



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Tuesday, 22 March 2022
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Minutes

Attendees

Wasim ALI	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Gregg ARRAND	:	Staff Officer
Clair BELL	:	Assistant Chief Constable
Nicky BRENNAN	:	Victims Commissioner
Charmaine BURTON	:	Board Member
Simon FOSTER	:	Police and Crime Commissioner
Bhupinder GAKHAL	:	Board Member
Cath HANNON	:	Board Member
Jonathan JARDINE	:	Chief Executive
Vanessa JARDINE	:	Deputy Chief Constable
Nigel JOHNSTON	:	Programme Manager
Mark KENYON	:	Chief Finance Officer
Tom MCNEIL	:	Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
Emma POINTER	:	Chief of Staff
Matthew WARD	:	Assistant Chief Constable

Plus, one note taker and four observers

Notes:

1. *The meeting was recorded, and a webcast of the entire discussion can be viewed here: https://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/662069*
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/>*
3. *Actions arising from the discussion during the meeting are highlighted in bold text*

024/22	<p>Item 1 – PCC Update</p> <p>The Commissioner made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner reflected on the current circumstances in Ukraine. Although the Commissioner acknowledges the Board is not the appropriate forum to discuss the wider geopolitical circumstances of the war, he emphasised that it is necessary to keep under review: the impact on policing budgets arising from
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	<p>increased utility and fuel costs, the importance of maintaining IT security, ensuring there are no Russian providers in the Force supply chain and ensuring the safety of Russian and Ukrainian nationals in the West Midlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner referenced the Levelling Up white paper, which includes 12 missions, with 1 relating to crime, community safety and resilience. Though much of the white paper is reflective of government existing plans, it includes a commitment to a trailblazer devolution deal with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). It is too early to say what the components of the deal will be; however, the PCC team is working with the WMCA on the devolution deal in relation to the crime, community safety and resilience strand. The PCC will be looking for commitments to proposals set out in the Police and Crime Plan in the devolution deal. • The Commissioner also referenced increased powers for police in dealing with noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour. Expecting policing to absorb additional demand is potentially problematic. • The Commissioner drew attention to the paper restating the desire to see the police governance function transfer to a Metro Mayor. The position remains in the West Midlands that Local Authority Leaders, agreed in 2019, do not wish to proceed with this transfer. The PCC emphasised that abolishing the people's right to vote for a PCC is a profoundly anti-democratic step. • The Commissioner named the Police Foundation Report as an authoritative voice backing his call to rebuild community policing. The Commissioner reiterated his plan to rebuild community policing with an extra 450 police officers to neighbourhood units by 2023. • The PCC is intending to write to the government to call on them to ensure that the National Police Air Service is maintained. The PCC made clear that the Home Office needs to step in to accomplish this.
025/22	<p>Item 2 – Halesowen Police Station Petition</p> <p>The PCC offered the following comments in response to the petition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Morris MP is unable to attend the Board. The PCC acknowledges receipt of the petition. The Commissioner has written a detailed letter to James Morris MP which is to be published with the minutes of this Board. • The Commissioner is aware of the understandable public interest in relation to police stations. The decision which is referred to was originally taken in October 2015. • The Commissioner is aware of the serious concerns of the constituents of Halesowen and Rowley Regis have in relation to crime, policing and the CJS as a consequence of ill-advised decision making of central government • The Commissioner reiterated the commitments of his Estates strategy with emphasis being on safeguards being put in place to ensure that local policing is defended.
026/22	<p>Item 3 – Notes of the Last Meeting: 22nd February 2022.</p> <p>The notes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.</p>
027/22	<p>Item 4 - Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p>

1) *The Protect Duty previously known as Martyn's Law will become legislation to improve security standards in crowded public spaces and venues.*

The range of those affected can be extremely varied such as schools and universities, parks, beaches, entertainment and retail centres, places of worship, local and public authorities.

How are West Midlands Police and partners working together with owners and operators to help address the future demands of the Protect Duty?

