



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday 19 May 2020
1000 – 1200 hrs

Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

AGENDA

1.	10:00	Apologies and PCC Update The Commissioner will provide a general update.	Verbal
2.	10:05	Notes of the Last Meeting The notes of the Board meeting held on 21 April 2020 are attached to this agenda. The notes include actions in bold, with the steps taken to address those actions included in italics. The notes carry forward any outstanding actions from previous Board meetings to ensure that the Board is regularly updated on progress.	
3	10:10	Questions from Members of the Public The Commissioner will consider questions from members of the public (other than police officers and staff) who live, work or study in the West Midlands relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any questions have to be submitted in writing to the Commissioner at least seven working days before the meeting. Members of the public may submit one question per meeting. Members of the public are reminded that it is also possible to ask questions of West Midlands Police and Crime Panel whose role is to support and review the work of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. For further information go to the Panel's website http://westmidlandspcc.co.uk	
EMERGENCY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN			
4a	10:30	Objective Three: Leading and supporting a partnership response to the national emergency	Written Report
4b	10:50	Objective Four: Ensure the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does all it can to effectively respond to the national emergency, including commissioning services that mitigate its effect and support the return to normality	Written Report

4c	11:10	<p>Objective One: West Midlands Police responds efficiently and effectively to COVID-19, and works in partnership to protect the public of the West Midlands</p> <p><i>Report for Noting.</i></p>	Written Report
4d	11:30	<p>Objective Two: Protect the organisational health of West Midlands Police, so it not only responds to the national emergency effectively, but recovers and returns to normality as quickly as possible</p> <p><i>Report for Noting.</i></p>	Written Report
5.	11.50	<p>Chief Constable Update The Chief Constable will give a verbal update on operational policing matters which can be discussed in the public domain.</p>	Verbal update
6.	11.59	Date of Next Meeting: 16 June 2020	For Noting



Strategic Policing and Crime Board
Notes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 21st April 2020 10:00am - 11:30am
Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

Attendees:

- David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ashley BERTIE : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Brendan CONNOR : Board Member
- Alethea FULLER : Head of Policy
- Cath HANNON : Board Member
- Jonathon JARDINE : Chief Executive
- Vanessa JARDINE : Assistant Chief Constable
- Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer
- Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
- Thomas MCNEIL : Strategic Advisor/Board Member
- Waheed SALEEM : Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- Gurinder SINGH JOSAN : Board Member
- David THOMPSON : Chief Constable

3 Observers and 1 Note Taker.

Please Note:

1. *This meeting was recorded and the entire discussion can be found here:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiO52vkBB-8>
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here:*
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/spcb-april-2020/>
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.*

035/2020	<p>Item 1: Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>The Commissioner welcomed everybody to the meeting, reminding attendees that it was being webcast on YouTube due to the current pandemic.</p>
036/2020	<p>Item 2: Notes of the Last Meeting – 18 February 2020</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
037/2020	<p>Item 3: PCC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner advised that the purpose of the Board Meeting has remained the same, and the reports were gathered as usual, despite the current pandemic. • The Commissioner raised concerns for the future regarding the consequences of COVID-19 and the Government’s lockdown restrictions. Clarification is needed from

