



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 21 JANUARY 2020
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Present:

Richard AGAR : Superintendent
 Richard BAKER : Chief Superintendent
 Ashley BERTIE : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
 Neil CHAMBERLAIN : Director of Commercial Services
 Brendan CONNOR : Board Member
 David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
 Vanessa JARDINE : Assistant Chief Constable
 Gurinder JOSAN : Board Member
 Sean KENT : Superintendent
 Dr Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
 Nicola PRICE : Director of People & Organisation Development
 Louisa ROLFE : Deputy Chief Constable
 Waheed SALEEM : Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
 David THOMPSON : Chief Constable
 Nick WALTON : Superintendent

5 observers, including press, 1 note taker and a webcaster.
 2 external guests, Alison Parker and Jim Skidmore, the family of Lisa Skidmore.

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/467130*
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-crime-board/agendas-minutes-reports/>*
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

001/20	The Commissioner welcomed everybody to the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast.
002/20	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were none.
003/20	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from: ACC Johnson

	<p>ACC Meir ACC Southern Thomas McNeil Mark Kenyon</p>
<p>004/20</p>	<p>Item 3 - Sex Offender Management – Lessons Learned</p> <p>This was presented by ACC Vanessa Jardine and the following points were discussed:</p> <p>Firstly Board members, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner & West Midlands Police offered their condolences to the family of Lisa Skidmore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was discussed that two initial reviews were carried out in relation to this case, a serious case review commissioned by MAPPA & a serious further offence review, carried out by the national probation service. Both of these reviews were then further examined by her majesty’s inspectorate of probation review, which in effect quality assured the first two, specifically looking at the thoroughness and implementation of the actions plans which were developed from those reviews. • West Midlands Police also carried out a post incident management review and an internal audit carried out by Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. • From the serious case review there were 22 key findings, some of which were discussed in detail. From these findings West Midlands Police created an action plan of 5 actions for the Force and 1 joint with the probation service. • In June 2019, West Midlands Police agreed a specific action risk managed action plan. The aim of this was to increase Active Risk Management System assessments and manage existing outstanding assessments and workloads. As a result of this plan, the number of sex offender managers increased across the Force by 10. • There are proposals for a bespoke digital sex offender registered team. • A joint Active Risk Management System protocol has been agreed. • A new reactive management policy which enables low risk sex offenders to be transferred onto reactive management which frees up officers time to spend on those medium and high risk cases. • New NPCC guidelines in relation to the greater use of professional judgement by offender management have been implemented. • Robotics are being developed in regards to risk management plans so that they can add value which will release officers time so they can concentrate on those high risk cases. • If any new concerns occur, there is a full re-evaluation of risk, including a re-evaluation of the offenders full offending history, pattern of offending and antecedents. A review will then be carried out by an inspector or above and further escalation to the MAPPA coordinator if required. • There is a new process that new information is received by officers through

VISA – this is monitored by regular dip sampling by supervisors.

- MAPPAs level 2 training has been given to officers and is now routinely monitored.
- MAPPAs screenings are now routinely carried out by the in-custody scheme, 6 months prior to the release of the offender from custody.
- West Midlands Police now have quarterly performance reviews that ACC Jardine chairs to review performance.
- MAPPAs & sex offender management policies have all been reviewed and updated as per the learning from the case.
- A formal Active Risk Management System protocol has been signed off.
- There will be a Joint Audit Committee in March 2020 to assure that progress is still being made.
- Assurance was given that probation are working with the police and other agencies to change culture, and improvement of ARMS assessments. Joint protocols are now in place. Strategic MAPA board which oversees how the protocol is working, independent lay people will be attending the board. There is a responsibility on each agency to deliver.
- Assurance was given that an Active Risk Management System assessment is taken up to 6 weeks upon release, a lot of work is also complete prior to release for example 6 months before. The 6 weeks post release is an additional risk assessment in addition to the assessments.

Alison Parker – sister of Lisa Skidmore asked where the report was that should have been published 7 months ago.

- **There is a meeting with the coroner on 27/01/2020, and after this, West Midlands Police can finalise the standard operating procedure paper. Apologies were given that the family had not yet seen the paper or that it had not been signed off. West Midlands Police will be in touch with the Skidmore family to inform of outcome.**

The Commissioner stated that the family should let the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner know of anything further they wish to know.

The brother of Lisa Skidmore asked if the communication issues between Police Force and probation services had been resolved as they did not have access to each other's notes.

ACC Jardine advised Mr Skidmore that the issues had been resolved, with reassurance from Deborah Johnson.