(asked by Cath Hannon)

- Important to say that the timescales for the implementation of the Protect Duty are expected in the next Parliamentary session (2022/23).
- The Force are not entirely sure what the enforcement will look like, which will become clearer as time goes on.
- The Force understand that local authorities will require a chief place officer to oversee the plans.
- Counterterrorism police in the North East are running a pilot from April 2022 to March 2023 which aims to build on local authority capability to deliver key functions. It is important that West Midlands Police learns from this.
- West Midlands Police are preparing for the implementation of the Protect Duty. Counterterrorism providers are providing bespoke advice around the Protect Duty to site owners, operators, local authorities and other people.
- 4500 e-learning sessions on the Protect Duty have taken place already. This has a high completion rate, particularly within the education and security sectors.
- Targeted training and awareness courses are being delivered by counter terrorism and security officers. Awareness training is being given to managers and front of house staff at public-accessible locations.
- Advice has been provided to local authority planners and developers to ensure proportionate security measures are in place.
- There is also online advice which is regularly reviewed.

Follow up: If there is one online platform that the public could go to for information on the Protect Duty, where would you recommend?

- **DCC Jardine is to go speak to the counterterrorism security officer leading on this and obtain the best overall site for the public.**

2) *In light of the Child Q case in London, what training, oversight and monitoring does WMP use to ensure lawful, proportionate and sensitive use of strip search powers?*

(asked by Charmaine Burton)

- The Force was shocked to learn of the Child Q case and looked immediately at their own processes to ensure something similar could not happen in the West Midlands.
- Looking at Force data, there is no instance in which such a strip search has happened outside of the custody area.
- Within the custody area, there are a number of safeguards that take place, including the role of the custody sergeant.
- Powers under PACE and the Drugs Act are not proactively used by West Midlands Police on school premises.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every single strip search is recorded, to monitor where the power was used and specifically record where strip searches on juveniles have taken place. • There are strict guidelines around strip searches in the West Midlands. Officers are also given additional training on carrying out strip searches. • When recently inspected by HMIC, there was comment that use of stop and search powers had improved. <p><i>Follow up: What mechanisms are in place for monitoring as to whether an appropriate adult in place when there is a strip search taking place.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation states there should be an Appropriate Adult present during strip searches. • Appropriate Adults will be noted as present. • The Commissioner emphasised that it is crucial that stop and search is sufficiently scrutinized and used proportionately and detailed a number of measures which he facilitates to contribute to this.
Police and Crime Plan	
028/22	<p>Item 5 - Preventing and Reducing Crime – Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)</p> <p>The report was presented by ACC Claire Bell, and the following points were discussed:</p> <p><i>Looking at the working you're doing with University of Birmingham student's guild, are there any plans to make this regional and is there anything being done to link in with the West Midlands university sexual violence forum?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intention is to use University of Birmingham as a pathfinder to understand how this work can be expanded into other universities. • With the Safer Streets funding and other opportunities that have arrived, it makes sense to fully examine how to best work with universities in this space. • A new lead is in place. This is now Sally Simpson who is the Superintendent in Birmingham West and Central. • Have focused for obvious reasons on the night time economy, exciting to see which other spaces can be explored. • ACC Bell to explore the university sexual violence forums with Victims Commissioner Brennan. <p><i>Can we have some more information on the Victims Voice Forum and how it will interact with the work of the Victims Champion Group in collaboration with the OPCC?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victims voice forum was a product of the work done with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC), seeking some social values from them on the contract. • This was an opportunity to use some of the expertise within PwC's consultancy work and join this up with the Victims Voice Forum to scrutinise some of the Force's own approaches. • This work is very specific to Rape and Serious Sexual Offending (RASSO). • Follow up meetings with PwC and the Force will be held to see how this work is embedded moving forward. <p><i>Does IOM training include DA?</i></p>

- Yes, there is generic Integrated Offender Management (IOM) training that touches only on Domestic Abuse (DA).
- There is a two-day CPD session that is being developed for offender managers which is focused on DA.

What are the plans to look at the more hidden forums of VAWG? Namely, honour-based abuse and FGM.

- West Midlands Police were the first English Force to have a forced marriage conviction, quickly followed by a second one.
- The Force were interviewed recently regarding one of the HMIC super complaints relating to ethnic minority victims of sexual offences/violence. Queried whether the Force should be recognising whether there is an honour-based risk for all ethnic minority victims of sexual abuse.
- There is currently no conclusion to the super complaint. however, the subject matter experts and the Public Protection Unit (PPU) have been heavily involved in this.
- There is an online conference held in July with attendees up to 1000 people.
- The Force operation at Birmingham Airport will continue.
- Stickers at Birmingham Airport show the public who they can call if they are worried and is seen as national good practice. The Force has also directly intervened at the airport where appropriate.

