

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

## **Foreword by Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson**

This year has been one of many 'firsts' for West Midlands Police, not least having to adjust and deal with a new world and new type of policing after COVID-19.

Due to the hard work of our police officers during 2019/20 we have seen some crimes begin to fall considerably. This includes vehicle crime, burglaries, shoplifting and other acquisitive crimes that have dropped in the past year. Our officers continue to confront criminals. These reductions are positive for us all.

We saw a number of nasty incidents in 2019/20 where officers were seriously injured, including PC Gareth Phillips who was run over and spent a long period of time in hospital in recovery. Incidents such as these indicate why we are welcoming new, stronger laws to protect emergency workers.

Despite increased demand for policing, we have received cuts of over £175 million since 2010 which has led to there being over 2,000 fewer officers on the streets.

We have recognised the need to innovate, become more agile and more efficient in the work that we do. We have been also recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate as one of the best police forces for future planning. In 2019/20, following the ending of an arrangement between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police, which left the latter in an unsustainable position, we have begun providing some services for Warwickshire such as IT, forensics and HR and payroll. With this collaboration, Warwickshire Police are now able to access the new systems we have developed and to make sure they are financially viable.

There was a time when the police was the service of last resort. However, due to cuts to other services West Midlands Police is increasingly becoming the first point of contact. With fewer resources across the force, this is adding a great deal of strain as our officers deal with more complex issues particularly in the mental health space.

The 20,000 additional police officers promised nationally by the government is welcome, but has to be seen against the backdrop of having lost over 2,000 officers in the West Midlands since 2010. The uplift is only projected to provide the West Midlands with around 1,200 new officers by 2023.

It is also important, that as well as properly investing in policing, the government invest in the other services which help to reduce crime. These include mental health support, programmes for those leaving prison and youth services.

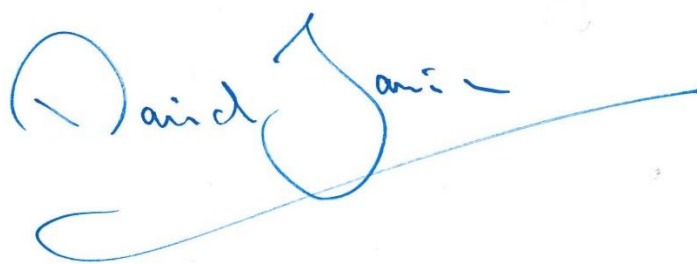
The strain on these services, I fear, could be exacerbated during the recovery from COVID-19 if we are unable to get young people into work, training and education. We risk losing a generation of young people to criminality if we don't make rebuilding society and the economy our top priority.

I have been campaigning in the past year for the government and schools to take new action on exclusions to ensure that when they are issued, that young people have good, alternative education provision to ensure that they aren't left on the streets and potentially become involved in criminality. We know that almost all young people sent out on county lines drugs operations are children excluded from school.

It would be remiss to not mention the recognition of one of our most senior West Midlands officers this year. We have seen Assistant Chief Constable Chris Johnson awarded with the Queen's Policing Medal. Chris has served in the West Midlands his entire policing career where he grew up and has been a dedicated servant to the people of the West Midlands for over 30 years. He has worked tirelessly to keep the people of the West Midlands safe.

2019/20 has also seen the extension of Chief Constable Dave Thompson's contract which has been extended for a further two years. In the coming years, the force will see a number of large events and challenges. Providing continuity in leadership for this period, which will cover Coventry City of Culture in 2021 and the Commonwealth Games in 2022 is key in ensuring that these events run smoothly. Dave Thompson has been an effective Chief Constable in tough times and has always been upfront about the challenges the force faces.

I said when I wrote last year's annual report that it would be my last. However, due to the cancelling of the 2020 elections, I will now remain in post until they are held in May 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Jamieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**David Jamieson**

**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**





west midlands  
police and crime  
commissioner

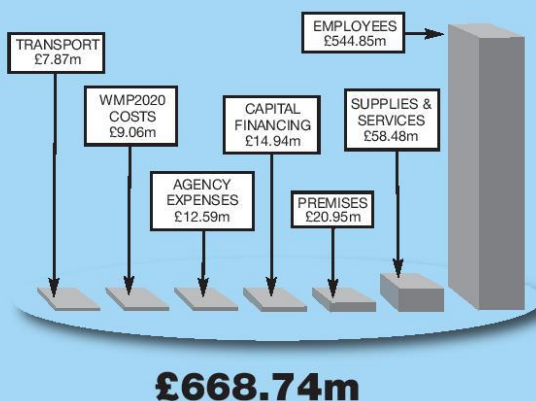
# FINANCES 2020-2021

The tables below show how the net budget of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (£610.6m) is funded from Central Government, business ratepayers and the precept on council taxpayers. This is compared with the previous year (£569.8m) with the main changes shown separately below.

## How the money is spent

## Revenue Expenditure Budget 2020-21

	2019-20 £m	2020-21 £m
Employees	508.88	544.85
Premises	17.81	20.95
Transport	6.55	7.87
Supplies & Services	36.95	58.48
Third Party Payments	11.03	12.59
Capital Financing	7.05	14.94
WMP2020 Costs	10.85	9.06
Gross Expenditure	600.12	668.74
Required Savings	-	-9.89
Income	-33.33	-53.28
Police Force Net Expenditure	<b>566.79</b>	<b>605.57</b>
Victim Support Expenditure, Reducing Crime and Violence Grants and Governance	11.70	15.34
Restorative justice & Victim support income	-3.35	-3.41
Violence Reduction Unit income	-	-3.37
Total net expenditure	<b>575.15</b>	<b>614.12</b>
Use of reserves	-5.30	-3.48
Net budget requirement	<b>569.85</b>	<b>610.64</b>



## Where the money comes from

## How spending has changed

	2019-20 £m	2020-21 £m
Net budget requirement	569.85	610.64
Less:		
Police grant inc. DCLG	-434.00	-466.50
Council tax support grant	-19.03	-19.03
Additional Pension Grant	-6.96	-6.96
Gross Precept	<b>109.86</b>	<b>118.15</b>
Collection Fund Surplus	-1.07	-1.17
Council tax requirement	<b>108.79</b>	<b>116.98</b>
Resident population	2,864,925	2,916,500

	£m
2019-20 net expenditure	575.1
Add:	
Uplift Programme	42.7
Recruitment of additional Police Officers	3.8
Pay Adjustments, Inflation & Increments	14.5
Less:	
Uplift Programme	-10.3
Net Movement in Projects	-1.8
Savings to be identified	-9.9
2020-21 Net Expenditure	<b>614.1</b>

## What you will pay for policing in West Midlands in 2020-21



## Spend on policing per head of population in 2020-21

Council Tax	£40.11
Police Grant inc. DCLG	£159.95
Council Tax Support Grant	£6.52
Additional Pension Grant	£2.39
Equivalent to an average cost per person of	<b>£208.97</b>

Any queries regarding this leaflet should be addressed to:  
The Chief Finance Officer, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime, Lloyd House,  
Colmore Circus Queensway, Birmingham B4 6NQ

Tel: 0121 626 6060  
Email: [wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)  
[www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk) @WestMidsPCC

This leaflet explains the finances of West Midlands Police and is prepared in accordance with Government regulations.

## **Police and Crime Plan**

The law requires every Police and Crime Commissioner to have a Police and Crime Plan, detailing the policing to be provided and the Commissioner's police and crime objectives. The PCC's current plan is for 2016 to 2020. This is the fourth year of the plan.

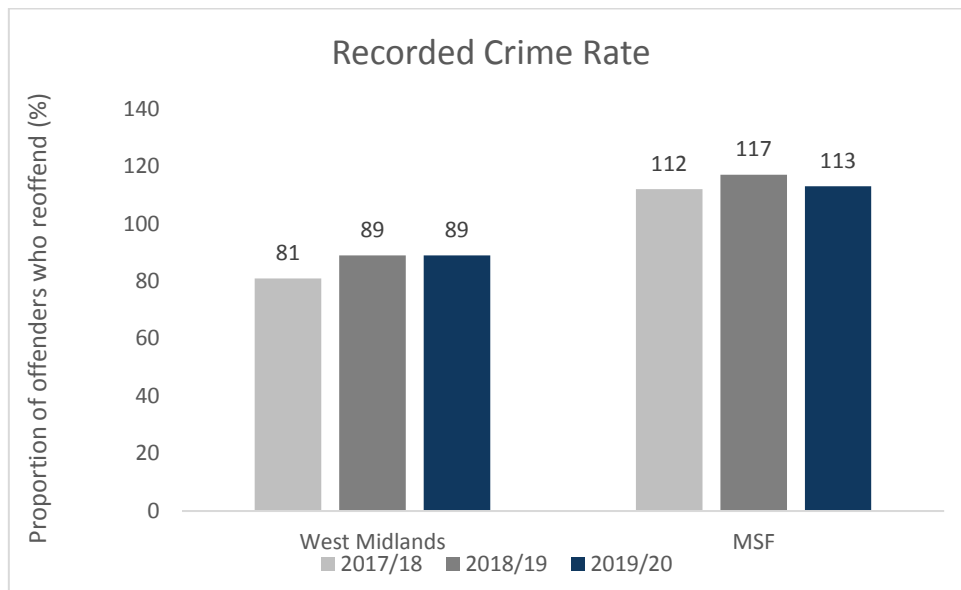
The plan is split into seven sections covering the major priorities of the Commissioner:

- Protecting from harm
- Supporting victims of crime
- Building trust and confidence in our police
- Strengthening communities and growing the economy
- Building a modern police service
- Standing up for young people
- Tackling national and international threats

The Commissioner will hold the force to account through a series of measures and targets including:

