



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Tuesday 15 December 2020
1000 – 1200 hrs**

Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

Attendees:

David JAMIESON	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
Richard BAKER	:	Head of ROCU
Claire BELL	:	Assistant Chief Constable
Sam BOOTH	:	Citizens in Policing Manager
Brendan CONNOR	:	Board Member
Alethea FULLER	:	Deputy Chief Executive
Catherine HANNON	:	Board Member
Jonathan JARDINE	:	Chief Executive
Vanessa JARDINE	:	Deputy Chief Constable
Gurinder Singh JOSAN	:	Board Member
Mark KENYON	:	Chief Finance Officer
Sarah MARWICK	:	Board Member
Thomas MCNEIL	:	Strategic Advisor/Board Member
Mike O HARA	:	Chief Superintendent – Coventry NPU
Polly REED	:	Head of Business Services
Jay Singh-SOHAL	:	Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate
David THOMPSON	:	Chief Constable

Plus one note taker and five observers.

Please Note:

1. *This meeting was recorded and the entire discussion can be found here:*
<https://youtu.be/Uh-pcfPyTNM>
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here:*
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/december-2020/>
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.*

121/20	Item 1: Apologies and PCC Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting, and offered the Deputy Commissioner's apologies for the first section of the meeting due to prior engagements.
--------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner recognised West Midlands Police's achievement, for coming second place in the 'Good Employer' ranking. The Commissioner expressed his delight and congratulated staff for being recognised on a national scale.
122/20	<p>Item 2: Notes of the Last Meeting – 17th November 2020:</p> <p>The notes of the Board meeting held on 17th November 2020 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. The two actions arising from the meeting have both been resolved.</p>
123/20	<p>Item 3: Petition - J Singh-Sohal re Estates received on 9 December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jay Singh-Sohal was welcomed to the meeting. The petition represents the views of 5,000 people, concerned about the closures of police stations. A media video was brought to the Commissioner's attention. The role of the Commissioner is to act with integrity and honesty, and the Commissioner felt the media video portrayed misleading information. The Commissioner applauded the structural work completed on Lloyd House, as positive enhancements have been made. Since 2010, the number of police officers has decreased and therefore the estate needs to change to reflect this. The Force had to change their estates to reflect the economy and the need for different capabilities. Sutton Coldfield's police building is only 10% occupied. The Commissioner is looking for a joint venture with the Government to change this. Solihull's police building is only 10-15% occupied at present. Alternative options must be explored. In November 2020, a Solihull town centre masterplan, was presented to cabinet. This contained innovative methods to develop the town centre. The Commissioner raised a number of inaccuracies and misleading information within the petition. The Commissioner advised Mr Singh-Sohal to take the opportunity to meet with OPCC staff for a briefing. Mr Singh-Sohal was thanked for his attendance.
124/20	<p>Item 4: Questions from Members of the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Following the recent 3 firearms discharges in one day, can the Chief Constable give any public reassurance concerning the trends in firearm offences? (asked by Brendan Connor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2019 there has been a significant reduction in firearms. The Force are now in a similar position of discharges year to date. 133 discharges have been undertaken throughout the year, and 136 firearms have been recovered. Collaborative work is being completed with the Organised Crime Department. The pandemic's impact on drug criminality has caused disruption to markets and increased tensions between gangs. A series of operations are being carried out in Birmingham, Coventry and the Black Country. Weapons deemed as antiques were able to be possessed without a firearm licence. As soon as they have ammunition they need a license. There is an increased use of shotguns, due to theft from rural areas.

	<p>2. How many public DashCam submissions have been made to West Midlands Police?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) How many of these have resulted in prosecutions? (asked by Brendan Connor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force have a portal where the public can upload dash cam footage. 4027 reports have been uploaded. • 80% of the footage relates to driving without concern. • Community initiatives are being introduced. • The Force encourage the opportunity to review dash cam footage. <p>3. Could the Chief Constable provide an indication of the number of extra officers who will be available for each NPU/ department from the uplift programme? (asked by David Jamieson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 366 officers have been employed from the Uuplift programme. • The Force plans to increase the number of officers by 1200. • The increase will help to improve the number of crimes prosecuted and cases brought to justice. • Neighbourhood officers will increase by 222 to tackle drug dealing and violent crime. • 151 staff will be dedicated to specialist roles within organised crime.
--	---

BUILDING A MODERN WORKFORCE

125/20	<p>Item 5: Cadets and Volunteers:</p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Mark Payne and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner thanked Sam Booth for the report, recognising the quality of the information presented. • This year has been challenging in many regards, with cadets and volunteers being denied physical meetings due to the pandemic. • Digital opportunities have been explored. • Participants are reacting positively to the online forums. • The Force are on target to recruit 500 cadets and volunteers. • The number of cadet leaders has increased. • Diversity is broad and largely reflective of the ethnic community. The Force are aiming to improve this even further. • . • Receiving more external applications for cadet leaders, with diverse backgrounds. • The gender balance is 50% - great news! • The Force aim to focus on future cadet schemes within impact areas and communities that are difficult to engage with. • The Force have adopted a process of using social media and visiting schools directly in order to target the community. • In future, the idea of leaflet drops will be explored. • The Force continue to engage with the appropriate professionals who have access to those who are most at risk. • A Junior PCSO is utilised in order to attract children of a younger age. This highlights the importance of officers visiting schools.
---------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges around safeguarding have been presented, resulting in further collaborations with specialist partners. • The number of volunteers have grown by over 100. The Force want this growth to continue, especially within communities that are difficult to reach. • The Force encourage people with volunteer aspirations to sign up events such as the Commonwealth Games and Coventry City of Culture. Event leaders have expressed opportunities to recruit. • The Force aim to increase active citizenship. • The Commissioner is really pleased to hear of the growth of cadets and volunteers, and thanked the Team for their hard work and dedication.
--	---