Clearly an awful lot of work being done to improve service. If I was a victim of VAWG last year, and I became a victim this year, what would I feel differently between the two periods of time?

- There is a difference when first calling the Force as there have been improvements in consistency.
- The matter will be taken seriously and there will be a recognition of the seriousness of and priorities around the offending taking place. This includes over the phone, webchat, or in-person with a member of staff.
- In the public space, there has been a significant difference. There is a recognition in public spaces of how women and girls feel, asking how they feel and understanding their answers.
- Talking about public spaces in VAWG is relatively new.
- There is an effective process in the reporting and allocation to an investigation team.
- A plan to move more staff into complex investigations, which is relevant to this area.
- Bringing in PwC was very helpful in identifying and spreading good practice. Good work has been identified in Coventry around triaging these cases quickly allowing swift evidence acquisition.
- Officers' caseloads have been reduced with the aim of increasing positive outcomes.
- Overall, the difference would be a far more timely and comprehensive service.

One of the problems is that officers are trained to a certain level, and then they move on and do other things. How do you maintain retention within the public protection arena?

- This has always been a challenge and the Force would not hold officers back from progressing their careers.
- To make PPU work more attractive, there has been investment in supervisors and line managers so officers really feel supported in what they're doing.
- Shift patters have also been agreed which are much more aligned to complex investigations work and allow officers a much better work-life balance.

There is a team of officers who look for predatory behaviour. If members of the public wanted to inform themselves about what this behaviour looks like, where would they go to find that?

- Some work has taken place in universities using plain clothes officers to observe behaviours and have discussions with students, both male and female.
- This coming year, it would be interesting to expand the discussion to a public transport environment as well as universities.

Could we have some analysis of what the Street Safe online report indicates? Is the PwC report something that could be shared with the Board?

- The Street Safe report was launched some time ago. It has been re-launched with the context of understanding policing in public spaces around VAWG.
- The report hasn't been running long enough to draw thematic conclusions.
- The local information gets fed into the local partnerships and policing teams.
- Information is useful straight away for an individual area. Over a period of time, themes can be drawn based on the frequency of a location appearing.
- The PwC report will be shared with the Board when it is signed off.

Are stickers on doors in airports too late? With emphasis on the Asian community, we need to consider the emotional blackmail directed towards women and girls.

- This is an example of why the Force need to be constantly working in partnership with other organisations.
- Forums exist where subject matter experts sit and explore this.
- The VAWG alliance will allow the Force to concentrate on intervention and prevention.
- **Data will be provided on how many women and girls have approached officials in airports.**

In terms of offender management activities, how are they? What kind of activities do they involve that have contributed to effectiveness?

- Sex offender management has strong frameworks around this.
- In terms of offender management more broadly, relating to serious acquisitive crime, the Force are exploring how they can rehabilitate.
- Having run serial perpetrator forums, ACC Bell believes these to be highly effective.
- One of the biggest criticisms around domestic abuse offender management is that, when judging success, victims are not consulted.
- In practical terms, housing, safe child access, employment and managing substance abuse contribute to effectiveness.

It's well evidenced that tackling domestic abuse in the home a really important way of preventing crime. Is the Force maximising its partnerships with early intervention and early help arenas?

- Post-Covid, the Force is getting back on track with partnership working.
- A number of examples of strong partnership working exist.

What about girls where English isn't their first language?