	<p>Government regarding both the short and long term strategy as the pandemic could be potentially catastrophic for the UK economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact is being maintained with the Minister and other Police and Crime Commissioner's in order to raise concerns. • The additional funding from the Home Office, for surge and uplift, must be considered as flexible. • West Midlands being one of the highest affected areas in the Country, the Commissioner praised and expressed his thanks to the Key Workers who are making a high personal sacrifice through continuing to work. • The Commissioner conveyed his thanks to the Force, and also to the public, who have followed the Government's lockdown procedures and regulations in order to stay home, save lives and help the NHS with the surge in demand. • The Commissioner offered his condolences to those families who have lost anyone as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis.
	<p>EMERGENCY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p>
<p>038/2020</p>	<p>Item 4a: Objective One: West Midlands Police responds efficiently and effectively to COVID-19, and works in partnership to protect the public of the West Midlands.</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by ACC Vanessa Jardine, and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of current crime trends has revealed significant reductions in opportunistic crime levels on communities. Burglary and robbery, have seen one of the biggest decreases. Burglary decreased by 35%, and robbery by almost 60%. • Force can target drug related criminality, as the Government's lockdown has created suppression; drug markets are known as a driving cause for county lines of violence and therefore need to be monitored. • Violence, specifically regarding children, is a priority. Concern surrounds children not attending schools, as for many this is considered their 'safe place'. A rise of cases are being handled by the NCA; international infrastructures online and overseas referrals are forecast to increase. • Hate crime targeting the Chinese community and false information being published on Social Media, with the aim to cause community tensions, has increased. The Force are forecasting methods to bring diverse groups together in order to create a platform for the public to share their concerns and provide information. The Force has released counter messages to the public and is implementing methods to support upcoming religious and community engagements. • Specialist teams are working with the Violence Reduction Unit and Public Health England to investigate domestic abuse, increase support and encourage victims to come forward. Emphasis was placed on the fact no resources have been taken from the Domestic Abuse Team. • An increase in domestic abuse reports is anticipated once the Government's lockdown is lifted, and exemplifies that the Force are more than able to cope with the increase. Alternative methods of reporting domestic abuse are being explored, with the focus concerning online reporting oppose to the 101 and 999 system. • The Force has enforced COVID-19 related powers with regards to people leaving home without a reasonable excuse. Firstly, the Force aims to communicate and express the importance of following the lockdown rules. Secondly, police can ask for compliance and offer deliberate encouragement. The last resort is enforcement and subjecting the person to a fixed penalty notice. 242 fixed penalty notices have being issued so far.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of a technological app allows data to be recorded - the Chief Constable advised that they are only recording geographical data where a level of non-compliance occurs and members of the public are contesting requests. • There is huge speculation and significant amount of media interest concerning the rumours about 5G. The Force has seen incidents of damage to masts, and as a consequence is actively patrolling these areas to ensure protection. Contacting 101 or Crime Stoppers is the action that the public should take to ensure the community are acting together to defeat crime. • Regarding non-compliance, the Chief Constable advised that traditional mechanisms are being used in order to portray coercive powers. The use of bodycams is encouraged to ensure evidence can be gathered from public interactions, if a demonstration of appropriate action is necessary through law. • Complaints around police conduct are currently minimal. • The Force are involved in chairing a daily Strategic Coordination Group meeting with consistent representatives from Public Health England, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, diverse NHS departments, Local Authorities and Coroners. As a consequence, the Force can gain clarification of issues from each organisation and efficiently drive a partnership strategy in order to benefit communities across the West Midlands. • The Assistant Chief Constable expressed how fortunate the Force are to have experts in the humanitarian and bereavement department, under the leadership of Jenny Pearson and Lee Wendy working in conjunction with the Coroner. The Force have being recognised nationally as being leaders in this area and have therefore shared strategies and information with other Forces across the Country. • Focus was placed upon praising Birmingham Airport becoming a temporary mortuary during the pandemic. Contextually, the Force feel fortunate that they receive highly skilled training and therefore have a strong commitment with regards to response. • Regarding COVID-19 related criminality, members of the public whom endanger others and cause social harm will be dealt with appropriately. Crimes concerning anti-social behaviour are being publicised in order to inform the public that actions are being taken by the Force. The Chief Constable offered reassurance that the Force have prioritised this form of criminality, and that the Courts are supporting the Force in doing so. <p>Action: Due to the introduction of the technological system, recording categorisation to be implemented by the Force.</p>
039/2020	<p>Item 4b: Objective Two: Protect the organisational health of West Midlands Police, so it not only responds to the national emergency effectively, but recovers and returns to normality as quickly as possible</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by the Chief Constable, and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demand from staff working from home was successfully managed by the IT and Digital department and they were therefore thanked for their efforts. Contribution from those working from home is efficient, with staff adapting quickly to the new culture and working online. • PPE is available and effectively managed, with no shortages. The Chief Constable has encouraged employees to use their judgement regarding when to deploy and use PPE; for example, patrol officers will use less PPE compared to those officers dealing directly with members of the public who are symptomatic. • A systematic three-tiered plan is being implemented to support staff who are exposed to diverse levels of trauma, such as community and relative deaths, the temporary mortuary and dealing with people who are symptomatic.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Commissioner's agreement, the Force has the ability to issue additional payments to special constables. The Force is considering creating a budget in order to categorise special payments. There will be a balance between the reward being significant enough to recognise special contributions whilst minimising the financial impact on the Force. • The Wolverhampton custody suite is the designated location for those who claim to have Coronavirus symptoms. All custody blocks have medical practitioners on site. • The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is exploring how to maintain Appropriate Adult services. Work is still ongoing to ensure the custody blocks are working as normal. • The Force is up to date and confident regarding testing; all forces in the region have the correct number of tests and the Force could facilitate more if necessary. Presently, 197 tests have been completed in the West Midlands, for 147 officers or staff and the remaining 50 being household members. • The Force has offered 'next day' tests for those who are symptomatic. The Chief Constable reminded that tests are not 100% accurate, and those who are tested negative for Coronavirus must stay at home until the symptoms have disappeared. • It was noted that the financial implications of the Crisis are not budgeted for and therefore the Home Office has been contacted in order to discuss funding. <p>Action: The Force is continuing to develop the reward strategy for Special Constables and this will be presented to the Commissioner.</p>
040/2020	<p>Item 4c: Objective Three: Leading and supporting a partnership response to the national emergency</p> <p><i>Report for Noting and Further Discussion at the Next Meeting.</i></p>
041/2020	<p>Item 4d: Objective Four: Ensure the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does all it can to effectively respond to the national emergency, including commissioning services that mitigate its effect and support the return to normality</p> <p><i>Report for Noting and Further Discussion at the Next Meeting.</i></p>
042/2020	<p>Item 5: Chief Constable Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force has been responding to the pandemic since the beginning of February, before other Forces began their operations. The Chief Constable is positive in how the Force has dealt with the situation. • The Chief Constable advised that the pandemic will transform the Force, as the crisis has brought out the strengths within the organisation and the adapted processes have increased efficiency. • The Chief Constable expressed praise and thanks to the Force which has shown dedication and commitment. • The Chief Constable also offered thanks to the public, noting the way that communities have come together in the region.
043/2020	<p>Item 6: Date of Next Meeting: 19 May 2020.</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, the Force and the Board Members for their attendance, detailed reports and discussion. The remaining two reports that haven't been discussed will be considered at the next Board Meeting.</p>