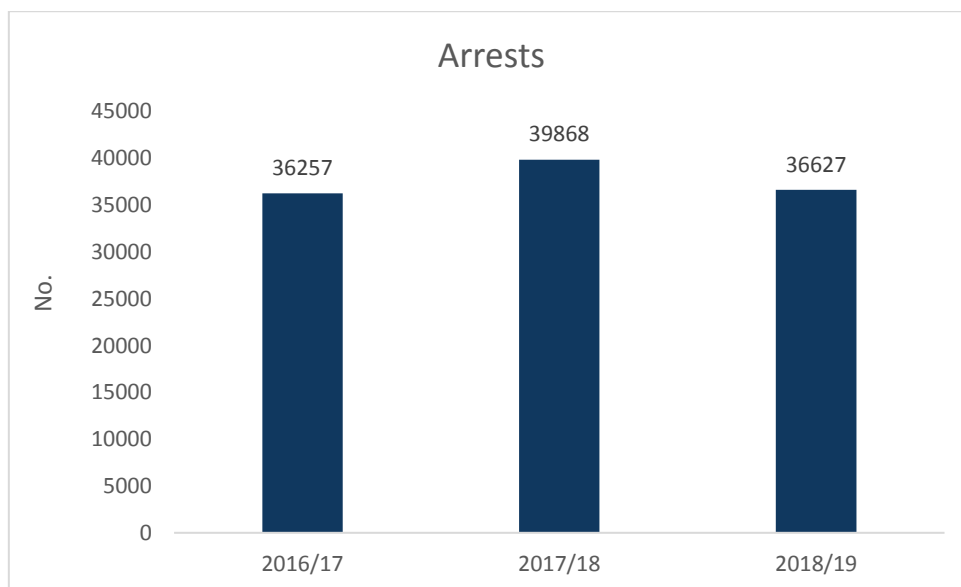
- West Midlands Police to continue to have a lower recorded crime rate compared to other similar forces
- Increased reporting of 'hidden crimes' Intel couldn't help
- Low levels of reoffending
- Fewer young people entering the criminal justice system
- Reductions in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- Increased confidence in West Midlands Police by 2020
- Reductions in the disparities of confidence in the police across different areas
- Satisfaction of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour to increase by 2020
- Fewer complaints against the police and those that are made should be dealt with quicker
- Reductions in the fear of crime
- Increase in public participation and the development of more active citizens in the West Midlands
- Reductions in burglary and robbery

## Performance

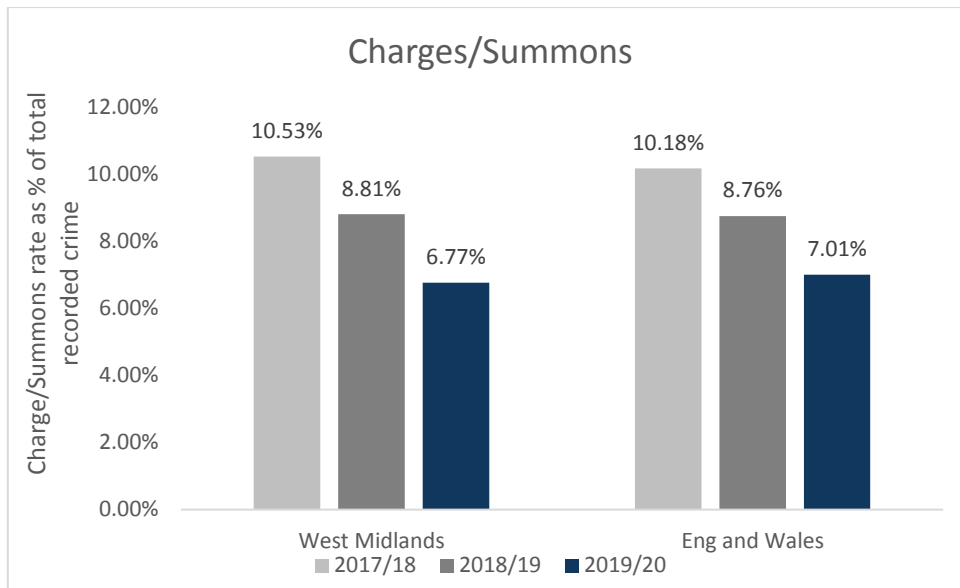


In 2019/20 the total recorded crime rate was 89 crimes per 1,000 population in the West Midlands force area. This was in line with the average for England and Wales. For the Most Similar Force Group (MSF), which includes Merseyside/West Yorkshire/Greater Manchester, the West Midlands has recorded lower rates for the past 3 years.

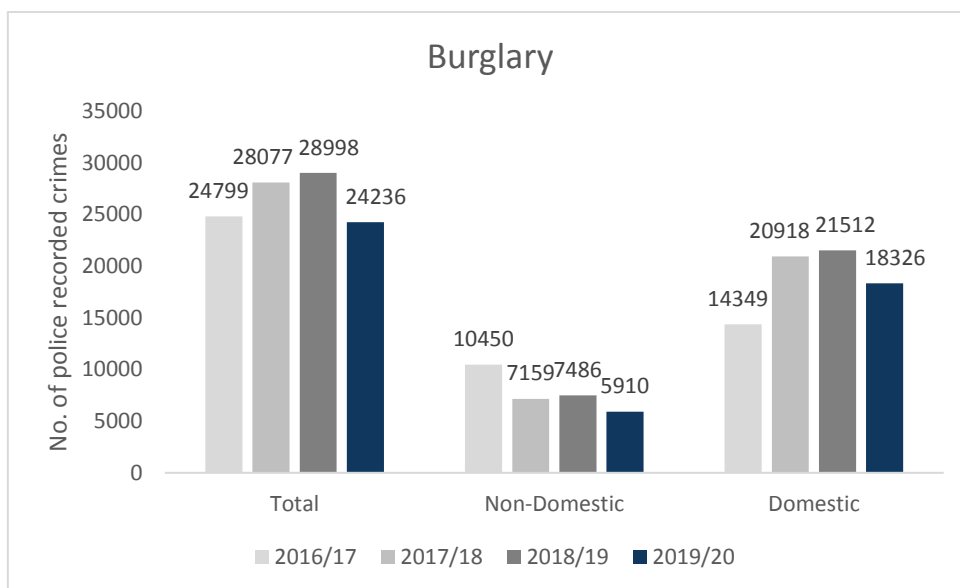
N.B. Due to issues implementing a new recording system in 2019/20 recorded crime rates for Greater Manchester are unavailable for so is not included in the 2019/20 MSF rate.



Following an increase in 2017/18, the most recent published statistics on arrests in the West Midlands show a slight decrease in 2018/19 - From 39,868 in 2017/18 to 36,627, above the 36,257 seen in 2016/17.

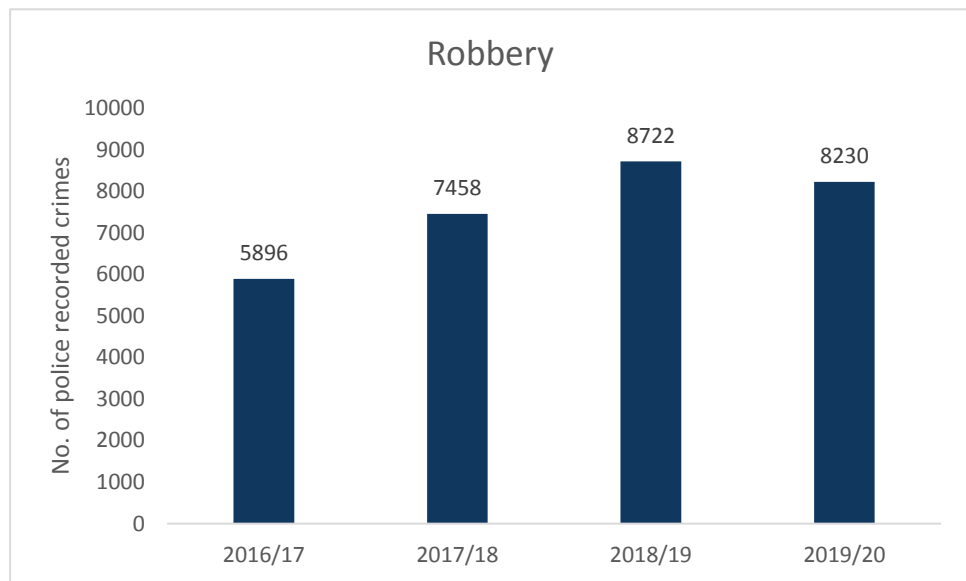


Charges and summons rates in the West Midlands have fallen over the past couple of years, a trend echoed across England and Wales. Whilst the West Midlands retained a higher rate than the England and Wales average for 2017/18 and 2018/19, in 2019/20 the West Midlands saw a slightly lower rate at 6.77%.

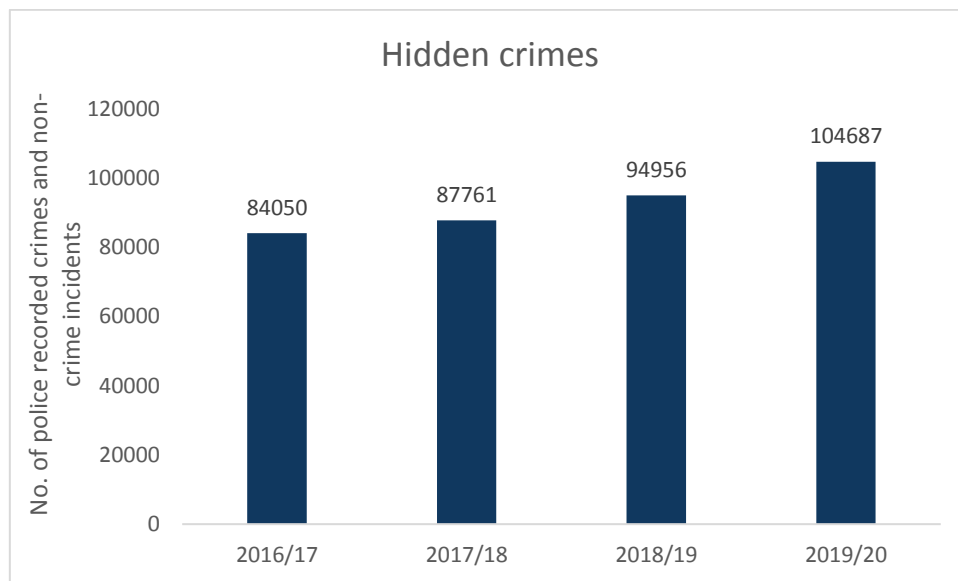


In 2019/20 there were a total of 24,236 burglaries in the West Midlands force area, 18,326 domestic and 5,910 non-domestic. Overall, this is a decrease of 16.4% from 2018/19 and equates to 8.3 burglaries per 1,000 population. 2019/20 saw a 15% reduction in domestic burglary, the first annual decrease over the past few years, and non-domestic burglary saw a 21% decrease.