- The internet, social media and various forms of alternative communication are being explored.
- There has been work on forced marriage, with a visual presentation used via Snapchat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is almost impossible to cover every relevant language; therefore, it is about being creative around how messages are conveyed. <p><i>What steps is the Force taking to both encourage the reporting of domestic abuse offences potentially perpetrated by officers and ensuring an appropriate investigation?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Santos is the Force’s response to the Metropolitan Police’s Operation Hotton. • There are confidential ways that officers and staff can report, on the understanding that they will be dealt with by the PPU. • Often, Professional Standards Department will deal with these matters, although the PPU will take the lead if the relevant skills lie there. • There is an internal domestic abuse and an internal sexual harassment policy. • A number of brave space conversations have been held, giving staff opportunities to share their experiences on what its like to live and work in the West Midlands. <p><i>A recommendation from HMICFRS was engagement with sex workers to get an understanding of where police officers are offending. Is there any activity in this area that has taken place?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been discussed. This would be dealt with in a straightforward way via misconduct. • Attitudes towards sex workers can be indicative of misogynistic views. <p><i>The Centre for women’s justice identified 4 matters where it felt that policing and the wider Criminal Justice System was not taking sufficient action to protect women and girls. These were: a failure to use bail, a failure to arrest for breaches of non-molestation orders, inadequate use of domestic abuse prevention notices and imposition of restraining orders following conviction. What actions is West Midlands Police taking to ensure it is using tools available to protect women and girls?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This area will count as one of the Force’s key performance indicators. • The Force use a lot of these well, but not enough. • In relation to bail, pre-2017 there was a presumption of bail, there is now a presumption of no bail. • In response to the report referenced, guidance has been published around VAWG offences and the use of bail. • When the legislation first changed, the Force was very high in using police bail for VAWG offences. • There are high levels of awareness around non-molestation orders amongst frontline staff. • DVPNs and DVPOs are a good space to let the victim consider whether they want to support a prosecution or apply for a non-molestation order. • Last year WMP made 479 applications, with most being successful.
029/22	<p>Item 6 – Preparing for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games</p> <p>This report was presented by ACC Matt Ward, and the following points were discussed:</p> <p><i>What is the current status of the Athletes’ Village?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the games were first awarded, the decision was made to hold the athletes’ village in Perry Barr. • A decision was made in December two years ago that the athletes’ village will be spread across four locations (rather than in Perry Barr).

- This poses a greater logistical challenge; however, the Force are confident in handling this.

Regarding the legacy for the location in Perry Barr, are you aware of what the plans are for that?

- This is an ongoing conversation between Birmingham City Council and the games' organising committee.

What is the situation regarding the protection of the memorial to Matt Walker? If it's being moved, what are the plans to return it to the original location?

- **ACC Ward is to obtain this information and provide an update.**

Are there concerns about Metro lines not being open for the Commonwealth Games?

- Transport remains as one of the particular challenges. Colleagues across multiple agencies are working hard to ensure that transport works for the Commonwealth Games.
- From a transport security point of view, robust plans are in place.

How have communities been engaged with?

- A dedicated engagement team consisting of a mixture of police officers and staff was created with a range of backgrounds, experience and skills.
- The Force is focusing their activity around young groups and schools.

What is the incentive for volunteers to get involved? Lots of voluntary engagement within the policing sphere such as Street Watch.

- The Force is putting this out directly via advertising as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- The official Games Organising Committee is encouraging engagement in voluntary posts.

Is the Force confident that, if security guards don't show up, there will be aid in place?

- The Force has worked to ensure that the private security contracts are provided across multiple suppliers, with attractive rates of pay.
- Lots of additional measures are in place to ensure higher levels of confidence that those contracted will be there on the day.
- Contingency measures are in place using the military within short notice.
- ACC Ward is very assured that the plans in place are robust.

What progress is being made with community volunteers to support and participate with West Midlands Police. In terms of the desire for a legacy around this, is this a hope or is there a plan in place to make this happen?

- There is a dedicated team to bring these people together, working hard in communities and relaying messaging to get people to join the Force.
- The West Midlands Police Volunteer Chaplaincy is looking to bring 120 Chaplains with different faiths to support the games.
- People will be impressed by what they see when working with West Midlands Police
- Every venue has been mapped out and looked at gaps and opportunities. The Force are pushing the boundaries with special constables coming from all over the country on mutual aid.

