



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 15th September 2020 10:00am – 12:00pm
Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

Attendees:

David JAMIESON	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
Claire BELL	:	Chief Superintendent
Sarah GILBERT	:	Regional Policy Officer
Cath HANNON	:	Board Member
Megan JONES	:	Head of Policy
Gurinder Singh JOSAN	:	Board Member
Jonathan JARDINE	:	Chief Executive
Mark KENYON	:	Chief Finance Officer
Sarah MARWICK	:	Board Member
Sarah MATTA	:	Volunteer Coordinator
Thomas MCNEIL	:	Strategic Advisor/Board Member
Waheed SALEEM	:	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
David THOMPSON	:	Chief Constable
Tony TINDALE	:	Independent Custody Visitor

Plus four observers and one note taker.

Please Note:

1. This meeting was recorded and the entire discussion can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMhMBN7IvbY>
2. The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here:
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/spcb-september-2020/>
3. Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.

088/ 20	<p>Item 1 - Apologies and PCC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. • The Commissioner described the events of 6th September as truly tragic and thanked the Police, ambulance and hospital staff. He also paid tribute to those members of the public who assisted on the street. • The investigation will be followed closely, and as soon as legally allowed, a written paper will be published to this board, to ensure any lessons are identified and acted upon. • The Chief Constable provided a statement. Due to the nature of the incident, this is a written update and no further questions can be asked. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The thoughts of everyone in West Midlands Police are with the victims, their families and friends.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first three victims were reported to the police between 12:31am and 12:52am on the 6th September. At 1:23am the initial investigation identified links between the two incidents. ○ Evidence presented to the court will allege that the suspect left the city centre after the first three victims were attacked returning to another part of the city centre around an hour later where it is alleged two more incidents took place. ○ The Force always aims to find suspects immediately after incidents. ○ The response times to the four clusters of attacks are based upon the time between receiving the emergency call to officers arriving at the scene. ○ Attack 1 – 7 minutes response time, 3 minutes arrival time. Attack 2 - 13 minutes response time, 3 minutes arrival time. Attack 3 – 6 minutes response time, 4 minutes arrival time. Attack 4 - 7 minutes response time, 4 minutes arrival time. ○ There were a considerable number of officers deployed to each call. The number deployed for attack three and four was extensive and many were unable to record their attendance on the radio. ○ The Force Duty Inspector attempted to deploy every officer in the central area of the force as the calls were received and this was later extended to western and eastern clusters. ○ Specialist resources were deployed including multiple firearms officers, taser units, traffic resources, the police helicopter and other police forces were placed on standby. This was in addition to working with the ambulance service on their response. ○ An extensive CCTV trawl was carried out to secure images of the suspect on public and private CCTV by investigators. An appeal was launched using the UK police major incident public reporting site to quickly secure mobile phone images. The images of the suspect were shared at 7pm on the 6th September. They were downloaded from the private CCTV cameras at 5:30pm – just 20 minutes after the Force discovered them. ○ The suspect was arrested at 4am on Monday 7th September, 26 hours after the attack. ○ The circumstances offer learning not just to West Midlands Police but to UK policing. ○ A separate legal process exists to review the management of the suspect by authorities prior to these incidents. ○ Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu has agreed that National Counter Terrorism Policing will also debrief the incident. ○ The Chief Constable concluded by saying he is proud of the response of staff of the force on the night and those carrying out this investigation. The Force's job now is to ensure justice.
089/20	<p>Item 2 - Notes of the Last Meeting – 18th August 2020</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. The results of the actions regarding Special Constables and Hate Crime have been sent to all members and have therefore closed.</p>

