



Strategic Policing and Crime Board
Notes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 19th May 2020 10:00am – 12:00pm
Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

Attendees:

- David JAMIESON : Police and Crime Commissioner
- Claire BELL : Command Team/Head of Operations
- Brendan CONNOR : Board Member
- Alethea FULLER : Deputy Chief Executive
- Catherine HANNON : Board Member
- Jonathan JARDINE : Chief Executive
- Megan JONES : Head of Policy
- Mark KENYON : Chief Finance Officer
- Sarah MARWICK : Board Member
- Thomas MCNEIL : Strategic Advisor/Board Member
- Louisa ROLFE : Deputy Chief Constable
- Gurinder Singh JOSAN : Board Member
- Waheed SALEEM : Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

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=ICR3Ryeol3g>
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here:*
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/spcb-may-2020/>
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.*

044/20	<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>
045/20	<p>Item 2: Notes of the Last Meeting – 21 April 2020</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
046/20	<p>Item 3: PCC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner thanked the Deputy Chief Constable for her work and wished her the best of luck in her future employment position. • The Commissioner recognised and thanked the Force for their hard work. • The public were praised for their compliance during the current pandemic.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner highlighted concerns regarding early secondary year school students, and that the Government should implement socially distanced methods for children to keep in contact with studies. • The category of men aged between 18-25 is heavily represented in the Force's crime figures and needs to be monitored. The Force could potentially witness an increase in antisocial behaviour and criminality due to mental health issues and the level of unemployment rising.
047/20	<p>Item 4: Public Questions</p> <p>There were no public questions.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p>
048/20	<p>Objective Three: Leading and supporting a partnership response to the national emergency</p> <p>This report was presented and summarised by Alethea Fuller and Megan Jones, and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report was launched in April 2020, and builds upon the plan that was introduced in 2016 regarding the organisations who receive grants and that the OPCC support. • Each partnership has a contingency response plan to ensure the whole Criminal Justice system is supported. A collaborative approach is allowing work on the court backlog to be completed. • The Criminal Justice system is focused upon the recovery of the pandemic and ensuring the effective strategic methods undertaken are retained. • Correspondence with commissioning services has allowed adaptation to services, ensuring virtual victim support is available. • Meetings occur with the Seven Heads of Community Safety weekly to ensure that information is shared across the local authority areas. • The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner chairs the task and finish group for prison releases. Offenders are being released into a different environment and therefore need continuity of care in order to prevent re-offending. A prison-release package is circulating and intended to compliment release contracts. • Recognising vulnerabilities, such as past trauma, domestic abuse, poverty, homelessness or mental health issues is currently crucial. • Challenges include increased demand on services, in particular helplines some of which have seen an increase of up to 25%. • There are also challenges around appropriate accommodation for victims and domestic abuse trials. • A budget has been set aside for aspects that have not yet been anticipated, such as support for grief management. • Recovery is being considered through existing forums, and partnership work has enabled an understanding of emerging issues. • A development and recovery plan for the OPCC is being considered.
049/20	<p>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>This report was presented and summarised by Alethea Fuller and Maureen Connolly, and the following points were discussed:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical services, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime, are all of importance regarding the consequences of the current pandemic. • On April 9th 2020, the OPCC applied for 4.4 million pound of Government funding that will be crucial to delivering services. A timescale for confirmation has not been given by the Government. • Domestic abuse related homicides have increased, with 3 women being killed a week in comparison to 2 before the pandemic. Reliable data is published by the Office for National Statistics. • The Counting Dead Women Project has witnessed approximately 100 cases, with only 2 cases having offenders that are outstanding. • Coercive control remains a challenge and requires focus in the future. 58% of victims have refused to contribute to police investigations, suggesting some may not be able to offer information due to coercive control. • Between 23 March and 26 April 2020, 117 incidents per day have been recorded and 146 charges or cautions have been issued. In 60% of lockdown cases, officers identified a suspect. • MARAC referrals will increase, with an additional two per month. • Partners efficiently altered their policies to ensure safety and allow women and children to contact them for support. • The OPCC launched the regional No Excuse for Abuse Campaign in order to raise awareness that friends, family and neighbours can act. • A surge in reports is forecasted after restrictions are lifted. • Criminal Justice practices are being maintained, including Custody Visiting and Appropriate Adult Schemes. • The Deputy Chief Constable thanked partnerships for supporting the domestic abuse strategies. The force are considering outstanding suspects, the forecasted surge and the return of partnership agencies and are actively preparing for this. • The Commissioner expressed concerns regarding the decline in reports of domestic abuse and reassured that services are in place for support.
