



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

Tuesday 26 October 2021

1000 – 1300 hrs

Attendees:

Wasim ALI	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Nicky BRENNAN	:	Victims Commissioner
Charmaine BURTON	:	Board Member
Ainsley DYER	:	Financial Accountant
Simon FOSTER	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
Alethea FULLER	:	Deputy Chief Executive
Bhupinder GAKHAL	:	Board Member
Cath HANNON	:	Board Member
Vanessa JARDINE	:	Deputy Chief Constable
Jonathan JARDINE	:	Chief Executive
Tom MCNEIL	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Michelle UGWUEZE	:	Staff Officer

Plus, one notetaker and 6 observers.

Apologies:

Neil CHAMBERLAIN	:	Director of Commercial Services
Mark KENYON	:	Chief Finance Officer
David THOMPSON	:	Chief Constable

Please Note:

1. This meeting was recorded and the entire discussion can be found here:
https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/570969
2. The reports referred to throughout this meeting can be viewed here:
<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-and-crime-board/agendas-minutes-reports/>

053/21	Item 1: PCC Update: The Commissioner made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Commissioner shared his condolences following the tragic death of MP David Amess; the news of his death was tragic and filled us with immense sadness. MP's and politicians are feeling vulnerable and concerned for their safety as a consequence of the events and the Commissioner expects the Force to do all they can to support this.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In light of the horrific murder of Sarah Everard, the Commissioner met with the Chief Constable in order to seek assurance around ensuring women and girls are kept safe. The Commissioner expressed his commitment to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), holding perpetrators to account and giving further oversight and scrutiny. Further information on this matter is detailed within the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner highlighted the ongoing proactive work with the Force, such as increased visible patrols and the investment of half a million pounds to fund projects concerning the attitude amongst men and boys.
054/21	<p>Item 2: Notes of the Last Meeting – 28th September 2021</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
055/21	<p>Item 3: Questions from Members of the Public:</p> <p>There were no questions from members of the public.</p>
056/21	<p>Questions from Members of the Board:</p> <p>There were no questions from members of the board.</p>
Police and Crime Plan	
057/21	<p>Item 5: Police and Crime Plan</p> <p><i>Jonathan Jardine provided an overview of the report and DCC Vanessa Jardine added that WMP welcome the Plan, and thanked the Commissioner for providing the Force with the opportunity for consultation. WMP look forward to contributing to the Plan’s delivery. The following points were discussed:</i></p> <p><i>Partnership working is a key theme throughout the PlaThere is a huge evidence base of what causes crime including neglect, domestic abuse, poverty and addiction. There is excellent partnership working at present within the community, however further action can be taken to strengthen and signpost in order to bring organisations together to implement a shared approach towards addressing needs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commissioner has produced a Plan that is reflective of the structures and processes that presently exist within different partnership domains. - The risk is that thematic areas and partnership organisations are identified as separate imperatives, and it is necessary to ensure that we are not only progressing, but also connecting the thematic areas and organisations with additional pathways. The overarching connectivity is the key issue. <p><i>The Plan’s timeframe is limited to the Commissioner’s term in office. It is crucial to bring together diverse cultures within partnership organisations. Will partners be given the opportunity to share their organisational culture as they are delivering the projects?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structures and processes that are captured within the Plan are reflective of the complexity of multiple funding streams. - Included within the Police and Crime Plan is a detailed section from the Victims Commissioner.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The culture and tone of some partnership discussions in relation to criminal justice are a product of a lack of funding, and work can take place within a funding free environment. - The commitments within the Plan have been agreed by partnership organisations. <p><i>In terms of partnership delivery, how are partners held accountable? How can possible new partners contribute to proposed solutions?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different partners are held accountable in different ways; accountability can be dependent upon the level of funding and decision-making that partnership organisations are responsible for. - Each commissioned activity is actively monitored. - The Commissioner welcomes partnership organisations to increase their involvement within this sector of work. Opportunities are advertised through the PCC website and social media accounts. <p><i>Will the proposal of 450 additional police officers be reflective of the community it serves?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work is being completed concerning the Uplift Programme with the aim to have a range of representatives within the organisation. - Nicola Price has asked Wasim Ali to join future board meetings to work collaboratively in order to ensure the Force reflects the community it serves. <p>Nicky Brennan observed that tackling VAWG is prominent within the Plan, and highlighted the importance of the link to preventative work.</p> <p>The Commissioner added that the Plan is a comprehensive agenda for change and focuses upon delivering justice, safety and security for the West Midlands. The Commissioner will publish the Police and Crime Plan by 29th October 2021.</p>
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Regular Items

