



**Strategic Policing and Crime Board
May 2022**

Police and Crime Plan Priority: Regular Item

Title: Performance Report – National Policing Priorities and Police and Crime Plan
Scorecard

Presented by: Deputy Chief Constable Vanessa Jardine & Mark Kenyon

Purpose of paper

1. To provide an overview of performance against the National Crime and Policing Measures in a format to be used as West Midlands Police's (WMP) official statement on performance and activities undertaken.
2. This statement will be published along with a statement from the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as a Police and Crime Plan Key Performance Indicator (KPI) scorecard for measures where data is currently available.
3. This report meets the requirements of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021.
4. Attached as appendices are the:
 - A. Police and Crime Plan KPI Scorecard
 - B. Police and Crime Commissioner responses to HMICFRS inspection and super-complaint reports

National Policing Priorities – West Midlands Police Statement

Measure: Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

5. The volume of Homicides in West Midlands has remained relatively stable in recent years, averaging five a month. Volumes from April 2021 to March 2022 saw 53 homicides, compared to 52 in the year ending June 2019 baseline (National Baseline set by Home Office), a 1.9% increase.
6. A significant proportion of homicides are often linked to Organised Crime Groups activity (13%) or domestic-related offending (26%). Drugs (47%) and alcohol (24%) are also significant factors. Analysis of victims and offenders also show the high proportion of victims (15%) and suspects (44%) that are under the age of 25. Almost one in four homicides take place within WMP's Impact Areas.
7. These factors will drive activity towards improving performance over the forthcoming quarter, Gang Related Violence remains one of the Force Tactical Priorities for the next period.

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence

8. The national measure for Serious Violence relates to hospital admissions, after seeing several years of increases, levels of hospital admissions for under 25s with sharp object wounding have reduced since the peak in the baseline year (2019). The last 12 months (March 2021 to February 2022) saw 160 episodes, a reduction of 55 compared to the national baseline year ending June 2019. The last 12 months' hospital admissions have been stable at between 10-15 each month. Police recorded crime data for Violence With Injury is showing an increase of 20% vs year ending June 2019, a part of this is an improvement in Crime Data Integrity as highlighted in the last HMIC PEEL inspection. The biggest increase coincided with introduction of the CONNECT system, which incorporates the functionality for these revised crime recording practices. Overall Knife Crime is also up (+28%) but can similarly be linked to increased recording: the majority of knife crime is robbery (which is reducing), however knives are now being recorded in a greater proportion of the crimes. One of the biggest rises in crime relates to the possession of weapons (+124%), however this isn't attributable to the recovery of more weapons, but again a greater proportion of crimes where weapons are recorded as part of the offence.

9. Firearm discharges saw 157 incidents in the previous 12 months; this has reduced by 9 in the year ending March 2022 to 148. In the last quarter, a total of 36 discharges took place, with injury being caused in 13 of the incidents (of which four were fatal). 11 of the 36 discharges were linked to gang-associated nominals / gang activity. A further nine discharges were linked to drug dealing / County Lines activity. Shotguns have been the most commonly used firearm this quarter with a shotgun being discharged in 24 of the 36 discharges (67%).
10. A total of 140 lethal barrelled firearms have been recovered this year, this represents an increase of 16 recoveries when compared to 2020/21.
11. WMP's response to firearms is through Operation Captiva. This coordinates firearms activity throughout the force, understanding the current threat picture and monitoring performance. This quarter WMP have completed 38 firearms warrants, 46 drugs warrants and 185 Captiva visits as reported via the weekly submissions.
12. Project Guardian is WMP's response to Serious Youth Violence. Within this response WMP has a dedicated operational resource, the Guardian Taskforce, a team of 22 officers with enhanced training around behavioural tactics to support focused operational activity in hotspot areas. The taskforce provides structured deployments to promote enhanced local engagement, to set objectives with the community around violence and apply scrutiny to stop and search and police tactics. The Guardian Taskforce is currently deployed into Birmingham West NPU but is reviewed as part of the Force Tasking process.
13. The Home Office have specified that from April 2022 key forces (including WMP) will receive a three-year funding settlement to target Serious Youth Violence. This funding is approximately £3 million a year and will focus on delivering the Serious Youth Violence Priorities:
 - To deliver a place-based multi-agency approach led by Neighbourhood Policing Units (NPU) and coordinated with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), focusing on Violence Hotspots
 - To undertake a 'Precision Policing' approach to deliver Targeted Violence Patrols
 - To ensure grip of key offender networks
 - To deliver Problem-Orientated Policing on the causes of Serious Youth Violence
 - To enhance Community Engagement and involvement based on Operation