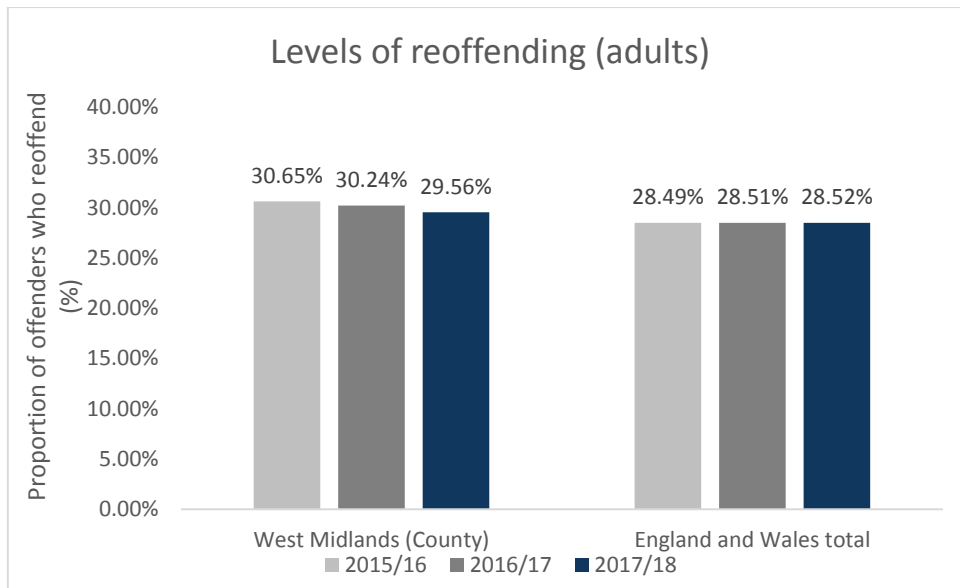




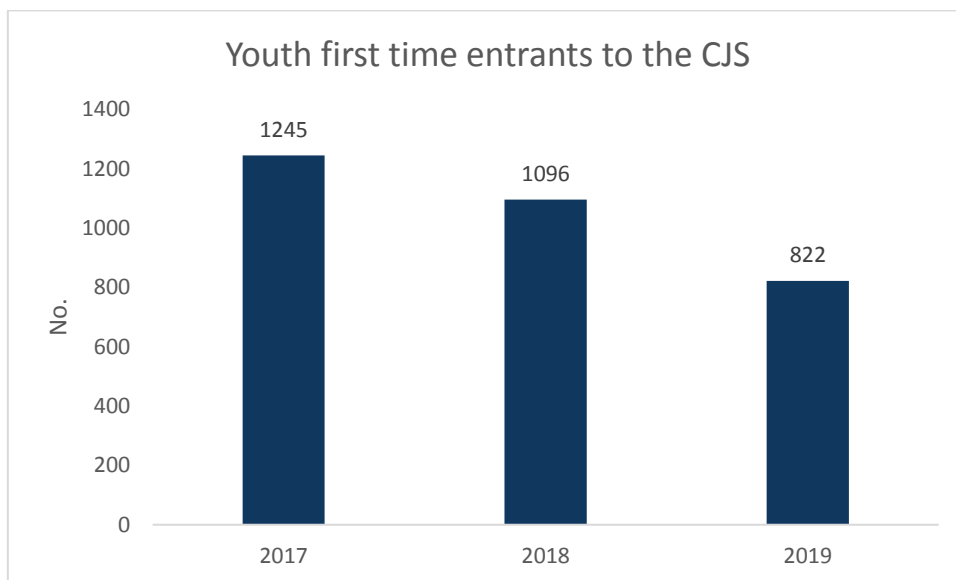
In 2019/20 there were 8,230 robberies in the West Midlands force area. This is a decrease of 5.6% from 2018/19, equating to 2.8 per 1,000 population, and marks the first reduction in annual robberies since 2016/17.



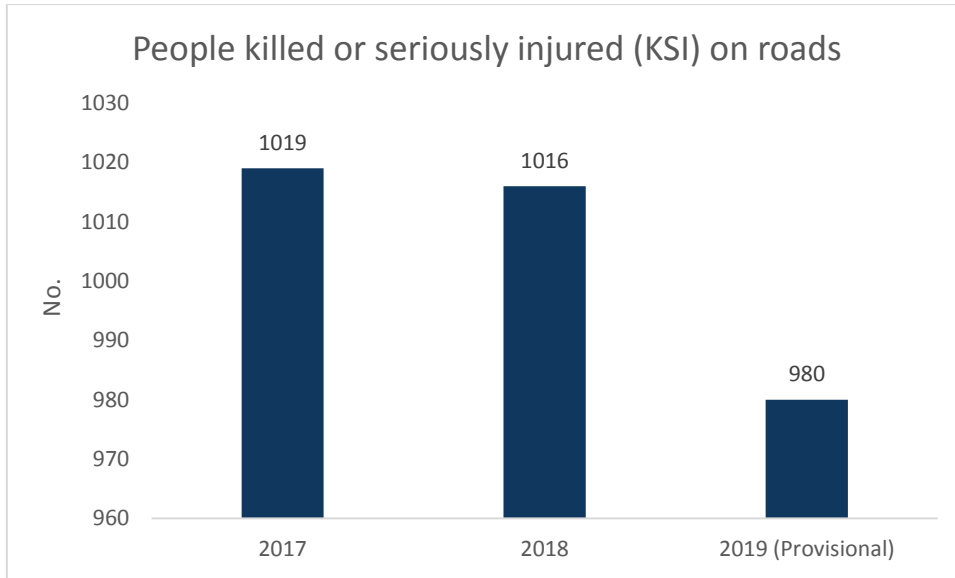
In 2019/20 there were 104,687 hidden crimes (recorded crime and non-crime incidents) in the West Midlands, an increase of 10.3% from 2018/19. 'Hidden crimes' includes domestic abuse, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, vulnerable adult abuse, hate crime and non-crime, FGM, so-called 'honour based' violence, forced marriage, modern slavery and human trafficking. Domestic abuse is the largest contributor to hidden crime accounting for 40% of all hidden crimes.



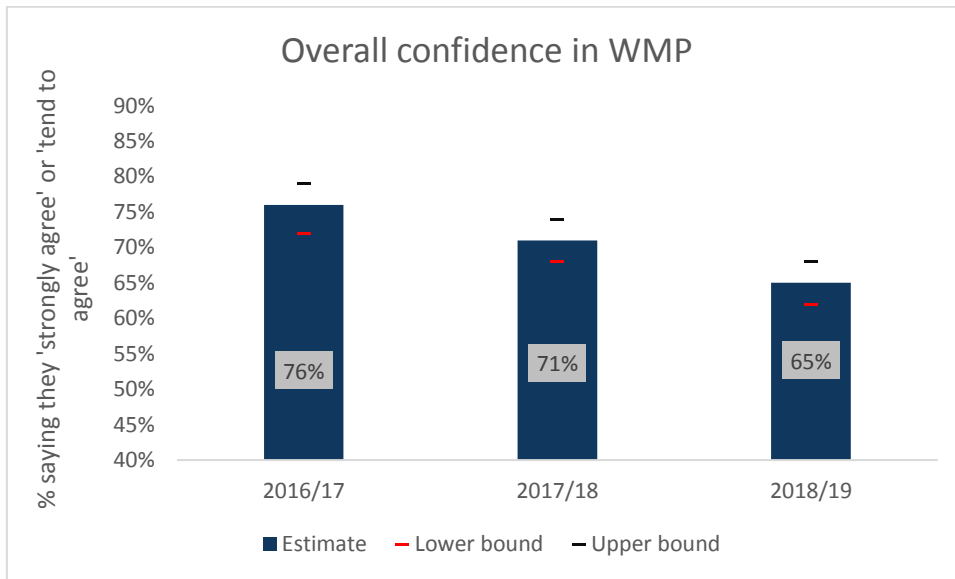
In 2017/18 the reoffending rate for adults was 29.56 in the West Midlands, this was a 10% reduction in the number of reoffenders from 2016/17. Whilst sitting just above the 28.52 rate seen in England and Wales, the reoffending rate has decreased slightly in the West Midlands from 2015/16.



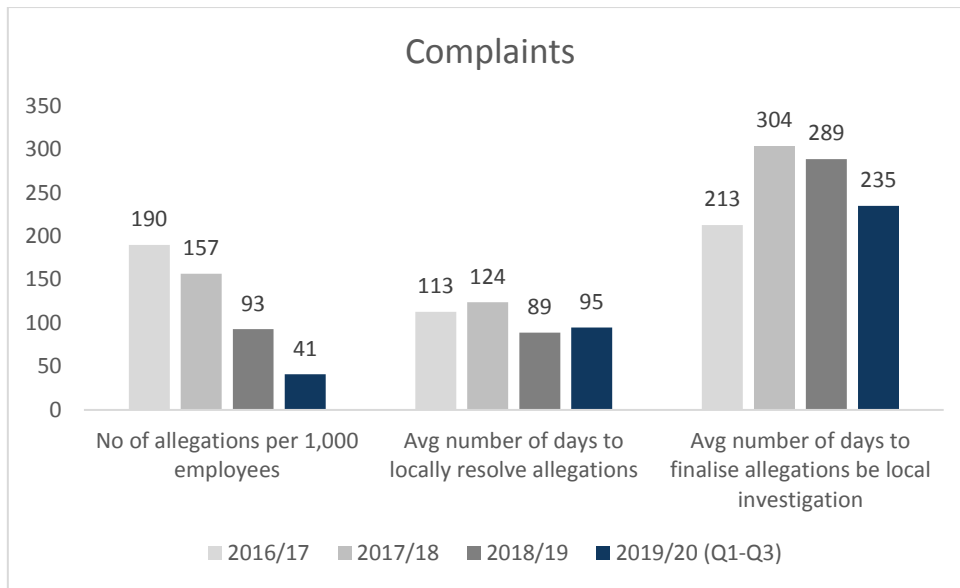
The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time has continued to decrease in 2019, seeing a 25% reduction from 1,096 to 822. Whilst this is a bigger percentage decrease than that seen for England and Wales, the rate of entry per 100,000 young people (10-17) for the West Midlands was higher at 282 compared with 222. Out of Court Disposals are used by officers, often against first time offenders in situations where it is easier dealt with quickly than waiting to go to court. In 2019/20 for juveniles these increased from 1,508 to 1626.