The family of Lisa Skidmore thanked the family liaison officers.

A break was taken 10:43 - resumed at 10:56

005/20	<p>Item 4 – Notes of last meeting – 17 December 2019</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting (item 7) West Midlands Police to provide paper around how they intend to comply with the proposed Birmingham Ultra Low Emission Zone requirements.</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded with the following information:</p> <p>West Midlands Police cannot confirm the entire fleet will be fully compliant until 2025 unless an additional 4 million pounds is spent on vehicles. The Force plan to look at vehicles when they are appropriate to change but also where vehicles are deployed within the estate. The Force should be fully compliant if they continue with normal fleet cycle by 2025.</p> <p>(item 8b) The Force will need to explore why Mental Health data is only available post 2017 and provide an update. – Verbal update to be provided.</p> <p>Response from the Chief Constable: There may be some delay in providing this report as it is not entirely clear why the data is incomplete within this area, The Chief Constable will come back with further details.</p>
006/20	<p>Item 5 – PCC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner advised that a consultation was released last week in regards to the performance of the trains within the West Midlands. 1050 people responded to date, with concerns about safety, convenience, and costs incurred due to cancelled trains. An inquiry will be held in February, date to be confirmed, with network rail and the companies invited to attend. • The annual Business Summit was held last week and was successful – 80 businesses attended. Majority of agenda was on corporate social responsibility, a number of businesses’ pledged to work with the corporate social responsibility. • The Commissioner advised that we should hear within the week regarding funding and the potential increase of the precept. He met with the 7 metropolitan leaders who said up to £24 precept would be acceptable. Awaiting government response to confirm increase. • Stop and Search – final meeting will be held end of February. The Force will give an update on operational activity around stop and search work, included will be the publishing on the stop and search work around disproportionality. • The Commissioner advised that the Victim Summit will be held on 27th February 2020 at Aston Villa. • The Commissioner advised he recently wrote to the Prime Minister to raise several issues, such as number of officers, school exclusions, gangs and county lines and vehicle theft.
007/20	<p>Item 6 – Acceptance of Petitions</p>

	There were no petitions
008/20	<p>Item 7 – Public Questions</p> <p>There were none.</p>
009/20	<p>Item 8 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>1. Can the Chief Constable please set out the proposed priority departments and areas for the uplift in officer numbers?</p> <p>(Asked by David Jamieson)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that West Midlands Police will recruit 200 officers through efficiency and with the government uplift a further 366. Currently, The Force is recruiting on average 24 officers a week. It was noted that this may mean that potentially a third of the Force may be student officers in the future.</p> <p>2. Would the Chief Constable set out measures he is taking to tackle child sexual exploitation in the West Midlands noting that DoE data shows that 490 cases have been reported in the last 12 months in Birmingham alone.</p> <p>(Asked by Waheed Saleem)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that in the last 12 months there have been 348 cases. However there is disparity between what local authority and West Midlands Police record. West Midlands Police also record victims at risk, which was a further 700 interventions in addition to the 348 crimes. The multi-agency safeguarding hubs have been created, and there has been a significant growth of the child investigation team within the Public Protection Unit. Additional resources have also been placed within the major crime and proactive teams. A team is also embedded within the major incident homicide team that work for the public protection unit which can take on complex home based cases. There has been an improvement in the management of missing people, 6 dedicated officers who manage cases of missing persons. Serious and organised crime exploitation hub is now in the Force as it was recognised that there is a link between the exploitation of children and the link to organised crime. It is no longer focused of sexual exploitation only. The issues around protecting children is every officers priority, included within many areas of the police.</p> <p>3. Would the Chief Constable provide information about the West Midlands Police Force policy towards agreeing out-of-court settlements in relation to claims from members of the public and from staff and detail the financial cost to the Force of any such claims in the last three years?</p> <p>(Asked by Gurinder Singh Josan)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that this is managed by the Joint Legal Services team. Pre-action small claims, employers liability and third party claims that are dealt with through the insurance team within the Force. The bulk of the expenditure relates to motor claims £197,000 paid in 2016-17 34 of those 34 cases (£188,000) in regards to motor claims, 2 were employer liability cases. 2017-18 expenditure was £418,000 97 motor claims, 6 payments were employers liabilities 2018-19 £378,000. The amount paid out on motor claims has reduced. Compared to many forced and to budget it is</p>

