

Strategic Policing and Crime Board

Tuesday 16th June 2020

Emergency Police and Crime Plan Priority:

Objective 3:

Leading and supporting a partnership response to the national emergency

Objective 4:

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

Presented by:

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Purpose of paper

1. To provide members of the Strategic Police and Crime Board with an update and overview of the OPCC response to objective 3 and 4 in the new emergency chapter of the police and crime plan.
2. This report will update by exception, on progress made since the update given to members in May.

Overview

3. Objective 3 of the emergency chapter sets out how the civic leadership of the West Midlands PCC will both lead and support a partnership response to the national emergency. This includes supporting organisations who receive grants for services, leading the criminal justice response to COVID-19, ensuring a joined up system, and utilising existing structures such as the West Midlands Community Safety Partnership to provide a whole system response to crime and disorder.
4. Objective 4 of the emergency chapter sets out the commitment from the office of the police and crime commissioner to effectively respond to the national emergency, including commissioning services that help mitigate its effect and support the return to normality. The commitment continues to work with the force and partners to maintain longer term planning and leadership to address the root causes of crime.

- All of the activity of the OPCC continues at pace and is set out in the [Objective 3](#) and [Objective 4](#) reports that went to SPCB in May. This report pulls together the activity from both objectives, highlighting additional areas of activity.

Update on Activity

- On the 2nd May 2020 the Government announced a package of £76m funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, vulnerable children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. £20m will be administered by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) through Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across England and Wales. The funding will be ring-fenced for COVID-19 related emergency funding, and then ring-fenced again for spend on each of the three areas of need listed below. Funds allocated for the three different types of services cannot be moved between pots. These funds will be distributed by PCCs as follows:

Domestic abuse services that are already commissioned by PCCs	£10m
Sexual violence services that are already commissioned by PCCs and those that are not currently funded by PCCs	£5m
Domestic abuse services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs	£5m

- The COVID-19 extraordinary funding is from 24 March to 31 October 2020 to meet the additional costs registered charities and organisations have incurred or will incur whilst adapting their services during the pandemic, and to cope with demand increases resulting from it, during this time period. Funding can only be used to address costs associated with COVID-19 from 24 March 2020 – the first day of lockdown. It can't be used to respond to the anticipated surge in numbers of referrals that will need to be supported – it is to respond to the here and now.
- Any spend that organisations commit to beyond the six-month period must be met through their own funds.
- The maximum amount of COVID-19 extraordinary MoJ funding that is allocated to the West Midlands by the Secretary of State for Justice for the financial period from 24 March 2020 to 31 October 2020 inclusive is set out below:

Domestic abuse services that are already commissioned by PCCs	£ 493,000
Sexual violence services that are already commissioned by PCCs and those that are not currently funded by PCCs	£ 246,500
Domestic abuse services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs	£ 246,500
TOTAL	£ 986,000

- The West Midlands proposal for spend is currently with the MoJ for sign off, and includes allocations to organisations that we currently commission to deliver services, and also some services that we do not currently commission. There is still some funding for our non-commissioned services that remains to be allocated and we are



still working with our partners to locate those organisations that may be able to benefit from funding at this time.

