, there is a working cell in place. With regards to the effect of officers leaving to help national effort –resources will not be taken below minimum level. • Currently an embargo on new annual leave requests – pre-existing leave is being honoured. Aim to lift this ASAP, however it is deemed a sensible business decision at the moment. • Daily reports on community tension being carried out. A slight increase in hate crime has been noted, but this is not just about Brexit. Also noticed a slight increase in pressure on local elected representatives – all being monitored closely. <p>PCC enquired whether protest planned for Saturday 19 October will have effect on WMP. Force don't envisage great impact</p>
Police and Crime Plan Priorities	
135/19	<p>Item 9a - Neighbourhood Policing</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by ACC Vanessa Jardine.</p> <p>ACC Jardine referred to the neighbourhood scheme in Walsall where a WhatsApp scheme is being used, and this is an example of neighbourhood problem solving. She also reported that currently there are 4 Early Help Hub Schemes, two with local officers, two with PCSOs. In these schemes, jobs get referred and then passed on to the appropriate services. The Force is reviewing which arrangement works best.</p> <p>With regard to the metrics that are used to measure the impact of Street Watch schemes, at the moment, traditional police metrics are being used. ACC Jardine is looking to develop better metrics with a more qualitative focus. This will be presented to the Board at future meetings.</p> <p>KPIs are progressing within the 19 WMP impact areas, and further information can be included with a future report if required.</p> <p>The Commissioner noted that Street Watch schemes can be a catalyst for community resilience. He questioned that sometimes they are lacking in more deprived areas. However, the Chief Constable referenced a number of schemes, such as those in Birmingham West, that are doing good work currently.</p>

136/19	<p>Item 9b - WMCSP and Local CSPs</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Alethea Fuller. It was noted that the OPCC will seek to continue its public messages on the positive projects that are being done through the partnership. Alethea added that £300k in efficiencies has been saved and allocated elsewhere, from the CSP grant since the formation of the West Midlands wide partnership.</p> <p>One of the requirements in the bidding process for the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) work, was whether the applicant already have links with other services – including mental health service providers.</p> <p>There is a remaining budget for 2020/21 that hasn't yet been allocated. Discussions are on-going as to how this will be allocated.</p>
137/19	<p>Item 9c - Active Citizens Fund (ACF)</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Mark Kenyon.</p> <p>During the discussion a number of points were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need a continual dialogue with Neighbourhood Policing Team to make sure they are spending their ACF allocation. • It would good to have police officers present at ACF events wherever possible. • The grant process is working more efficiently, with improved partnerships between OPCC and WMP. • Projects now require serious / knife crime focus, and this potentially means that other projects are missing out. Mark Kenyon reported that this has not been raised as a concern and most of the projects are meeting the new criteria.
138/19	<p>Item 10a – Complaints and PSD</p> <p>The report was presented and summarised by Chief Supt. Chris Todd. Following the presentation a number of issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there disproportionality in the complaints and misconduct issues facing the Force? There appears to be an issue in diversity of complainants, in terms of more people complaining from certain backgrounds. but more work is needed to explore this because for 65% of complaints, no ethnic data is available. • The Commissioner asked if there was any assurance that can be made publicly regarding internal counter-corruption work within the Force. CS Todd reassured the meeting that numbers are very small and it is taken very seriously. • Is data kept regarding the compliments page on WMP website? More information would be useful on the expressions of dissatisfaction that don't reach formal complaint threshold, and generally on the numbers of cases dealt with by way of service recovery, and the levels of customer satisfaction with this outcome. CS Todd informed the meeting that these are all logged and recorded. They are continually reviewed to see if trends are present. <p>It is possible for public to attend disciplinary hearings. Hearings are generally public unless the chair has determined that they must be private. The details of all of these</p>

	hearings can be found on the Force website.
	REGULAR ITEMS
139/19	<p>Item 12 – Strategic Policing and Crime Board Work Plan Mark Kenyon highlighted the items on the agenda for the Board at future meetings. No issues were raised.</p>
140/19	<p>Item 13 – Chief Constable Update</p> <p>The Chief Constable highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update was provided on crime fighting. This included the written document on vehicle crime and touched on reductions in burglary. It was acknowledged though that there are still significant challenges faced by the Force.. • The recent high profile cases of officers being injured on duty. With regards to PC Gareth Phillips, the sentencing of the offender will be announced later today. The Force intends to make available imagery from police cameras to highlight the challenges officers can face. • The recent Government announcement on funding 20,000 new police officers across the country. The Force envisages 366 new officers under the Government announcement and the extra 200 that has already been made possible through efficiencies. The Force will to recruit in line with any forecasted leavers, and therefore, is preparing for large scale recruitment in the near future. • The Chief Constable finished by stressing that this is a fantastic time to join the Police. Numerous types of jobs available, not just the traditional police officer role.
	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.