Is there confidence that sufficient officers will be available to meet the mutual aid requirements of the Force during the games and that the proper infrastructure is in

	<p><i>place for them?</i> Currently working through the details of the Mutual Aid plan. There is a meeting with MPOP which will be held after the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge amount of work through Force Contact to make sure that officers are up to speed on what they're coming into. • There are 5 accommodation providers. • There is a full time dedicated briefing officer who has learnt lessons from the G7 and COP 26. • Briefings will be frequently administered to ensure that officers are well up-to-date. <p><i>What does the Force think are the action points that arose from the readiness testing exercises?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistically, the Force are fortunate to have the C3 building as a tactical command and control centre. • Communication and information flows are a huge focus. • Some testing events are coming up in the following weeks. <p><i>What impact do you think the operation will have on policing in the West Midlands?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC Ward is working closely with the BAU commander to ensure that the games and the BAU work in sync together. • Rest days have been cancelled for officers and annual leave. Those rest days and leave will need to be taken at some point. Have tried to work with the Home Office to try and mitigate this impact.
	<p>Regular Items</p>
<p>030/22</p>	<p>Item 6 – Fees and Charges 2022/23</p> <p>The report was presented by Mark Kenyon, the following points were discussed:</p> <p><i>The way Home Office are approaching the administration of funds for shotgun and firearms licencing is underwhelming. What challenge is being made to the Home Office on this to balance the books?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC has raised this in the past. • A number have new requirements have been issued in relation to the firearms licencing regime in collaboration with Staffordshire Police. • Staffordshire police is leading a highly comprehensive piece of work to understand what the additional demand is. • Chief Constable Debbie Tedds is the national lead. She is working with the Home Office to review the current fees and charges for shotguns and other firearms. • The objective is to produce a revised approach for the 2023/24 financial year. Would also want to see an ongoing mechanism for review of the costing. The OPCC is working with the APCC to ensure Chief Constable Debbie Tedds is fully versed with information across policing.
<p>031/22</p>	<p>Item 7 – OPCC External Commissioning Budget 2022/23</p> <p>The report was presented by Mark Kenyon, the following points were discussed:</p> <p><i>What is the difference in funding for this years' victims service budget?</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall victims' budget this year is around five million, last year it was around £5.6 million. <p><i>What is the process to select the organisations and the projects described in the report? What is the plan to challenge the Ministry of Justice regarding the deficiency in funding for IDVAs and ISVAs?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process in selecting organisations is done through a competitive process, ensuring value for money. • In some cases, it is done through a formal procurement process following public sector guidelines. • There is also a grant giving method which tests the market to ensure the price and the quality of the services is up to standard. • Active Citizens is a small grant making arrangement where the PCC, in conjunction with the neighbourhood policing units, invite proposals. • The PCC is lobbying the Ministry of Justice on the second point. <p><i>How do you promote these grants, and engage new organisations?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is published on the PCC website. A lot of the work in these activities is around community-based work. • Commissioning activities have grown significantly and knowledge of whom is dealt with has also increased. • Working with stakeholders as well in terms of delivering things. • Report touches on VRU, this also helps with networking. • Have been successful in getting more money during the year to fund particular activities. <p><i>Is there any funding to support organisations in terms of development? I.e. those that do not yet meet criteria for funding.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to the Building Blocks charity, the PCC arranged for organisations to attend workshops to advise how to go about bidding for work. • Trying to make it as easy as possible for organisations to submit a bid. • Would recommend anybody who is seeking funding from any public organisation to consult the Voluntary Service Council for advice. • OPCC to add a link on their website which displays funding applications received. <p><i>How is the community safety fund allocated amongst the seven community safety partnerships?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is done on crime levels within each individual local authority area, and is kept under regular review.
032/22	<p>Item 7 – Deputy Chief Constable Update</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential burglary performance remains strong. This year seeing an 18% reduction • Seeing a 4.5% reduction on robbery in relation to the previous year. • We are seeing an increase in vehicle crime, both theft of vehicles and theft from vehicles. This is a priority for the Force.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force has completed an extensive piece of work to understand both the Russian and Ukrainian population in the West Midlands. • The Force recently saw a group that call themselves the anti-Covid regulations group hold a protest. This had minimal impact. • An organisation called Just Stop Oil could lead to serious disruption if their presence within the region grows.
033/22	<p>Item 8 – SPCB Workplan: For Noting.</p> <p>There are 6 actions which remain outstanding.</p>
034/22	<p>Item 9 – Date of the Next Meeting:</p> <p>The next Strategic Policing and Crime Board will take place on Tuesday 26th April 2022.</p>