11. Funding requests vary from organisation, however in the main we are responding to the immediate needs, including moving to remote working, loss of income, counselling and support needs. Organisations commissioned through the Victim Fund have had to respond to the epidemic by buying emergency IT equipment, investing in technology and supporting their staff to work from home, all of which carry unforeseen costs. Also having to bear the cost of moving helplines/phone providers to be able to deliver support remotely. Some are still in the process of purchasing IT equipment along with adapting their systems for staff to access information when off-site.
12. Professionals offering regular support to victims of DA and SV like ISVAs, IDVAs and counsellors are among those that have had to move to remote working which has resulted in additional costs for providers.
13. The same concerns raised nationally are evident in the region, mostly relating to limited availability of PPE kits and cleaning products. This adversely affects staff working within refuge accommodation and to address this, providers have been encouraged to spend on materials that will enable staff to offer support to their clients safely. We will continue to encourage providers to flex their service delivery in an aim to maximise their preparedness increased support within their organisations.
14. We have used the population based victim grant funding formula (using 2018 population data) to establish each local authority funding amount for each allocation. The funding means that we are able to provide additional funding to services that we currently commission as well as those that we do not, in order to enable them to continue delivering support to victims most in need.
15. The OPCC supported the West Midlands Police promotion of several campaigns regionally including their #SuspectItReportIt, See Me, Hear Me, Thinkuknow and NSPCC Still Here campaigns along with linking the child abuse element in with the new Domestic Abuse #NoExcuseForAbuse campaign to push the same message out that it is important to recognise the further issues for children and young people at this time. This is coupled by West Midlands Police training frontline staff through the Domestic Abuse Matters training to capture the Voice of the Child by asking children five wellbeing questions when they go out to incidents. This is particularly important as the voice of the child which is normally captured via health, education and social care is significantly reduced at this time and having this wellbeing element supported by WMP will allow the safeguarding issues relating to children to be immediately.
16. The OPCC held a Hate Crime Symposium on the 10 June 2020. It aimed to coordinate a community response to supporting victims of this crime allowing providers to share their expertise on models that could work to support various groups affected by hate crime. Through this, we would be able to shape a model for the region that accurately responds to the needs for victims of hate crime. Voluntary and community sector providers in the West Midlands would take part and WMP representatives would consult with agencies present on the day to share understanding from a policing perspective. There have been concerns raised by agencies following victim reports directly linked to being harassed or assaulted as a result of COVID-19. The objectives of the symposium remain the same and it will now take place online in form of a webinar. The symposium will open with an exploration of hate crime and hate incidents. Including an assessment of reporting mechanisms and a discussion around the importance of reporting. The information we gathered from service providers will



enable informed commissioning responses and improved working with WMP and other statutory bodies supporting victims.

Like other projects, the OPCC has encouraged the organisation currently delivering support to victims of hate crime in Birmingham to adapt their services to meet the needs of victims. Following the symposium, the OPCC will be able to fund an additional organisation to provide support to victims of hate crime with the hope of having a regional service delivered that will respond appropriately to the needs of victims affected by hate crime.

17. The West Midlands Fraud Board took place on the 18 of May with updates from the City of London Police, from West Midlands Police, Trading Standards on profiteering in the Coronavirus climate and a non-COVID-19 topic on Unexplained Wealth Orders by the CPS.
18. Three community-based organisations have been chosen to communicate and encourage youngsters to keep safe during the pandemic. They will reach out, communicate, engage and get feedback from our local young people in order to support and help targeted and vulnerable young people through this transitional period from confinement. Contact is made through Facebook, Twitter, non-mainstream social media platforms including podcasts, YouTube and other outlets. This is one the OPCC channels of communication with young people.
19. On Thursday 11 June the Police and Crime Commissioner held a virtual community panel session that was broadcast live on YouTube and chaired by criminologist Craig Pinkney. The session focused on what needs to happen in the coming weeks and months to ensure that community tensions do not rise and that there is a proper plan in place to get young people back into education, training and employment.
20. The panel discussed a number of current issues that are currently causing tensions not just in the West Midlands, but across the country and the world. They included:
 - The Pandemic
 - Use of Force and Stop and Search
 - The killing of George Floyd in the USA, the impact on the UK and the Black Lives Matter campaign

21. The PCC made a statement on the current tensions, and read parts out to the meeting; the statement is set out in full below:

'I wanted to write to you to explain my stance on Black Lives Matters demonstrations, what this means for West Midlands Police and how we can all respond to create the change we want to see.

The protests we've seen here and abroad since George Floyd's killing on 25 May 2020 remind us that racism, discrimination and racial inequality are real, both in the UK and abroad. Structural inequality blights the lives of many Black and Asian people. Our nation's history is controversial and complex: at the same time as we remember the D-Day invasion to free Western Europe from fascism, we also reflect on the legacy of slavery, injustice and inequality that is woven into the country we have become. George Floyd's killing has reminded many of personal experiences of unfairness and maltreatment, and made fresh these difficult and traumatic memories. We cannot write



these off as historic anomalies: the Windrush scandal is from our own time, our generation, our responsibility.

I stand with those who want to see policing that has the confidence of everyone. I stand with those who want to see an end to the inequality, lack of opportunity, structural prejudice and poor social mobility that blight our country. These are not issues that divide us by ethnicity or gender, and they should not be allowed to do so. That is why I've called for a Future Generations Deal to ensure we prevent a surge in youth unemployment in the COVID era. It's why I've held a community panel, am currently holding youth engagement sessions in each of the local authority areas and will be having a dedicated youth panel session on the 25 June where we will be listening to the voices of young people, meeting with MPs and focusing on police use of force and stop and search at my next board meeting taking place on the 16 June. Only by listening to the truth can we agree what steps we should take next. The urge from some will be to destroy, to tear down, to let anger and revenge guide us.