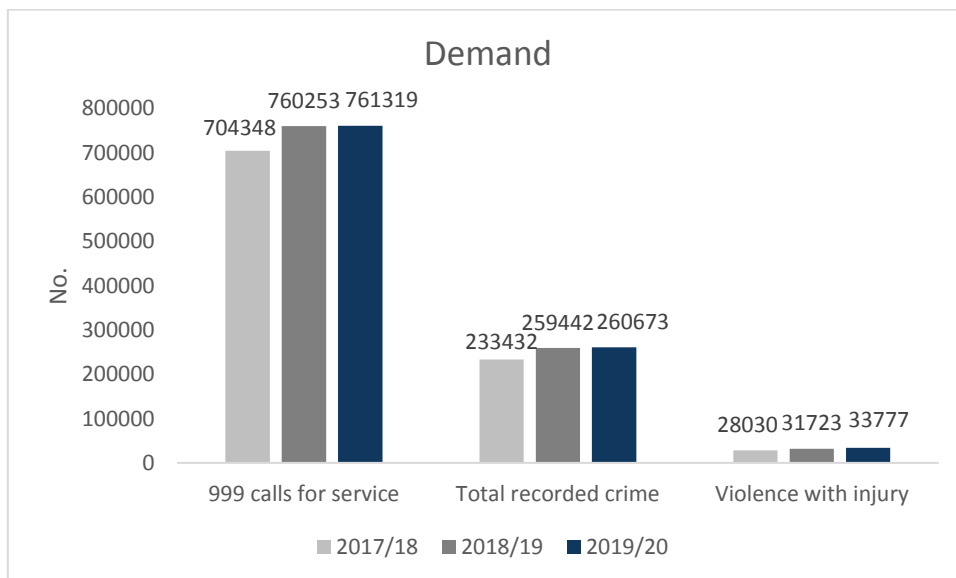
Department for Transport published provisional data recorded 980 people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on roads in the force area in the 12 months ending December 2019. This was a decrease from the 1,016 recorded in the 2018 calendar year.



The Crime Survey for England and Wales asks respondents a number of questions on perception of local police. The proportion of respondents who strongly agree or tend to agree that 'taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area' has seen decreases in the West Midlands force area from 76% in 2016/17 to 65% in 2018/19. In England and Wales the proportion for 2018/19 was 74%.



The number of allegations made against police per 1,000 employees has continued to fall annually, from 190 in 2016/17 to 41 in 2019/20. Timeliness of finalising allegations saw increases in the number of days taken to finalise by local investigation saw a significant increase in 2017/18. Since then there has been an annual decrease down to 235 for 2019/20, although this was still higher than the 213 average for 2016/17.



Between 2018/19 and 2019/20 demand for policing in the West Midlands has seen a slight increase. 999 calls increased by 0.14% over the period and total recorded crime 0.47%. Violence with injury also increased by 6.47%.

## **Statement of progress on performance measures**

Increased reporting of 'hidden crimes' – this year saw a 10% increase in the reporting of hidden crimes. It is positive to continue to see these crimes seeing an increase in reporting and as more work is done in this area, helping victims access support and giving the public the right information to be able to identify some other 'hidden crimes' will continue to help bring these crimes out of the dark and into the open where they can be tackled as the heinous crimes they are.

Low levels of reoffending – latest statistics on reoffending show that in the West Midlands, reoffending has fallen. This is a positive sign and the PCC is continuing to work with criminal justice partners to ensure that a holistic approach is taken to continue to see reoffending levels fall.

Fewer young people entering the criminal justice system – According to the latest statistics, number of young people entering the CJS fell from 1,096 to 822.

Reductions in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads – The number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads has continued to fall. West Midlands Police has been praised by HMRCFRS for its work on reducing road deaths. Unlike some other forces, we have maintained a strong roads policing team and the Central Motorway Policing Group. The Road Collision Project offers a bespoke service supporting families following the death or serious injury of a loved one as a result of a road traffic collision. Caseworkers support the family throughout their journey acting as a single point of contact from receipt of referral up until the service user(s) no longer need support (approximately 18 months). The project assigns dedicated case workers to support a family's welfare while helping with practical needs such as assisting with the funeral, childcare and transportation, financial assistance; such as benefits and compensations claims

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Reductions in burglary and robbery – in 2019/20 the West Midlands has seen a reduction in both burglary and robbery. Burglaries have fallen by 16% whilst robberies fell by 5.6%.

### **Social Media and Engagement**

Staying in touch with members of the public and key partners is a top priority for the PCC. As well as a regularly updated website, the PCC maintains a strong presence on Facebook and Twitter. It is vital that the PCC is contactable and that news from the office is accessible across a variety of platforms. The office's social media activity is a part of the Commissioner's duty to consult and allowing the public to make comments on any decisions which may affect them. This is our online year 2019/20:

In 2019/20 the official @WestMidsPCC account, which at the time of writing has over 13,300 followers, tweeted 749 times, which gained over 3,500,000 impressions and over 1,600 new followers. The account was mentioned in tweets 7,801 times in 19/20.

At the time of writing, the PCC's Facebook page had 2,397 likes, an increase of 30% on the previous year.

The increase in engagement on social media platforms allows the PCC to reach the public in many ways and understand the issues that really matter to the public.

In 2019/20 the PCC continued to use video to communicate with the public. Across Facebook and Twitter, the PCC's videos were viewed over 100,000 times.

The PCC also joined Instagram in 2019/20, engaging with a different audience to Facebook and Twitter. Joining later than many other PCC's, the account has grown its follower base quite quickly and is in the top half of all PCC's on Instagram.

### **Website**

In 2019/20 a new website was launched. With greater accessibility for the public, and a more interactive design which is easier to use the new site provides information about the PCC and his work. The new website also includes a specialist area for victims of crime, detailing how they can access help and support. This section also has a quick exit tool which shuts the page and deletes browsing history, for those who maybe accessing help whilst in a particularly vulnerable place.

### **Correspondence:**

In 2019/20 the PCC's office responded to 1,380 pieces of correspondence. This averages out at over 26 per week. The PCC's Business Support Team answered 10,879 calls in total. This averages out at 209 per week and is a 61% increase on the previous year.

The Commissioner encourages anyone with an issue concerning policing or crime to get in touch. Casework for his Business Support Team has included requests for funding, anti-social behaviour issues, complaints regarding West Midlands Police, Reviews of Complaints and Freedom of Information requests.

Other reasons for contact have included mental health issues, general advice, event invitations and information about placements, work experience or careers within the office.

Members of the public can contact the office by calling 0121 626 6060, emailing [wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk), writing to Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Lloyd House, Colmore Circus Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6NQ or via the [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk) website.

### **The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The PCC is supported by a team of 44 people who all work in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The office is led by the Chief Executive who oversees management of the Policy and Communications teams, the Finance department and Business Support functions. A Violence Reduction Unit was established in 2019.

Diversity within the office is of paramount importance. At the time of writing, 29 staff (62%) were female and 10 staff (23%) were from an ethnic minority. 1 member of staff has a self-declared disability

### **WMP2020**

The WMP2020 Change Programme was set up in 2014 to deliver the WMP2020 vision of Policing in the West Midlands by 2020. A Blueprint for the new Operating Model was designed by West Midlands Police (WMP), alongside its innovation partner, Accenture (UK) Limited.

We have already seen the approval and sign-off of two large transformation projects, Connect (formally Operational Policing Solution) and Data Driven Insight (DDI) that will form the bedrock of delivery through 2018, alongside the Command and Control programme (C&C).

We've now issued more than 4,700 body worn cameras. Not only do they capture vital evidence but they've helped reduce the number of complaints from the public by a third, led to almost 20 per cent more early guilty pleas from offenders, and cut assaults on officers by 10 per cent.

Officers now have access to 550 mobile ID devices to fingerprint suspects at the roadside – a key piece of kit if they think someone is providing false details – and almost 1,500 now carry the new, second generation X2 Taser.

We've placed 65 more Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras on our roads and motorways and upgraded 137 existing cameras to provide higher resolution images. That's bad news for crooks using the region's road network.

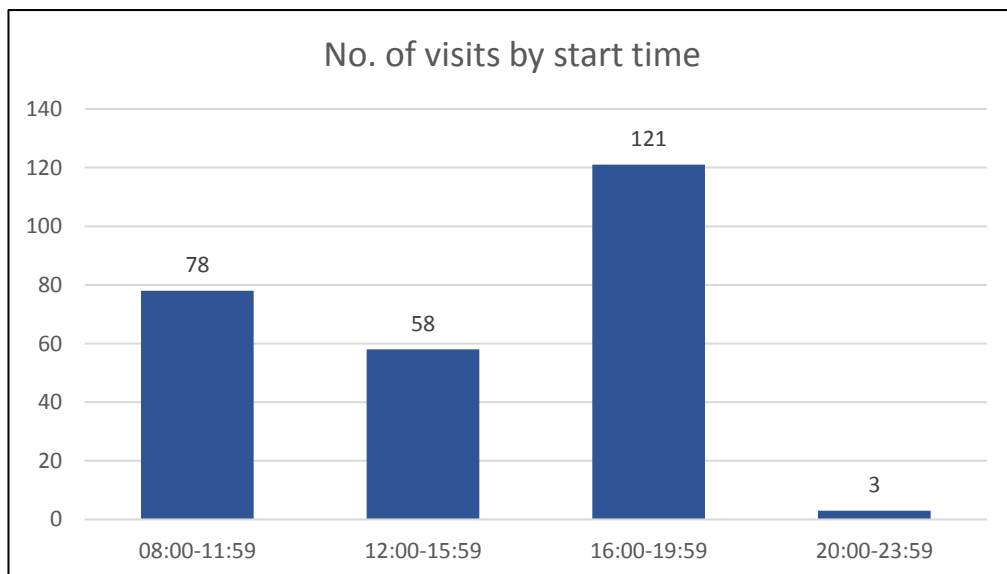
Handlers in our Dog Unit have been trialling state-of-the-art thermal imaging cameras to help them find missing people or crime suspects in hiding.