090/20	<p>Item 3 - Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>There were no public questions.</p>
091/20	<p>Item 4 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could the Chief Constable outline the impact and cost of increased virtual remand hearings on West Midlands Police? (Asked by Waheed Saleem) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a result of considerable restrictions placed on the Magistrates court due to COVID, Policing, across the UK has taken part in 'virtual hearings' which is video conferences taking place from police cells, into the court, to prevent transportation. If the operation of supporting virtual remand hearing was to cease, it could potentially impact the criminal justice system. • Policing does need to see a sustained operating plan from the Criminal Justice System to begin normal business. • The costs and demand are becoming considerable and at some stage the sustainability will need a review. 2. Can the Chief Constable outline what activities have taken place to prepare policing for the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review? (Asked by Waheed Saleem) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has indicated its desire to support an uplift of 20,000 police officers in the Country. • Funding has become unpredictable and there are a number of issues within the Forces budget. • The Force have taken steps to ensure a successful spending review, such as the National Police Chiefs Council and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Group. These groups are making sure that Policing can support Home Office colleagues as they prepare the bids. • The Force, along with the Chief Constables' Council, has planned medium term financial focus, based on assumptions and predictable risk, planning ahead and making long term decisions for the sustainability of the Force.
Reducing Reoffending (focus on Recovery - other reporting is by exception)	
092/20	<p>Item 5 - Criminal Justice - Response and Recovery to Coronavirus</p> <p>The report was presented by Megan Jones, Sarah Gilbert and Sarah Matta. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Criminal Justice paper focuses on the OPCC response to COVID-19 as set out in the emergency chapter. • It has been written collaboratively, focusing on regional criminal justice structures, West Midland's local structures and commissioning services such as the Cranstoun Arrest Referral Service and New Chance. • Partnership working has addressed new and emerging issues within the criminal justice system.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 23rd March 2020 the Lord Chief Justice announced that in England and Wales all new jury trials were to be halted until they can be conducted safely. • Due to the longevity of the delays caused by the pandemic, there has been significant backlogs in the Crown and Magistrates Courts. • In December 2019 a Regional Criminal Justice Collaboration Forum was instated within the region, which sat up above LCJB level designed to bring together collective issues being addressed by multiple areas. • Meetings have predominantly focused on the issue of backlogs within the court and have considered the impact on victims and witnesses around implementing video enabled justice. • HMCTS have been a key partner during the meetings. • The Performance Analysts of West Midlands and Staffordshire OPCC's has developed a data summary, which has allowed progress to be made against backlogs. • This data set is continually being updated and continues to be a focus of the Criminal Justice Data Analyst Group. • A regional co-commissioning working group has been set up, which is bringing together commissioning partners across the criminal justice system to pursue opportunities to commission reducing re-offending. • The disproportionality committee has developed significantly, focusing on the impacts of the pandemic on the BAME communities, developing learning and understanding, from the Black Lives Matter movement. This includes looking at diversity within the workforce across varies criminal justice agencies. • Working with providers, the Commissioner set up a 'PCC Prison Release Package.' The number of prisoners released from prison was much lower than the team had anticipated. • Probation reform is due to start in June 2021. The probation footprint in the West Midlands will include West Midlands, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Mercia Forces. • Independent Custody Visitors roles have changed due to the pandemic. • Weekly physical visits have continued at Oldbury and Perry Barr Custody suites. • Wolverhampton became a designated COVID Custody block, and therefore physical visitors were paused, but virtual appointments were set up. Due to technical issues, Coventry custody suite has been able to complete telephone calls. <p>Action: The Force to provide information on whether the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Appropriate Adult Service to Children, provided by the local authority.</p>
093/20	<p>Item 6 - Emergency Chapter</p> <p>The report was presented by Chief Superintendent Claire Bell and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National restrictions & local restrictions have been introduced in Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull. • There has been a danger of relaxation, especially aimed at young people. Policing recognises the impact the pandemic has had on young people. • The College of Policing and Home Office work with supporting the guidance and applying it. • Areas of National Intervention will be where there is an enhanced level of concentration form the Force.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To notify the police of breaches, please use the online form or web chat. Please do not phone 999 or 101 for breaches, unless this is a large event or an event that may be dangerous and urgent. • Increased calls from Birmingham West and Coventry has caused an increase in police presence. There has been 9 Directions to Leave and 2 fixed penalty notices within the last 36 hours. • In terms of Power of Entry, the Force are keen not to have the power of entry into dwellings for COVID enforcement. • At present, there is an extremely low level of enforcement and a high level of encouragement and education. • Fixed penalty notice figures are incredible low, which shows the Force is using the '4 E's.' • Current challenges include the three areas of national intervention, the return of normal business and the increase of staff within the Force having to self-isolate. • Quarantine referrals are being managed by the Force Support Unit. Results convey an average of 25 per week. There has been no enforcement taken in regards to those referrals. • There has been 70 positive tests across the Force throughout the pandemic. • Operations staff have been offered testing.
094/20	<p>Item 7 - Finance Budget Monitoring</p> <p>The report was presented by Chief Finance Officer Mark Kenyon and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report details the revenue and capital expenditure forecast for the current financial year, based on information until the end of July. • There's a predicted revenue overspend of £2.3m. This includes expenditure on IT to facilitate home working, overtime, estates costs, and a proportion of external income. • The Force and the Commissioner currently assume that the expenditure on national and local PPE will be reimbursed by the Government. • The Government will also compensate the PCC for up to 75% of income lost due to COVID, however no firm details have been provided with regards to this. It is critical this is received this financial year, as an overspend of 10.5 million would result in further reserves being used. • Within other areas of the force, there is a predicted underspend of £1.7m on police and staff pay. This is due to police recruitment but offset by increased costs in overtime. • The forecast overspend of £2.3m will mean the PCC will have to draw further on the budget reserve in 2020/21, reducing reserve balances further to approximately 5 million by the end of this financial year. • Predicted capital underspend of £12.1m which is due to the phasing of expenditure in the Estates Programme. <p>Action: Mark Kenyon to provide information explaining why funding has increased.</p>
095/20	<p>Item 8 - Chief Constable Update</p> <p>The Chief Constable had no further update than the update given.</p>
096/20	<p>Item 9 - SPCB Work Plan</p>
097/20	<p>Item 10 - Date of Next Meeting: 20th October 2020</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked everyone for the Chief Constable, the Force and Board Members for their detailed reports and discussion.</p>

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