I will not go that way. I want to see us come together to create, to build, to renew. We must learn from what has gone before: have we done what Scarman, MacPherson and Lammy told us needed doing? Are we doing enough to address the issues that undermine public confidence in the police and the criminal justice system? Do the police, and partners, do enough to build networks of allies across all communities? Is our neighbourhood engagement proactive, rather than just driven by crisis response? Do our officers have the cultural competence to police hyper diverse populations and challenge racism? Does our training give them these skills, informed by the lived experience of those who have seen policing at its best and worst? Do we involve the community enough in our senior appointments processes, both in policing and in partner agencies? Are our complaints and misconduct processes working well, and do we do enough to understand what drives and leads to officer misconduct and failure in the criminal justice system?

More fundamentally, why are we asking police officers to be the frontline response to people in mental health crisis? Why are the police dealing with children who are being let down by the care system and becoming ensnared in county lines? Why are the consequences of schools exclusions and off rolling, both of which lead to youth violence, made to be a police problem? Why is it the police who are having to cope with the homelessness crisis and street begging? Why do we think that more police officers, more laws, and more security will stop a small number of British people becoming so disaffected that they reject our values and become radicalised into violent extremism? Drugs misuse is a huge public health challenge, and yet the inadequate national response leaves Response Officers – Response Officers, in Birmingham – administering Naloxone to overdosing heroin addicts. Low wages, the gig economy, zero hours contracts and ballooning personal debt are driving the hard pressed into crime, where short custodial sentences create a downward spiral of lost opportunity and failure. All of these challenges require a system-wide response, rather than just police reform.

Policing is a product of the society we create. You don't fix society by fixing policing: it works the other way around.

However, I will do what I can. I finish with this challenge. In the next three years, if the government delivers on its promise, West Midlands Police will recruit about 2,750



Officers to increase its numbers by 1,200. It won't be enough to get back all the ones we lost during austerity, but it's better than nothing. This means that in three years, about a third of the Force will have less than three years' experience. [I want 1,000 of those new officers to be from our BAME communities](#). The people we hire will be the change we make. We're doing everything we can to make policing as attractive a career for everyone. The call to action is for all our community leaders – MPs, councillors, activists, campaigners, educators, trainers, faith leaders – to seize this opportunity and encourage our young people to join policing, help build the society they want to live in, and make policing the institution they want it to be: an institution they, their families and their communities are proud of'.

22. More so now than ever, policing needs to listen to the voices of the communities it serves and this panel gave us an opportunity to listen but also for community members to come up with solutions for change. Part of that change is the PCCs challenging targets around BAME police recruitment; the link setting out the position is above. We are currently collating the comments and ideas into an Action Plan.
23. The Violence Reduction Unit is working with our commissioned providers to listen to the voice of young people through a series of virtual meetings that are currently taking place within each local authority area. The feedback from those meetings will be brought together in a virtual Youth Panel debate taking place on the 25 June; Deputy PCC Waheed Saleem will take part in that debate.
24. On the 28 May, the PCC published the [Future Generations Deal](#) report. Authored by the PCC's Strategic Advisor Tom McNeil, it sets out a number of options to avoid the ticking time bomb of youth unemployment and crime in the West Midlands by putting in place measures to protect against a long term rise in youth unemployment. Those measures include:
 - A New Youth Deal, based on the successful scheme in the late 1990s, where funding was provided for employers to provide entry jobs and training for young people.
 - A Post-apprenticeship Deal. The government needs to provide a package to ensure the investment in these new skills is not lost and young people's hard work is rewarded so they can continue long-term careers for the benefit of them and businesses.
 - A Youth Community Deal, to facilitate community projects to allow young people to showcase their skills through arts and cultural projects
 - A Further Education Deal, to help colleges reach out to young people with new virtual courses to give them the skills to set them up for the future
 - A Youth Virtual World Deal, to help young people in school but out of the classroom access learning. Many poorer young people don't have access to their classrooms digitally and a package is needed to include them in education, to keep them away from the drug gangs.
 - A Happy Schools Deal, to ensure that those away from the classroom still have the pastoral support they need. This would be for both children and their families.

25. The report is now being considered working with partners in forums where the OPCC is working as part of the recovery planning for the West Midlands. We will update members on progress at the next Board meeting.

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Police and Crime Commissioner West Midlands