### **Independent Custody Visitors Custody Visiting**

There are 64 custody visitors in the West Midlands, giving up their free time to ensure those held in police cells are treated appropriately.

There is a team for each Neighbourhood Policing Unit and the volunteers independently review custody safeguarding for both detainees and staff.

Custody visitors made 260 visits in 2019/20 across 4 sites and spoke to 1,933 detainees.



		Detained	Offered	Accepted	Refused
Adult	Males	3,217	1,831	1,428	403
	Females	438	314	255	59
	Other	40	35	21	14
	Total	3,695	2,171	1,704	467
Young people	Males	302	213	198	15
	Females	37	24	27	-3
	Other	4	4	4	0
	Total	343	241	229	12
All ages	Males	3,519	2,044	1,626	418
	Females	475	338	282	56
	Other	44	39	25	14
	Total	4,038	2,412	1,933	479

### Appropriate Adults

Appropriate Adults help to safeguard the welfare, rights and effective participation of vulnerable adults or children detained or interviewed as suspects in criminal investigations. They are required to accompany them during their interviews and other processes in police custody. If a suitable family member or friend is not available, local authorities have a statutory duty to provide an appropriate adult for children in custody. There was no corresponding statutory duty for vulnerable adults, so the Commissioner has provided a volunteer service for vulnerable adults since 2017. In the year 2019/20, our Appropriate Adults carried out 828 visits to vulnerable adults.

### Coronavirus impact

During the Coronavirus pandemic both the Custody Visiting and Appropriate Adult schemes have managed to continue to operate in some form or another. In some cases like for example at Wolverhampton which became a designated Covid-19 site, custody visitors have been able carry out telephone visits to the custody block and speak to detainees. In other cases, a small group of custody visitors and appropriate adults have been able to continue physical visits to custody sites, especially custody visits to Perry Barr and Oldbury, reporting back their findings on a weekly basis.

### Strategic Policing and Crime Board

The Strategic Policing and Crime Board ensures effective engagement, strategic direction and holding to account of West Midlands Police. In addition to the Police and Crime Commissioner his Deputy and Assistant Commissioners there are six Board Members.

Meetings of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board take place at 10am on the third Tuesday of each month at Lloyd House, Birmingham.

The full board is as follows:

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Waheed Saleem

*Board member* Brendan Connor

*Board member* Dr Cath Hannon

*Board member* Gurinder Josan

*Board member* Dr Sarah Marwick

*Board member* Tom McNeil

All of the agendas, decisions and information about the board, which not only helps the PCC hold the Chief Constable to account but also monitors the performance of the force, are available here

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-crime-board/agendas-minutes-reports/>

To increase transparency and accessibility the PCC webcasts public board meetings. Meetings can be viewed here: <https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

## **Campaigns**

### **Tackling serious violence – Violence Reduction Unit**

In August 2019, the Home Office announced funding of £35million to be awarded to 18 police force areas across England and Wales for the establishment of Violence Reduction Units. The West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit, building on the work initiated via a number of local programmes in the region; Gangs and Violence Commission, Preventing Violence against Vulnerable People and the Violence Prevention Alliance, brought together a diverse team of professional from different sectors with an aim of reducing and preventing violence at every level. Some key examples of the work underway are as follows:

#### Localities

This year the unit has been working closely with local partners and community provider networks to develop and extend a number of Place-based pilots across the region. All pilots aim to create a local movement to make spaces safer and free from violence, and to empower local providers, community members and partners to understand their role in preventing violence. In some places, this has built on place based activity that begun in 19/20; but in other areas; Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Solihull this represents a new investment.

All pilots have strong local governance and the buy-in of the local community. Activity is bespoke to each area based on need and includes a broad range of activities such as detached youth mentoring, sports activities, trauma-informed training for professionals and communities and specific engagement activity with a focus on connecting with young people.

#### Sports

There is a strong legacy of sports-based provision aimed at tackling and preventing violence and criminality in the West Midlands. The VRU has invested significantly in the provision of Sports and positive activities via a Sports Diversionary Impact Programme which provides targeted sports activities for young people in hot-spot areas across the region up until the end of March 2020. As well as providing

sports to engage young people, each service includes a bespoke mentoring offer, guidance and links to broader support services and the provision of food, recognising the challenges facing some young people in accessing activities. Through the delivery of activity, the VRU will work to support providers to develop sustainable and consistent approaches that are able to support young people for years to come.

### Education

The VRU has prioritised the support of the education sector as covid-19 restrictions have created a number of critical challenges in regards to disruptions to studies, trauma and increased vulnerability. The VRU has a dedicated team of education professionals working to support schools and develop support services in relation to need. Work to date has included the production of trauma-informed toolkits and other guidance and information for the education sector to support them in working with young people and dealing with any issues arising as a result of the pandemic.

## **Tackling the scourge of drugs**

### **Drugs Summit**

Following on from the first Drug Summit held in December 2017, eight recommendations were made and set out in the West Midlands drug policy recommendations, published in February 2018. This approach aimed to reach practical and lasting solutions that reduce the harm of drugs in the West Midlands. Reducing cost to the taxpayer, reducing crime and potential victims of crime and reducing harm to individuals with addiction.

Since the publication of the recommendations in February 2018, significant progress has been made. However drug related deaths are now the highest on record, knife crime and violence are rife and so our approach is more important than ever.

Over the last two years the OPCC has been working on implementing these policies within the West Midlands. As of March 2020, the OPCC had made significant progress on all eight recommendations.

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020, The Drug Summit: Two Years On saving lives event was held by the West Midlands PCC, as a follow up to the eight published recommendations. **Over 75 people were trained in Naloxone** at this event.

The summit was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of partners in addressing the eight recommendations set out in West Midlands Drug Policy Recommendations. The summit provided an opportunity to shape and subsequently outline clear next steps to continue and widen our harm reduction approach.

### **Out of Harm's Way's Report – Drug consumption rooms, benefits and challenges**

The seventh drug recommendation was **to consider the benefits of Supervised Drug Consumption Rooms**, in order to evaluate whether they would add value to the current services in the West Midlands.

In March 2020, Ernie Hendricks completed his paper, 'Out of harm's way', a thorough and academic report that looked into the evidence globally from safe injecting facilities and made two recommendations:

- To work with government to develop a pilot site for a safer injecting facility in the West Midlands.
- To develop a working group of partners locally to ensure it was a partnership led approach.

We hope to pursue these recommendations which could contribute to a reduction of needle litter; deaths from over doses and help to engage individuals in drug treatment.

## **CARS**

Having completed a full review into the previous regional drug intervention models, in Jan 2020 a new arrest referral service was commissioned by the PCC across the whole West Midlands police force area.

The Cranstoun Arrest Referral Service (CARS) has been commissioned by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a consistent service for drug and alcohol referrals across the West Midlands area.

The service works closely with probation services and courts to increase the number of Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs), which are proven to reduce re-offending and tackle the drivers behind criminality.

The service provides wrap around support, not only helping individuals tackle the root causes of their drug and alcohol problems, but helping them to get their lives back on track through signposting for a range of services including housing and mental health support.

Within the first quarter of the service being in place, in some local authority areas, there have been more ATRs and DRRs issued than there had been in the previous 12 months combined.

## **Naloxone**

In July 2019, West Midlands Police undertook a Nasal Naloxone pilot over 12 months within Birmingham city Centre. The pilot grew out of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's report which revealed that every three days in the West Midlands, somebody dies from drug poisoning, with a death every four hours in England; a figure which has been rising since 2010 and for the last four years, has been the highest since records began.

Police officers from Birmingham city centre volunteered to undertake the training with intranasal naloxone, in order to be able to administer it to people who they believed to have overdosed on opioids.

WMP were the first police force in the UK where officers were trained and equipped with naloxone. Police officers are often first on the scene in overdose situations. Therefore having them trained to administer this drug, in the event that it is needed, has the potential to save numerous lives.

Improving Naloxone access in the region is recommendation 6 of the eight drug policy recommendations. We hope to continue the training and roll out for West Midlands Police in order to help reduce the cost, crime and harm to society that is associated with drugs.

## Operation Pound

Operation POUND (Op POUND) is a two year project funded by the office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Its aims are to 1) increase the amount taken through the Proceeds of Crime Act (2002) from Organised Crime Groups who specifically profit from the drugs trade, and 2) ensure that any money seized is put back into drug policy initiatives that make the streets of the West Midlands area safer and further disrupt organised crime. As part of this initiative, a specific team has been created in the form of three Financial Investigators (FIs) and one analyst to exploit financial investigation as a tactic to disrupt criminality.

Between August 2019 and March 2020, the team have identified **£855,304.95** in possible acquirable funds, of which **£688,057.20** remain under current, active investigation. £11,266.78 has been forfeited through Op POUND to date.

Currently, due to the Proceeds of Crime Act, only 18.75% is retained by the Police/PCC with 50% going straight to the Home Office and the remaining 50% split between Police/PCC, CPS and HMCTS. We have been working hard to lobby Government and demonstrate the impact that a reinvestment of that money could have to tackle the demand for drugs like heroin and crack cocaine in the West Midlands, thus reducing the market for organised crime groups.

## Unauthorised Encampments

Between November 2019 and March 2020, the Home Office ran a consultation called 'Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments', which sought views on measures to criminalise trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales. The APCC proposed a draft submission on behalf of all PCCs which did not represent the views of the Office of the West Midlands PCC and as such, I wrote to the APCC to object to their submission being made on our behalf and instead submitted our own response. There is yet to be any outcome as the Home Office is still analysing feedback.