EMERGENCY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN	
--	--

126/20	<p>Item 6: Emergency Chapter Report – By Exception:</p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Claire Bell and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand has remained consistent through November. • . • Hate crime has increased in comparison to last year, albeit the crimes are now lower than they were this summer. • Domestic abuse reports tend to increase over the Christmas period. • 666 fixed penalty notices have been issued in relation to COVID. 150 notices were issued for the illegal rave in Digbeth. • The Force continue to work in partnership with testing sites. • Goggles may need to be worn by officers when in close proximity with the public. • The Force are awaiting news of changes to the tier system, and are in a position to respond accordingly. • Organisational Learning was discussed, regarding the operational response to the second wave. • A CPD event was held for the Force Executive Team in relation to the altered Business Continuity Plans. • The Force aim to work with the organisers of protests and offer alternative options to share their opinions. There is no exemption for protesting at present, and enforcement will be used if appropriate. • The ‘No Excuse for Abuse Campaign’ has been relaunched.
--------	---

127/20	<p>Item 7: Finance Update Report:</p> <p>The report was presented by Mark Kenyon and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a 10.3 million pound underspend across West Midlands Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. • The Uplift Programme allocates funding into ‘element to capital’ and ‘element to staff pay’. This ensures the Force are equipped with the necessary resources. • There is an overspend relating to the consequences of COVID-19. Expenditure is likely to cost the Force 6 million pound, dated from March 2020. • Paragraph 8 of the report details areas of the Force’s expenditure. Transport costs and fuel are examples. • Forecast for the Counter Terrorism Unit from the Home Office is included. • ROCU is included in the report in terms of West Midlands Police’s capabilities. • The Commissioner thanked Mark Kenyon for his work during this difficult period.
--------	--

EMERGING ITEMS	
128/20	<p>Item 8: Coventry City of Culture:</p> <p>The report was presented by T/ACC Chris Todd and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Commissioner congratulated Chris Todd for his temporary promotion. • The event commences in May 2021. • The report covers the Force’s 12 objectives. • Operational Delivery Team are working to ensure the Force are prepared for potential high end threats, such as terrorist attacks or public safety issues. • Relationships are being built with the Counter Terrorism Unit ahead of the event. • The Force are adopting organisational learning from the Manchester Arena terrorist attack. • Community benefits and legacy will be generated from the public’s engagement in this event. • The Force can deliver and enhance their police services through this opportunity. • The Force are exploring estates opportunities to enhance the publicity of the heritage centre within Coventry. • The Deputy Commissioner is pleased to be involved in the Coventry City of Culture Board.
129/20	<p>Item 9: EU Exit:</p> <p>The report was presented by T/ACC Chris Todd and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU Exit will impact international investigative tools. The Force are currently working with the International Crime Coordinator Centre. • The Force could potentially lose some of their capabilities in the short term in the event of a no negotiated outcome. • Encourage all staff involved in investigations to plan ahead and engage early with the Crown Prosecution Service. • Peer reviews have been conducted with South Wales and Metropolitan Police. • The Strategic Governance Coordination Group ensures the Force are working effectively with partners. • The Force are preparing for changes in intelligence, particularly around hate crime. • The Force are seeking views from the communities involved, in order to understand what they expect and require from West Midlands Police. • Contingency plans are in place in the event of a no-deal situation. • Requests would be sent to partners instead of checking systems nationally, which will be more time consuming. • 5/6 peer sessions have been completed, and any potential public disorders have been planned for. • The exchanging and intelligence of DNA records would be limited in the event of a no-negotiated outcome. Requests would be completed via Interpol on a case by case basis. • The UK has seen 12,000 DNA requests. 5% of these requests are in the West Midlands. • European arrest warrants could be affected. <p>Action: The Force to provide an updated report containing details of offences and what will be done to track offenders.</p>

130/20	<p>Item 10: Chief Constable Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force have received recognition from external organisations. • IT and Digital were thanked for their hard work and capability development. • The public remain outstanding with their compliance to Government guidance. • The Chief Constable urges the public to continue complying with guidance throughout the festive season. • The Chief Constable wished the Commissioner and Board Members a Merry Christmas.
131/20	<p>Item 11: SPCB Work Plan:</p> <p>The Government have recently undertaken a review regarding the extent to which the Commissioner and Chief Constable are fulfilling the 'Have Regard' Duty, in a policing response to national threat. This will be discussed in January's meeting.</p>
132/20	<p>Item 12: Date of the Next Meeting: 19th January 2021</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable and the Force for their hard work and ability to reflect change throughout the difficulties we have faced this year.</p> <p>The Commissioner wished everyone a Merry Christmas.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 12:03.</p>