058/21	<p>Item 6: Finance and Budget Monitoring</p> <p><i>Ainsley Dyer provided an overview of the report and the following points were discussed:</i></p> <p><i>There is an increase in budget and forecast for the Command Team. What actions have been taken that have resulted in an increase of finances?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The increase of the budget and forecast is a result of a demand on the service, that has driven the additional cost. - The increase of costs is also due to a member of the Force being on long-term sick leave. <p>Further Action: Further discussion about the increase to take place outside of the meeting.</p> <p><i>Could details be provided regarding the activities and actions that have been implemented in order to manage the overspend within the revenue budget?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colleagues within the Finance Team are meeting with budget holders to examine financial accounts and planned expenditure. - The Team have expressed confidence that overspend can be reduced by adopting this approach.
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	<p>Further Action: The Commissioner to be briefed on the activities taking place to manage the overspend within the revenue budget.</p>
<p>059/21</p>	<p>Item 7: Monitoring Performance Report</p> <p><i>Jonathan Jardine provided an overview of the report and the following points were discussed:</i></p> <p><i>There is a target set to reduce the timeframe of rape investigations. What differences will be made to ensure this target is met?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The length of rape investigations can lead to victim attrition and ultimately, the Force want to bring an increased number of offenders to justice and higher convictions within court. - The Force are undertaking a review with external partners around rape and are taking advantage of opportunities to improve processes. - This is a countrywide issue and the Force have received national engagement. - The aim is to avoid rape in the first instance, however where this is not possible aim to offer the appropriate support. - Under the Force’s uplift programme, more resources are being invested into public protection. - The Force welcome the measure of increasing the number of civil orders as this ensures the protection of victims. - This metric provides an example of a risk towards attempting to reduce the amount of time of investigations. <p><i>Paragraph 15 of the report highlights that not all metrics are available at a local level and so forces have been advised to display proxy measures. To what extent can we be confident that the adoption of these local proxy measures are an adequate substitute for the national proxy measures?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appendix C illustrates a mixture of metrics that include those which are more established than others, as some are not classified as police data. - In each of the metrics listed, there can be a degree of critique on how effectively they are a proxy of the factor discussed. - As set out within the Police and Crime Plan, there is additional work to complete to gain a fuller understanding of satisfaction of service. - Whilst the metrics listed at the top of Appendix C are workable, those further down the list such as victim satisfaction and cybercrime require additional work and clarity. <p><i>Have different forces been encouraged to develop different local proxy measures?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forces have been encouraged to use different local proxy measures. - The regulation allows for a PCC to not report on this matter if there is no need to do so. - The Home Office have been deliberately broad within the drafting of the requirement. <p>The Commissioner added that the number of issues within the report highlights the pressures the Force is presently facing. For instance, 3000 emergency 999 calls were received within a 24-hour period. The government must ensure a fair funding package for the West Midlands. By 2023, the Force will still be due 1000 officers; these must be returned by the government.</p>
<p>060/21</p>	<p>Item 8: Annual Report</p> <p>Read and contents duly noted.</p>

061/21	<p>Item 9: Deputy Chief Constable Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand is continuing to increase. Normally demand declines after the summer period, however this year the level of demand has remained consistent. - The number of calls to the 999 service is extremely high; WMP encourage the public to only call 999 if there is an emergency. - The night-time economy continues to be a challenge since COVID-19 restrictions have lifted. - In relation to COP 26, the Force are supporting this and are sending officers to the Scotland region. This does not impact the Force's ability to police within the West Midlands. <p><i>In the lead up to Christmas and New Year, the night-time economy will be increasing. Are the Force prepared for the increase in demand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Force are preparing for the anticipated level of demand. - The Force will ensure there is an adequate policing plan in place for the festive period. <p><i>Will the Force be running a campaign to educate the public for the festive period?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Force are running a campaign for the darker nights in relation to burglaries and how to enjoy the night-time economy in a safer way. - There will be an increase in campaigns and events as we move closer to the festive period. <p>The Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, Tom McNeil, thanked the Force in relation to the recent attacks within the Gay Village against the LGBT community. The Force are taking the issue extremely seriously and have been incredibly helpful.</p>
062/21	<p>Item 10: SPCB Workplan:</p> <p>There were no actions to be discussed at this time.</p>
063/21	<p>Item 11: Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>The Commissioner thanked the Deputy Chief Constable, the Force and Board members for their detailed reports and discussion.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Strategic Policing & Crime Board will take place on Tuesday 23rd November 2021.</p>