A policy officer from the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups got in contact with the PCC with concerns over the lack of Government guidance for local authorities regarding Gypsies and Travellers living roadside during the Covid-19 crisis. The main body of the response given is as follows:

*"After discussion with a civil servant from the MHCLG today in our regional meeting, the overarching Government guidance remains essentially for Local Authorities to use their discretion as to what they feel the most appropriate course of action is, whilst ensuring health and social distancing advice is followed.*

*I would like to assure you that in the West Midlands, ourselves, West Midlands Police and the seven local authorities have an agreed response to gypsy and traveller communities at this time which is to tolerate unauthorised encampments wherever possible, offer an enhanced needs assessment, provide water and sanitation for them to stay on an agreed site - with the use of any appropriate powers - given the health and welfare needs of these individuals without moving them on. For example, Walsall have established a temporary transit site at pace to accommodate the GRT*

*community in which Seven Trent has installed water pipes for clean drinkable water and there are separate toilets for those with and without symptoms of Covid-19.*

*Local Authorities are linked in with advocates that can help them engage with these communities to ensure the health and welfare of both themselves and the settled community i.e. following social-distancing guidelines.*

*As you will be aware, there are many GRT charities offering all kinds of support for these communities and the West Midlands Police lead has asked for relevant support networks to be passed on when officers engage with the GRT community during this time.”*

The response was well received and was shared on the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups website and Facebook page.

During the Covid-19 lockdown period, an advocate for the GRT community got in touch as they were experiencing particular difficulty in third-party reporting of hate crime to West Midlands Police. I signposted the advocate to [https://www.report-it.org.uk/organisations\\_that\\_can\\_help1](https://www.report-it.org.uk/organisations_that_can_help1) and took this issue - and the broader concerns around the potentially further breaking down the relationship and trust the community has with the police - to the WMP unauthorised encampments lead. She escalated the issue of third-part reporting of hate crime with police colleagues and the advocate got back in touch with me to inform me that WMP were now taking action on the reported hate crime.

At the Dudley CSP meeting in August 2020, it was said that often, travellers arriving into the town can create community tensions, this has been the case over the past two years. Dudley, like Sandwell have a transit site provision which is owned and managed by the Local Authority. From mid-August 2020, the site can be used and WMP will have more policing authority within the site under section 62 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994).

The OPCC continues to be represented at the Regional Unauthorised Encampments virtual meetings where possible. Here, local authorities discuss any updates and issues in their area regarding unauthorised encampments and transit sites and raise any items with WMP if necessary.

## **Stop and Search**

The Use of stop and search throughout the country is one of great contention and is threatening to undermine trust in the community as well as detracting from the work police do to investigate and protect the public from crime.

Throughout the West Midlands we have reassessed the way carry out a stop and search, meaning fewer people are being stopped but our outcomes are higher. Within 2019/20 the number of searches conducted were 24,701 with the overall positive outcome of the powers at 27.4%.

Disproportionality within stop and search is something that contributes to the tension that exists between the police and the public. The academic research our office has commissioned with the University of Warwick to better our understanding of why and search disproportionality effects Black and Asian communities, has now come to an end and results will be published soon.

We previously asked WMP to conduct a pilot in relation to the use of the powers under Section 163, in order to examine aspects in where the practice may be disproportionate. Although the pilot unfortunately did not provide us with the relevant information the force have committed to run it again to rectify this.

To ensure public transparency, the office has established 10 scrutiny panels within each Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) whereby body worn video from occurrences related to both Stop and Search and Use of Force is reviewed by members of the public. These panels are chaired by independent community members, supported by the NPU senior leadership team and SPOCs (single points of contact). OPCC Stop and Search youth trainers, who deliver workshops in schools across the West Midlands to inform children about their rights in relation to Stop and Search, are also in attendance.

This year our stop and search trainers have continued to educate young people across the West Midlands on their rights if they were to be stopped and searched. A review of this programme has taken place, from the recommendations provided we have streamlined this programme appointing two senior trainers to oversee these workshops to better the experience for young people.

## **Vehicle crime**

The Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson, began a campaign a number of years ago to tackle the rise of vehicle theft, which had more than doubled the previous 4 years in the West Midlands. The PCC has been leading a campaign and has called on car manufacturers to increase the security of their vehicles so they cannot be stolen using electronic equipment easily bought online.

In 2019/20 we saw vehicle offences fall by 13%. Despite this, the PCC continues his campaigning

We know that organised crime is closely linked to rising vehicle theft, a business which is worth hundreds of millions of pounds to criminals in the West Midlands. These criminals are exploiting gaps in legislation which mean they can rebuild a vehicle using stolen parts and sell it on with no new MOT or safety check being required, nor an identity check on the vehicle.

In 2019, success with the campaign saw the UK's second largest used car dealer stop accepting cash payments for salvage vehicles. A huge step in the right direction to make organised criminals, exploiting loopholes life more difficult.

Alongside the PCC's campaigning, West Midlands Police's Operation Cantil is also responding to organised vehicle theft. At the time of writing, over 2,600 arrests had been made as part of this operation in the past 12 months, with over £9m of drugs seized and £15m of other assets, including vehicles.

The PCC also delivered a keynote speech at the International Association of Autotheft Investigators' conference in Glasgow. Bringing together the leading voices in law enforcement, insurance and organisations involved with tackling vehicle theft from all around the world, they heard about the strategy the PCC had put in place as well as the large scale proactive work from West Midlands Police.

## **Commission on Gangs and Violence**

Work continued on delivering recommendations from the Gangs and Violence Commission throughout 19/20. The last full Commission meeting was held in September 2019, but progress with work carried on throughout the financial year.

The community communications project started in November 2019 and has continued to deliver content around youth violence. The platform, 'OnPoint', has posted videos of community organisations and anti-violence messages, and has also been utilised in getting messages out to young people during the COVID crisis.

Recommendation 23 and 24 were also delivered. An 'Enterprise for Employment' scheme was commissioned, which aims to provide mentoring for young people who are at risk of offending / have already offended. This mentoring is specifically targeted at getting these individuals into appropriate education, employment or training.

Community group members were offered the chance to put together a bid as a consortium to deliver a community mediation service, however this didn't come to fruition. Capital Conflict Management will continue deliver mediation for West Midlands Police, as required.

This period of the Commission has overlapped with the formation of the Violence Reduction Unit. The VRU has now become the body at the forefront of this agenda in the region. Some Gangs and Violence recommendations fed into the work plan in the first year of the Violence Reduction Unit. The VRU built on the faith roundtable, which had previously been held by the Commission, and created a Faith Alliance group. This group first met in February 2020. They will continue to be a forum for ideas and will look into how faith groups can do more to help reduce violence. In addition, the VRU have also now commissioned a resettlement service in four areas across the region. This service, which has been a long standing recommendation of the Commission, works with ex-offenders once they are released from prison, to help them integrate back into normal life and reduce the risk of reoffending.

As the Commission winds down and the VRU takes on the main workload in this agenda, Dr Carver Anderson is authoring a review of the Commission. As part of this, individuals involved in the Commission have been interviewed to offer their opinions on the process. This review will aim to set out the successes of the Commission and any areas where things could have been improved. It hopes to ensure that lessons will be taken from the Commission, that the principles of the Commission will be maintained in the work of the VRU and that community members will continue to have a say in the work that is taking place.

## **Business Crime**

For the 2019/20 financial period, the PCC has made great ground in addressing business crime. The PCC has worked to host two business engagement events. The first of which focused on engaging with the retail sector on how they experienced business crime, what the Police could do to improve their response to business crime, how the PCC office could better support businesses and how retail businesses can better support each other. The second event was going to be focused on how businesses can support themselves against cybercrime. Sadly however this event was unable to go ahead due to Covid restrictions.

We also hosted the PCC Business Summit in January. This summit focused on how businesses could use their CSR agendas to support the work of the office and reduce crime across the West Midlands generally. Businesses heard from a number of people who were doing great things with their CSR agendas to reduce crime in their areas. Businesses were then given the opportunity to speak to these speakers in a market stall where they could gain greater knowledge of how to use their CSR agendas to reduce crime.

Over this period the PCC also funded a Business Crime Co-ordinator to be employed by WMP. The Business Crime Co-ordinator has subsequently created a plan to support the business crime reduction groups across the WMP force area.

The Business Crime Co-ordinator has also worked to add resilience and governance to the PCC funded Offender to Rehab programme. The programme seeks to support some of Erdington's most prolific shop lifters into rehab and then into employment. This is a programme which is also receiving financial and strategic support from the Co-operative Group and also Sainsburys.

## **Mental Health**

In 2019 the PCC committed £80k to a programme at Birmingham Prison to provide intensive monitoring and support for people leaving prison after short sentences, who had mental health problems. Using lived-experience practitioners to get people through the weeks before release and the first few days after release, this project can stop people going straight back to their old lifestyles and committing more crime.

The PCC provided £20k towards the first wave of the Birmingham Mental Health Treatment Requirement pilot (one of five national Test Bed sites). The programme has now been running since December 2017 giving courts a sentencing option of a Mental Health Treatment Requirement. There is evidence that treating mental health, alongside other problems such as homelessness and substance misuse, can significantly reduce re-offending.

## **Recruitment**

With the announcement of the government's pledge for 20,000 additional police officers for England and Wales, the PCC has been working hard to ensure that West Midlands Police not only gets stuck into recruiting these officers, but also gets its fair share of the allocation.

Since 2010, West Midlands Police has lost 2,131 officers due to government cuts. With this additional allocation of resource, the force would get around 1,200 officers, still a long way short of where it was 10 years ago.



David Jamieson said: "I am concerned that resources have once again been divided using a blunt and outdated formula that disadvantages areas like the West Midlands and helps leafy, lower crime areas, that have lost fewer officers than forces like ours.

"I request that officers are allocated based on the crime threat and need of forces, so that areas like the West Midlands can tackle the serious threats we face."

## Cadets

In 19/20, the ever expanding Cadets programme saw a new uniform introduced with a formal ranking structure which will show their progression, they will continue to work to reduce crime in their areas. With more units opening, there will be more activity happening across the force area.

The Cadet Units are all run by volunteers, from police officers, police staff, PCSOs and those from outside the force who give up their time to help young people discover their potential. At the time of writing there were 66 volunteer leaders.