050/20	<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>This report was presented and summarised by DCC Louisa Rolfe, and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force has seen a significant reduction in crime; youth violence has decreased by 60.9%, for example. • An increase in commercial and household burglary is forecasted as Government restrictions loosen. • Regarding domestic abuse, the Force are working alongside MARAC in order to prioritise arrests whilst using audit mechanisms to ensure accuracy with crime recording. • Intelligence has increased regarding online safeguarding in order to protect children and vulnerable people. • The Force aim to mitigate the risk of online child abuse through increasing awareness. Age appropriate tools are available through the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, in association with the Crime Agency Centre. • Schools may be a possible target for increased criminal activity. The staggered return to schools may help to control crime, such as varying start and finish times. • The Force has developed a patrol strategy across key hospitals and retail premises to offer protection for the NHS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational policing is focused on individuals who aim to cause harm in society through organised crime, such as drug dealing. 55 warrants have been delivered. • The increase in police officers and technology advances has proved constructive and demonstrates what could be achieved with increased resources. • 553 members of the public whom have registered an interest in volunteering are being supported and considered for future events. • The number of officers self-isolating or off sick are below 500, which is lower than the usual absence figures. • Measures regarding testing for international arrivals are being managed entirely by other agencies and is not a policing matter. <p>Action: The Force to speak to a specialist in Public Protection to gain a greater insight into monitoring online child abuse.</p> <p>Action: The Force to speak to officers involved with monitoring the staggered opening of schools to ensure plans and support are available.</p>
051/20	<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>This report was presented and summarised by DCC Louisa Rolfe, and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health England has reviewed the national guidance, resulting in new requirements and an increased supply for the level of PPE for officers. PPE has been distributed across forces nationally and costs will hopefully be recovered directly by the Home Office. • Employment checks and national guidance has become increasingly efficient regarding recruitment. Training is continuing under social distancing measures. • Recruiting and training student officers has been prioritised. Staffordshire University was praised for their support. • 487 employees and 611 family members have presently being tested for coronavirus. Availability of testing has improved for key workers. • 19 officers have been redeployed from the Commonwealth Games in order to respond to the current pandemic. Event risk assessments are expected to be delivered by the end of July 2020 and delays are expected until September 2020. • Regarding Brexit, the Home Office are aiming for the December deadline. The Force aim to minimise the impact. • There is 24/7 counselling or health care support available for officers exposed to high trauma risks. • A formal decision regarding recognition and payments to Special Constables will be sent to the Commissioner for consideration. The Special Constabulary was thanked for their impressive work. • The Commissioner expressed his thanks to BP, whom have contributed £100,000. <p>Action: The Force to gather further information on the well-being feedback from staff and how any negative feedback is being actioned.</p>
052/20	Item 5: Deputy Chief Constable Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Deputy Chief Constable informed that sadly the number of murders has increased, and the Force will continue to handle these cases.• An officer has been suspended, following the arrest of a man in Digbeth, following an independent investigation.• An officer is also been independently investigated regarding the use of excessive force during responses and arrests.• The Force were praised for their good work regarding the seizing of over 140 bikes.• The Deputy Chief Constable expressed her thanks to the Force for their overall hard work.
052/20	<p>Item 6: Date of Next Meeting: 16 June 2020</p> <p>A report detailing the use of force within West Midlands Police will be included in the next meeting. The Commissioner thanked the Deputy Chief Constable, the Force and the Board Members for their attendance, detailed reports and discussion.</p>