

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday 16 March 2021
1000 - 1200 hrs

Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

AGENDA

1	10:00	<p>Apologies and PCC Update:</p> <p>The Commissioner will provide a general update.</p>	Verbal
2	10:10	<p>Notes of the Last Meeting – 16th February 2021</p> <p>The notes of the Board meeting held on 16th February 2021 are attached to this agenda. The notes include actions in bold, with the steps taken to address those actions included in italics. The notes carry forward any outstanding actions from previous Board meetings to ensure that the Board is regularly updated on progress.</p>	
3	10:10	<p>Questions from Members of the Public:</p> <p>The Commissioner will consider questions from members of the public (other than police officers and staff) who live, work or study in the West Midlands relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any questions have to be submitted in writing to the Commissioner at least seven working days before the meeting. Members of the public may submit one question per meeting. Members of the public are reminded that it is also possible to ask questions of West Midlands Police and Crime Panel whose role is to support and review the work of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. For further information go to the Panel's website http://westmidlandspcp.co.uk</p>	
4	10:15	<p>Questions from Members of the Board:</p> <p>This item is for Board Members to ask particular questions on matters that have arisen between Board meetings and which are not connected with the reports on this agenda. A copy of the questions will be circulated at the meeting and will be made available on the Commissioner's website at www.westmidlandspcc.gov.uk.</p>	

5	10:20	Chief Constable Update: The Chief Constable will give a verbal update on operational policing matters which can be discussed in the public domain	
		END OF TERM REPORT	
6	10:30	End of Term Report: To be presented by Jonathan Jardine	Written Report

STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Notes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 16 February 2021 1000 – 1200 hrs

Remote Access Meeting (using Zoom Technology)

Attendees:

David JAMIESON	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
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
Jayne MEIR	:	Assistant Chief Constable
Thomas MCNEIL	:	Strategic Advisor/Board Member
Waheed SALEEM	:	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris TODD	:	Assistant Chief Constable

Plus one note taker and 4 observers.

Apologies:

Dave Thompson – Chief Constable

Please Note:

1. *This meeting was recorded and the entire discussion can be found here:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef2gBTjmcAQ>
2. *The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here:*
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/archive/spcb-february-2021/>
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text.*