The scheme grew significantly throughout the year, starting with around 85 cadets in April 2019 rising to over 300 at the time of writing. There are currently 11 units across the West Midlands with more due to launch when COVID-19 restrictions allow.

## Victims Commission

As part of our strategy for Victim services the PCC has built innovative networks across the West Midlands with partners from statutory and voluntary sector organisations to ensure victims that live in our region receive the care support they deserve. The PCC has worked hard to eradicate the post code lottery which existed previously and to ensure no matter where someone lives victims of crime will have access to quality support services as and when they need it. All victims will receive support regardless of whether they have reported the crime to the police.

The Victims Strategy was refreshed in 2019 to revive our continued commitment to victims of crime. The refreshed victims statement can be found [here](#). A key contribution to this area of work is the Victims Commission; a key strategic partnership and an advisory group on the provision of specialist services. The role of the Victims Commission is to ensure that services have a positive impact on victims, improving their circumstances around coping with the effects of crime and recovering from the harm they have experienced. Commission members continue to contribute to and influence the priorities within the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, and make recommendations regarding funding and service delivery.

The OPCC receives a grant from the Ministry of Justice on an annual basis is responsible for commissioning support services:

Table to show funding spent from Ministry of Justice Victims' grant in 2019/20

Priority	Allocation £s
<b>First Contact, Assessment and Referral</b>	
1. Victim Support	998,920
<b>Roads – Fatal RTCs</b>	
2. Road Collision Project – Victim Support	69,820
<b>Restorative Justice</b>	
2. REMEDI	450,000

<b>Sexual Violence</b>	
3. BCWA	155,078
4. CRASAC	85,402
5. RSVP	165,465
<b>Domestic Abuse – IDVA Services</b>	
6. Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid	319,778
7. Coventry Haven	71,062
8. Wolverhampton DV Forum	74, 626
9. Black Country Women’s Aid (BCWA)	225,029
10. Wolverhampton Haven	43,810
<b>Stalking and Harassment</b>	
11. BCWA	119,200
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	
12. Coventry Haven Honour-based Abuse	38,307
<b>FGM</b>	
14. Allies Network	54,869
15. Coventry Haven FGM	35,063
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	
16. West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network	20,000
17. Modern Slavery Engagement Officer BCWA	18,000
18. Modern slavery engagement officer Hope for Justice	9,000
19. Adavu	31,353
20. NHS Arden – Regional Modern Slavery Campaign	15,000
21. Unseen - Modern Slavery Helpline	5,000
<b>Victims Fund 6</b>	
Annual competitive fund	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,298,746</b>

The landscape of services for victims of hidden crime continues to change as trends at national and local levels require for more tailoring of services to meet the needs of communities and investment in specialist local voluntary and community sector organisations.

There are continued efforts to ensure that victims are at the centre of the criminal justice system. The forthcoming update to the Victims' Code of Practice announced in the Government's Victims Strategy (2018), should allow victims to have clearer expectations of criminal justice agencies so that services can be better tailored to individual need. The OPCC submitted a comprehensive response to the new proposals, having consulted with victims leads within the force and with voluntary sector leads. The first consultation closed on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and the team contributed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation which closed in April 2020. The code is to be enshrined in law and further updates will be given in the autumn of 2020.

The OPCC continues to work with and funds a range of specialist services to support victims of hidden crime, and by doing so aims to ensure that:

- Services have a positive impact on victims by improving their circumstances around coping with the effects of crime and recovering from the harm they have experienced
- The victim experience is simplified and improved and their voice is put both at the heart of the service and delivery
- Victims know what to expect at every stage of their journey. Build a culture of ownership for victim care by the voluntary and community sector and partners so that victim experience quality support from the first point of contact

## **Key developments 2019/20**

### **New contact methodology for Initial Contact, Referral and Assessment service**

In early 2019, the OPCC requested a review of the contact methodology for the Initial Contact, Assessment and Referral service currently being delivered by Victim Support. Since, alternative contact methodologies were proposed by Victim Support and the OPCC produced an improvement plan which details the agreed change and actions expected of Victim Support, the OPCC, WMP and third-sector specialist services in order to implement the new model effectively.

The purpose of the new model is to ensure that:

- Victim Support are delivering a support service that has the most effective outcomes for victims
- Contact methodology is used in a way that is more likely to engage with victims than the current model
- The volume of non-productive work is reduced by targeting resources on those who most need support
- Victim Support build effective partnerships with specialist services
- There is better quality of information and communication of the Victim Support brand across the West Midlands
- The model deliver best value for money

The desired outcome is that the Victim Support service can meet, with high levels of confidence, the proposed visions and aims through improved leadership, management and performance. This in turn should allow for Victim Support to deliver an effective and efficient service to victims of crime and for the service to reflect the full benefit and value for money to the OPCC. The end of year report produced by Victim Support in Q1 of 2020 highlighted significant improvements which the office will continue to monitor.

### **Victims Summit – February 2020**

The Summit brought together services commissioned regionally and locally through the OPCC as a result of recommendations made by the Victims Commission. The Commission has played an integral role, assisting the PCC to shape delivery for victims of crime across the region. The Summit addressed '*Online Abuse and Technological Victimisation*' which was the theme on the day.

The morning addressed challenges of online abuse and tech victimisation from the perspective of survivors/victims, an academic from Birmingham City University and providers funded to support victims through the PCC's Office. The Victims' Commissioner, Vera Baird, gave an overview of the work being undertaken by her office in 2020. The afternoon slot examined remedies and support available for victims from the point of view of NSPCC, Refuge's specialist Tech Abuse Service and a panel made up of all the speakers.

The Summit enabled views to be shared on; challenges of addressing and supporting victims affected by technologically-facilitated abuse, how to better support victims and survivors of crime facilitated through technological advancements and best practices from support offered to individuals.

- **West Midlands Honour-based Abuse and Forced Marriage** – in response to the increase in reports of Honour-based Abuse and Forced Marriage, the OPCC in October 2019 supported three local organisations to launch the West Midlands HBA/Forced Marriage helpline which can be accessed by any individual aged 13+ living in the West Midlands (female and male) and is free to use and operates 24/7. The Helpline can be accessed by victims, family and friends of those who are at risk of FM/HBA and practitioners seeking advice. Its purpose is to provide high quality telephone support, assistance and information services to those experiencing or at risk of Forced Marriage & Honour Based Abuse, and signpost to the most appropriate services.
- **Regional Stalking and Harassment service**, the PCC funded Black Country Women’s Aid in 2019/20 to deliver a specialist stalking and harassment service. The service supports women and girls over 13 who are experiencing stalking and harassment.
- **Slavery and Trafficking Victim Safeguarding Pathways Coordinator** – to respond effectively to the needs of victims of modern slavery, the OPCC will be funding West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network in 2020/21 to have a coordinator in post whose role would be similar to a DA MARAC coordinator. The role will be in place to ensure a multi-agency approach to victim care and support at the point of identification of victims of modern slavery.
- WMP, Local Authorities and the wider anti-slavery network will be responsible for improving outcomes for victims and survivors regardless of whether they choose to enter the National Referral Mechanism or not. The aim is to ensure the region has a better understanding of outcomes for survivors longer term by addressing the stages victims go through once rescued and identified as a victim of modern slavery.
- **Modern slavery – Labour exploitation and sex trafficking**, from September 2018, the OPCC funded two modern slavery engagement officers, both have proven to be invaluable to WMP’s Slavery Hub. Both officers work closely with the force to share intelligence in order to identify and reach out to potential victims of slavery.

- The two roles supported in the identification of victims of labour exploitation and the other in identifying women that have been trafficked into sexual exploitation. As there was more need for the role identifying victims of sexual exploitation, the OPCC in 2020/21 will be expanding the team of engagement officers to address the needs in the region.

#### **Victims Fund 7: fund opened 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and closed 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020**

- There were 48 applications to the Victims Fund. The PCC made £200,000 available with a ring-fenced amount of £50,000 dedicated to supporting victims of hate crime in the West Midlands.
- The Victims Team carried out scoping exercises in 2019 into the current level of support provision across the West Midlands area for victims of hate crime. Although there are a number of organisations delivering training and awareness raising locally, no single agency is specialising in direct support for all victims of hate crime.
- A hate crime symposium was originally scheduled to take place in March 2020 but was postponed to June due to COVID-19.
- The main objective for the symposium was to coordinate a community response to supporting victims of hate crime and allow participants to share their expertise on models that could work to support various groups affected by hate crime.

The end of 2019/20 has been challenging but allowed for growth and resilience for many individuals. As a team and as an office we had never encountered such unprecedented times, living in lockdown, distant from families and friends and working remotely away from colleagues and our places of work. It has been both daunting and rewarding at the same time. Protecting the most vulnerable in our society is challenging at the best of times; COVID-19 has brought with it challenges, we as a team never thought we would have to deal with. From school closures to victims being locked up in their homes with their abusers. Never before have hidden crimes been more hidden. We have had to adapt at pace and support our victim services to adapt also.

Working with colleagues at the MOJ and APCC we have responded by making available COVID contingency funding, making grant variations and allowing services to be flexible in how they support victims. We are alive to the impact on people's mental health, (including our own) as well as the increase in certain crime types including hate crime and fraud. The funding awarded to support victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence during lockdown will enable organisations to continue supporting victims until 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2020.

## **Outstanding Citizens Awards 2019**

Community heroes from across the West Midlands were honoured at the Police and Crime Commissioner's 7<sup>th</sup> Outstanding Citizens Awards in July 2019.

Nominations are taken from the community and provide an opportunity to celebrate the untold stories of those who volunteer, campaign or take part in acts of extraordinary bravery.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson said: "These awards are a great opportunity to promote exceptional acts of active citizenship in the West Midlands and celebrate the unsung heroes in our local communities.

"I want to thank those truly outstanding people who, through dedicated work or inspirational acts, have made our region a better place. All too often we hear about the bad in society, tonight is an evening that we celebrate the good.

"The stories of bravery, courage, selflessness and compassion are right to be recognised. I hope these exceptional stories will act as an inspiration for others over the next year.