	<p>relatively low.</p> <p>4. Could the Chief Constable outline West Midlands Police's position on the use of the Vagrancy Act and how many times it has been used in each of the past 12 months in relation to begging?</p> <p>(Asked by Waheed Saleem)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that it has been in decline within the Force which has generally been using civil legislation. The statistics show a maximum 10 cases one month, on average 3 a month across the Force. CJS enforcement on The Vagrancy Act is ineffectual. Police enforcement powers alone are not going to resolve homelessness. Officers do need to act on intimidating and aggressive begging, but that doesn't detract away from diversion.</p> <p>The commissioner commented that the legislation regarding The Vagrancy Act is out of date and more appropriate legislation needs to be put in place.</p> <p>ACTION – month by month data to be provided.</p> <p>5. Referring back to PCC's question, on the issue of pro-active policing, I understand the reinsertion of resources into neighbourhood policing. When we had to adjust the profile of the Force, one of the areas that had a substantial amount of resources take out of was 'ROADS' policing. The re-insersion of resource into that area – mobile officers, who are doing proactive work and detection once be one area where the public would feel their contribution through taxation and increased resources would feel really useful.</p> <p>(Asked by Brendan Connor)</p> <p>The Chief Constable responded that the roads policing capability is good. It is currently delivered jointly with Staffordshire Police Force. The public may wonder however, when talking about 'roads policing' if this is just officers engaging in seatbelt enforcement, when actually they are the most capable crime focused officers the Force has. Investments have been made into ANPR systems.</p>
EMERGING ITEMS	
010/20	<p>Item 9: Brexit and Policing</p> <p><i>This was presented by Supt Sean Kent and Det Chief Supt Rich Baker and the following points were discussed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a no-deal Brexit takes place, West Midlands Police will move into an implementation phase until December 2020 where they hope to get a more permanent deal. • Response and preparation remains as in previous papers. • West Midlands Police are playing an on-going part in operation Rulles-, led by Immigration Enforcement, which targets clandestine entry of illegal immigrants in refrigerated lorries. • If the UK leaves with a no deal, Schengen Information System 2 and Europe arrest warrants will be lost. • In readiness for a no deal, Schengen Information System 2 alerts have all been

	<p>converted onto Interpol notices. Assurance given that relevant Interpol notices have been given to the relevant countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers are still using Schengen Information System 2 and Interpol as part of business are usual. • The Force continues to have access to ACRO. • If no deal, the systems that will be used will cause slower results. West Midlands Police would also revert to the process's that are used for none-EU countries. • Hate crime has continued to be monitored; there is a low amount of hate crime related specifically to Brexit. • Approaching 31st January, all planning structures remain in place. A weekly monitor report is received weekly from the Home Office. • The impact on resources, due to planning, financial cost has been modest.
Police and Crime Plan Priorities	
011/20	<p>Item 10a - Supporting Victims of Crime – Victims Code</p> <p>This report was presented by DDC Louisa Rolfe, supported by Richard Agar <i>and the following points were discussed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a network of victim code champions who meet on a quarterly basis due to next meet on 13/02/2020 • The Latest Victims Code Survey has been expanded to include victims that are dealt with by response officers. • The data within the table on page 3 refers to referrals to support services; it falls to 33% when a response officer attends. The figure is low as it refers to the number of cases where victims are referred to other services. • Backlogs in responding to victims is attributing to attrition. Some cases can run into 200 days, relying on ISVAS to maintain regular contact. • It was discussed that the Commissioner provides £3.4m to help victims cope & recover from being a victim of crime. The funding comes from the Home Office but has not increased in recent years, this is having an impact on the services that victims receive. The funds come from the Victims Surcharge, fines are not reducing, therefore there is an assumption that there is more money in the system that is not going to PCCs. Therefore is the ministry of Justice taxing the funds? It is something we need to peruse. If the money is from the Victims Surcharge it should be going back to the victims. • Victims Commission has been launched, which will look at how West Midlands Police are complying with the victims code across the different agencies, how best we can work together with West Midlands Police & the services the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner commission to provide a more holistic response to victims of crime.
012/20	Item 10b - Hidden Crimes – Increased reporting and recording of hidden crime

This report was presented by DCC Louisa Rolfe and Nick Walton and the following points were discussed:

- This is a priority as part of the Force improve plan. The focus within the improvement plan has been to look at the outcomes, such as criminal justice outcomes from offences of rape.
- There are current staffing issues, and detective slots have been filled with staff who are not accredited but there is a plan to address through the coming year and make use of the government uplift.
- Significant levels of demand, translates into significant pressures within the public protection teams. Reported adult rape cases have increased by 40% since 2014. Reported child rape cases have increased by over 55% since 2014. Reports of historic offences – those over 5 years have started to stabilise but represent 20% of total sexual violence demand. 35% of offences are reported on the same day that it was committed.
- There is a joint action plan with the Crown Prosecution Service, focussed to imbed and Inspector within the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that West Midlands Police are referring the right cases to Crown Prosecution Service.
- Victims are always offered support from an ISVA.
- Specific unit dedicated to child sexual abuse cases has been disbanded in February. Monthly meetings are held to make sure that progress is being made with historic cases.
- Assurance was given that the vast majority of people within the team have been accredited with the nationally recognised training which equips them to deal with historic child sexual abuse cases. There are subject matter experts. A review was commissioned which will look at the implications, it will be reviewed as per the Public Protection Unit restructure.

(When review is complete- share with OPCC to reassure that it is effective)

- It was discussed that the amount of crimes being reported has increased, this is due to crime recording accuracy. Nationally West Midlands Police is in line with peers.
- There is a deficit of staff accredited, however the deficit are progression to detective status, to become fully established around our capability. This suggests that by December 2020, all current staff would be 100% compliant in regards to capability, without considering new staff or staff that leave the department.
- Out of court resolutions in regards to sexual offences are rare. The victim's interests are always priority
- Digital devices are considered a potential line of enquiry, it is not mandatory but should be considered, each case is individual assessed. Ultimately, it is up to the victim if they wish to handover their device.

013/20	<p>Item 10c – Strategic Policing Requirement</p> <p>The report was presented by the DCC Louisa Rolfe. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing counter terrorism, West Midlands Police was one of three regions to pilot Multi Agency Centres which has resulted in a blueprint of a new national model. <li>• British Transport Police has established an authorised firearms officer hub in Birmingham, providing firearms for the rail network. Allowing the British Transport Police to use West Midlands Police facilities and completing joint training, understanding operational protocol if West Midlands Police and the British Transport Police ever needed to work together. <li>• West Midlands Police meet the requirement of the Public Order risk assessment taken annually. <li>• The Force has developed its approach to tackling serious and organised crime. Serious and Organised Crime and Exploitation (SOCEX) hub & SOCEX board have been created and is chaired by ACC Sue Southern. <li>• Cyber dependant investigation team is now an established within the economic crime unit. <li>• Significant training is undertaken as per every year. <li>• There is now an Improvement action plan in regards to response to missing people – Chaired by ACC Meir. <li>• Using SOCEX hub to ensure the Force is clear about the links between child exploitation and serious and organised crime. Looking to identify any organised crime groups who are involved in the exploitation of children. <li>• Assurance was given that there are arrangements in place to protect the public, regarding individuals travelling into the region. Information is shared effectible to work with other agencies. <li>• Assurance was given 7 stops at airports are carried out in a proportionate manner, done in a systemic way to protect the liberties of people and are scrutinised both internally and externally. <li>• SOCEX hub is being supported by local authority participation. Clarity required as to why SOCEX is being reported to the Combined authority. <li>• Assurance was given that there is a clear difference between terrorism and activism / protest. This is explicitly discussed in training of staff. <li>• (referring to paragraph 49) West Midlands Police trains a much higher

	proportion of its staff in regards to public order than is required to meet the national commitment.
	REGULAR ITEMS
014/20	<p>Item 11a – Strategic Policing and Crime Board Work Plan Presented by Alethea Fuller.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report contains the proposed work plan for the Strategic Policing and Crime Board for the remainder of the Commissioners time in office. • The March meeting will in effect be an annual/ end of term report, covering the Commissioners time in office.
015/20	<p>Item 13 – Chief Constable Update</p> <p>The Chief Constable highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6000 999 calls a month, 90% are answered within 10 seconds, average 8 seconds. • None emergency answer time is an average of 3 minutes but that has been reducing. • Crime reduction figures, 27% reduction in murders, violence charges have fallen by 17%, Vehicle crime is down by 16%, burglary is down by 16%. Robbery is static and knife crime has seen an 8% rise. Hate crime has increased by 15% and domestic abuse has seen a 23% rise. • Crime recording has had an impact on these figures, due to better practice and mainly due to new legislation, particularly in areas like coercive control. • Operation Guardian – working directly with neighbourhood policing units, doing good work on targeted hotspots. A lot of work around young people, looking at repeatedly mentioned names within cases of those who are on the periphery of violence. These people are subject to targeted intervention to divert and address their offending.
016/20	The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, his officers and the Board members for their detailed reports and discussion. The meeting was closed at 13:01hrs.