013/21	Item 1: PCC Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting.• The Commissioner commented on recent media coverage regarding a child sexual abuse case. The PCC has received assurance that victims are supported and protected from further offending, and an Investigation Plan is in place.• In addition, the Force has implemented robust and thorough mechanisms for case reviews.• Child sexual abuse extends beyond a policing problem, with us all as a society having a part to play in tackling it.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCC Jardine added that this is very much a live investigation reopened in 2019, following a thorough investigation that the Force has previously carried out during which 9 suspects were arrested. • All allegations of child sexual exploitation are taken extremely seriously, reviewed and acted upon where possible. • DCC Jardine reiterated her thanks to members of staff for their hard work during these challenging times. • The Commissioner commented on the human cost of coronavirus to the Force, The increased pressure brought about by coronavirus has been major. • Across the Force, 1444 people have either been directly or indirectly affected by the virus. • 79 officers have been unable to work due to coronavirus. • Tragically, one of our members of staff has died due to Covid-19. • Despite the adversity of coronavirus, the Force have continued to adapt to the new restrictions. We are all extremely grateful.
014/21	<p>Item 2: Notes of the Last Meeting – 19th January 2021</p> <p>The notes of the Board Meeting held on 19th January 2021 were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
015/21	<p>Item 3: Questions From Members of the Public:</p> <p>There were no public questions received.</p>
016/21	<p>Item 4: Questions from Members of the Board:</p> <p><i>1. In the light of the reported increase in dog theft will the Chief Constable tell us:</i></p> <p><i>a) How many reports have WMP received of this kind of theft or activity in the West Midlands in recent months?</i></p> <p><i>b) What actions are WMP taking to tackle this problem?</i></p> <p><i>(The BBC have recently reported that there has been a large increase in dog theft and a movement from some organised crime groups away from drugs market to running illicit puppy farms, resulting in emotional turmoil for victims and horrendous animal abuse).</i></p> <p><i>(Asked by Tom McNeil)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCC Jardine commented that having reviewed the figures for the West Midlands, we haven't seen an increase around the figures for dog theft. • Rather, over the last ten years we have seen a significant decrease. • In 2020, the Force received 18 reports of dog theft, 17 in 2019 and 30 in 2018. • Month by month figures are being monitored in order to track any exponential increase. • While the BBC may be accurately reporting around organised crime groups moving towards illicit puppy farms, we have not seen this as an emerging trend in the West Midlands
SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME	
017/21	<p>Item 5a: Victims Code Compliance:</p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Meir and the following points were discussed:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force ensures that all cases are “gatekeepered” between the case management unit and the CPS. Often when the file is originally put together by investigators, there are weaknesses in attaching the VPS. • It is important to keep all those involved, such as victims and witnesses, thoroughly updated when there is a case backlog. • There has also been extra effort inputted to improve the technology that would assist with information passing seamlessly between agencies, there are weaknesses within our current system that we are looking to address. • There are improvements to be made in terms of how we list cases and how the judiciary make the decision around prioritising trials. It is imperative that out of court disposal opportunities are fully utilised going forward. • Disproportionality data is available and can be provided for a future report. • The Force is working as a part of the criminal justice board, with the CPS, leading a piece of work across the CJS and how disproportionality may be manifesting itself in terms of stop and search, the investigation of crime, care for victims and all the way through the criminal justice system. • The Force are working hard with neighbourhood policing teams to improve the levels of reporting, particularly around hidden crimes such as domestic abuse, sexual offences and hate crime. • Over the last 5 years, the focus of The Force has been to improve the experience of victims in partnership with the OPCC.
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<p>018/21</p>	<p>Item 5b: DV Perpetrators:</p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Meir, Megan Jones, Imogen Cheatham and Amra Dautovic and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society over the past 5 years, particularly as a result of the #me-too movement, has developed more of a no tolerance attitude to abuse. • Changes in crime recording over the past 12 months has been part of the reasoning behind the exponential growth. For example, crimes that would have been recorded as a single crime previously, are now being recorded as more than one in some instances. • It is most important to track calls from the public. This year particularly, there has been an improvement to timeliness in reaching victims of domestic abuse. • On a regional level, caseworkers liaise with other professionals in terms of the ongoing risk management as there could be triggers that then impact in terms of individual’s home life/ recovery. • A large amount of women coming through expressed that they wished to remain with their partner, but wanted them to change. Based on this, the Force is very aware of the different facets that people come with. • In the Midlands, one to one groups are set up to help overcome language barriers. • In terms of the increase in referrals, there has been a huge rise in reporting for DA, and the pressure of isolation brought about by Covid-19 has exaggerated this. • With the regional programme, because of Covid-19, referrals have been suspended for the moment. • New referral pathways are intended to be opened in the next few weeks. • Cases, especially those through the Drive and regional programme are becoming more complicated. Over 60 to 70% of the regional referrals for Drive have 3 or more issues in terms of their complexity. Birmingham is unique in this respect, being incredibly complex in terms of perpetrators. • The Service also provides a separate independent access point for victims and children to be supported within the process. A strong checkpoint and opportunity for
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	<p>guidance from victims to provide feedback on what does and what doesn't work in terms of the perpetrator programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC has invested more in support services than ever. Funding for victims services has doubled since 2016. • In dealing with a wide range of serious crime, the PPU in relation to DA constitutes 15% of all crimes reported to West Midlands Police.
	REGULAR ITEMS
019/21	<p>Item 6: Finance and Budget Update: Mark Kenyon</p> <p>The report was presented by Mark Kenyon and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The £10 million underspend relates to the police officer uplift programme to begin in the next financial year. The main bulk of the PCC budget goes to commissioned services in delivering crime reduction activities, such as the Community Initiatives Fund. • In terms of Covid-19 expenditure, spending has been quite reactive. Budget provision has been made for things around Covid-19 expenditure, particularly around the PPE aspect in making places safe and secure around Covid-19.
020/21	<p>Item 7: Emergency Chapter – WMP: Chris Todd</p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Chris Todd and the following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street racing has proven a continual problem before and after the pandemic. Overall traffic volumes have reduced but have increased since April last year due to more people back at work. Operation Hercules is enacted on a weekend basis which aims to combat anti-social behaviour on the road. • The regulations to understand what was required of the police in terms of red listed countries in relation to Covid-19 were clarified quite late last week. • There has been an increase in the numbers of the direction to leave compared to at the beginning of the pandemic. • Footfall through the airport has dropped significantly, even prior to this week. A further fall in footfall is expected. . It is certainly within manageable numbers and presents no issues. • Those who do declare usually book in with a hotel, therefore the Force will liaise with the hotels. Those that do not declare they're from a red list county are identified through working with the Border Force. • The capacity in the hotels is sufficient, although additional capacity is available should it be required. • In relation to testing, the arrangement is with local authorities that officers and staff can attend as well. Significant number of staff are making use of Local Authority sites. • An additional level of testing has been implemented in response to the South African variant of the virus which has been discovered in Walsall. •
021/21	<p>Item 8: Chief Constable Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCC Jardine said that Connect, the new integrated OS will be going live in the first week of April. Extensive training in the Force is going on at the moment which is unprecedented considering the scale of the use of the new system. While trials were successful, it is a much greater challenge in integrating this on a Force wide scale.

022/21	Item 9: SPCB Work Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is one more meeting before the PCC elections. This will focus on the Commissioner's End of Term Report.
023/21	Item 10: Date of the Next Meeting: 16th March 2021 <p>The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable, the Force and Board Members for their detailed reports and discussion.</p> <p>The Public Session of the meeting concluded at 12:00.</p>