"Once again, I am proud to host these awards and say thank you to those people who make the West Midlands a brighter place".

## **The Winners**

### **Outstanding Citizen**

Tracey Evans: A National Express bus driver who helped with the arrest of 3 men who had robbed and assaulted a victim on her bus.

### **Outstanding Young Citizen**

Nasim Ahmed: A 16 year old Army Cadet who saved a stab victim's life by administering first aid.

### **Outstanding Community Project**

Black Country Wellbeing Centre: A Dudley project who transformed neglected building into vibrant community centre.

### **Outstanding Young Community Project**

St Michael's Student Voice: A group of over 100 students who raise awareness of issues affecting young people, specifically youth violence and mental health.

### **Special Recognition Award**

Dr Cath Hannon: Recognised for shaping services for victims of crime across the West Midlands

## **RUNNER-UPS**

### **Outstanding Citizen**

Ryan: A volunteer who filmed hundreds of motorists driving dangerously before handing the footage to Police. He submitted 425 pieces of video footage in the last 18 months.

### **Outstanding Young Citizen**

Tamiia Laville: A 9 year-old school girl who recovered widower's stolen jewellery and handed it to Police.

### **Outstanding Community Project**

The Freedom Project: A project who provide a safe and supportive environment to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

### **Outstanding Young Community Project**

Dudley Youth Council: A group of 11-19 year olds who represent the views of young people in Dudley. The group were nominated after raising money for the homeless.

## **Active Citizens Fund**

The Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, working closely with West Midlands Police, operates the Active Citizens Fund. This pot of money comes from goods and cash seized from criminals through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). The PCC allows community groups to bid into the fund, worth over £700,000.

127 projects were funded in 2019/20. These include O'Dells Boxing Club in Bromford who, with just under £2,000 from the fund provide activity for young people.

They support 80 young people each week aged 8-18 and not only teaches them boxing techniques, but lessons in discipline, patience and gives young people something to do.

Other projects have included football clubs, community clean-ups, street pastors, a community bus supporting a food bank, a community café and a gardening project teaching young people new skills.

In the following year, the PCC has taken the decision to allocate this POCA money to into a different fund, the Community Initiatives Fund focusing on providing support for groups helping communities recover from COVID-19.



## **Youth Commissioners**

18/19 saw the first elections of the PCC's Youth Commissioners on a 2 year term. 19/20 was the second year of their term, with elections being postponed due to COVID-19. Sixteen young people were elected with over 5,000 votes between them.

They will advise the PCC on law and order issues affecting children and teenagers. They will also be asked to represent the views and stand up for the rights of young people within the police force area.

In 2019/20 Youth Commissioners were involved in a number of projects supporting the PCC and some have made media appearances.

The Youth Commissioners for 2019/20 are:

**Dudley** Emerson Hanslip, Georgia Whitehouse

**Coventry** Husnaa Mota, Deepti Sapkota

**Sandwell** Kareena Ratti, Hammad Khalid

**Walsall** Mariam Sohail, Harvind Grewal

**Wolverhampton** Syed Naqvi, Melvin Riley

**Solihull** Becky Brown, Thomas Gilleran

**Birmingham East** Anaya Pala, Hunza Hussain

**Birmingham West** Navera Parwez, Samson Iyanuoliwa Ayodeji

## **Funded projects**

Throughout this report, projects which have been funded by the PCC have been discussed. From Victims' services to those working to tackle the root causes of violence, the PCC is fortunate enough to be able to support a range of organisations in the fight against crime.

The PCC's Active Citizens' Fund, which is made up of money seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) supports a whole range of community projects across the West Midlands. POCA money cannot be spent on additional police officers.

In 2019/20 these projects have included:

The Pat Benson Boxing Academy in Digbeth, working with young people at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour to channel their energy into sport. They have also been working with young people who have been excluded from school.

The Street Aid project delivers training courses on emergency first aid, conflict resolution, consequential thinking skills, resilience and the impact of carrying weapons – not only on individuals, but on the community as a whole. In the time it takes the emergency services to arrive, life-saving action can be taken by bystanders. By giving young people the knowledge and skills to act, should the worst-case scenario happen, lives can undoubtedly be saved. Sessions are two hours long and are held at schools, colleges, community and youth organisations for young people aged 14-24.

Fight Against Cyber Theft (FACT) in Wolverhampton aims to raise awareness of online crime and reduce opportunities of a cyber-attack, particularly within a small or medium business. FACT engages with a variety of Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) and sole traders across Wolverhampton who have previously fallen victims to cyber theft and provides them with personal support to overcome the trauma and impact of crime. The impact of a cyber breach or attack can be huge and sadly, many crimes against sole traders and SMEs go unreported. Small businesses have fewer resources and cyber theft threatens the viability of the business, causing considerable stress for the owners and a negative impact on the local economy.

In addition to this – the PCC has also used £160,000 of POCA money to support a new team of financial experts for 2 years. The new unit is working to seize more assets from the region's organised criminals, directly from their bank accounts. Money seized by the team will not only support their work, but will also be used to support those hit hardest by drugs. The criminals' money being used to help those who have been harmed by the drugs they have sold.

In support of the Daniel Baird Foundation, the PCC also agreed funding in 2019/20 to roll out 400 bleed control kits to key locations in the West Midlands. The life saving kits, pioneered by Lynne Baird, whose son Daniel was killed in a stabbing in 2017, can be a vital tool in controlling a wound whilst waiting for the emergency services to arrive.

## **Decisions of the PCC**

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner is the local governing body for policing in the West Midlands. The Commissioner has executive powers to make decisions that are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and he is required to publish a record of those decisions. What follows are the decisions taken from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. All of the decisions and the work of the PCC are scrutinised by the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, which meets regularly and acts as a critical friend to the Commissioner. Full details of the work of the Police and Crime Panel can be found on its website: <http://westmidlandspcp.co.uk/>.

02 April 2019

- PCC Decision 008-2019 Fees and Charges 2019-20
- PCC Decision 011-2019 Treasury Management Strategy 2018-19

07 April 2019

- PCC Decision 010-2019 is a confidential decision relation to the proposed amendment to the Estates Programmes – Ladywood and Edgbaston

11 April 2019

- PCC Decision 009-2019 Victims Services

12 April 2019

- PCC Decision 013-2019 Fuel cards and associated services is a commercially confidential decision relating to fuel cards and associated services

- PCC Decision 014-2019 PEQF is a confidential decision relating to the supply and delivery of the Police Education Qualification Framework.

30 April 2019

- PCC Decision 016-2019 Early release of 5 Princip Street is a commercially confidential decision relating to the Early release of 5 Princip Street

02 July

- PCC Decision 015-2019 Lease of property is a confidential decision relating to the lease of property.
- PCC Decision 017-2019 Construction and Refurbishment Contract is a confidential decision relating to the Estates Programme.
- PCC Decision 018-2019 Framework for protective clothing is a confidential decision relating to the framework for the supply and delivery of protective clothing
- PCC Decision 019-2019 Appointment of Assistant PCC and Strategic Adviser nomination of Deputy PCC
- PCC Decision 020-2019 Timetable of the Connect Project is a confidential decision relating to the timetable of the Connect Project.
- PCC Decision 022-2019 Contract Extension is a confidential decision relating to the Change Programme.
- PCC Decision 024/2019 Police Buildings is a commercially confidential decision regarding Police Buildings.

16 July 2019

- PCC Decision 025-2019 IT data centre for Warwickshire Police is a confidential decision regarding an IT data centre for Warwickshire Police

16 August 2019

- PCC Decision 027-2019 Police Appeal Tribunal Panel Membership- Delegation

20 September 2019

- PCC Decision 028-2019 Proposal to co-locate Sedgley Neighbourhood Policing Team with West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service

16 October 2019

- PCC Decision 029-2019 Corporate Governance Framework
- PCC Decision 030-2019 Estates Programme
- PCC Decision 031-2019 Dog Food and Kennelling Services for Warwickshire is a confidential decision relating to Dog Food and Kennelling Services for Warwickshire

06 November 2019

- PCC Decision 032-2019 Approval of revised budget for logistics centre is a confidential decision relating to the budget of the logistics centre.
- PCC Decision 033-2019 Disposal of Property is a confidential decision relating to the Estates Programme.
- PCC Decision 034-2019 Disposal of Property is a confidential decision relating to the Estates Programme.

18 November 2019

- PCC Decision 038-2019 Annual Report

20 November 2019

- PCC Decision 039-2019 Proposed Security Enhancements at Lloyd House is a confidential decision relating to the proposed security enhancements at Lloyd House.

22 November 2019

- PCC Decision 037-2019 Acquisition of the Eastern Custody site is a confidential decision relating to the acquisition of the Eastern Custody site

03 December 2019

- PCC Decision 036-2019 Office Policies

23 January 2020

- PCC Decision 001-2020 Disposal of items from WMP Museum
- PCC Decision 002-2020 Lease of property is a confidential decision relating to estates.
- PCC Decision 003-2020 Maintenance of Data Network Equipment is a confidential decision relating to Maintenance of Data Network Equipment
- PCC Decision 004-2020 Provision of Driver Retraining Schemes is a confidential decision relating to the Provision of National Driver Offender Retraining Schemes.
- PCC Decision 005-2020 Telephony Network Support is a confidential decision
- PCC Decision 007-2020 Connect Programme is a confidential decision relating to the Connect Programme.

13 February 2020

- PCC Decision 008-2020 Revenue Budget

18 February 2020

- PCC Decision 009-2020 Scheme of Delegations
- PCC Decision 010-2020 Complaints Review Function.
- PCC Decision 011-2020 New Licence of Building is a confidential decision relating to the new licence of building.

02 March 2020

- PCC Decision 012-2020 Pension Forfeiture- Amar Hussain.
- PCC Decision 013-2020 Pension Forfeiture- Benjamin Hughes.
- PCC Decision 014-2020 Fees and Charges 2020-21.

24 March 2020

- PCC Decision 016-2020 Victims Services
- PCC Decision 017-2020 External Commissioning and Active Citizens Budget 2020/21

26 March 2020

- PCC Decision 018-2020 The Emergency Purchase of Vehicles is a confidential decision and relates to the emergency purchase of vehicles