Rimush principles – effective consultation, community messaging and scrutiny to maintain confidence and legitimacy

- To coordinate activity and accountability between Strategic Violence themes Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation / Night Time Economy / Violence against Women and Girls / Homicide Reduction
- To deliver a Public Health approach driven through Local Authority Community Safety Partnership (CSP) structures and supported by NPU Commanders – targeted at our most deprived areas that generate violence – assisted by the VRU

14. WMP are committed to support the VRU as a key partner. The VRU is a partnership organisation that aims to reduce violent crime across the West Midlands region. It benefits from the expertise of partners in public health, criminal justice, sports, education and policing in order to take on a collaborative approach towards reducing violence. WMP invest a Chief Inspector and two Inspectors into the VRU to support programme delivery and integration. The effective partnership between WMP and VRU is critical to addressing serious youth violence in the short, medium and long term, not just from the perspective of what we do but how we do it. As a partnership organisation, the VRU report separately, but are a key member of WMP's Strategic Violence and Local Policing Governance boards.

15. A strategic group chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Claire Bell has been launched to target Violence, Abuse and Intimidation against Women and Girls (VAIWG) and a strategy has been produced. Together with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Safer Streets campaign has been launched. We continue to invest in key initiatives to help victims of stalking and harassment report crime and officers are better equipped to deal with these reports. Much work has been carried out on stalking protection orders, promotion of the HollieGuard app for personal safety, promotion of Clare's Law where people can apply for information on a partner's or ex-partner's previous abusive or violent offending, a survey to understand women's feelings on safety and the StreetSafe service where women can identify areas where they don't feel safe.

Measure: Disrupt Drug Supply and County Lines

16. The introduction of having one arrest referral provider under the name of Cranstoun Arrest Referral Service (CARS) embedded within each of the four custody suites across the West Midlands Police force area has resulted in a consistency of service that previously did not exist and has delivered strong benefits for the public. Referrals from this service into Drug Treatment have increased over the last financial year from

1,315 to 1,723. 199 Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR) / and 157 Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATR) have also been granted.

17. Drug Testing in Custody was paused for most of 2021, but recommenced in November 2021. Since then, 1,784 tests have been undertaken with a positive rate of 64% and referred to CARS.
18. Year-to-date, there have been 580 positive drug disruptions carried out. Of these, 427 County Lines disruptions have been recorded; 661 arrests with 188 charges. 379 County Lines were closed during 2021/22.
19. 10 referrals were made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which mention County Lines as a criminal exploitation sub-type. 80 people were engaged with safeguarding partner agencies, with a further 24 people who were referred to specialist support service providers.

Measure: Reduce Neighbourhood Crimes

20. The national measure will be based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales, however this isn't available at Police Force Area level, so recorded crime will be used as a proxy.
21. Total Burglary has been reducing since the peak in November 2018, partially helped by more hybrid working following lockdown, meaning more people are working from home. The year ending June 2019 saw West Midlands record 28,675 Burglaries; the year 2021/22 saw 19,987, with both residential and commercial burglary reducing 30%.
22. Robbery saw a peak in offending in October 2018 and the year ending June 2019 saw 8,945 robberies recorded. The financial year 2021/22 saw 7,868 robberies, a 12% reduction. For victims under the age of 25, the reduction is higher at -17% as robbery and knife crime are key Guardian priorities.
23. Vehicle Crime is currently down 9% compared to the baseline, however the last few months have seen an upward trajectory – especially around theft of vehicles – with March being the highest month for several years. An issue with global supply for car parts is driving demand for these parts, including microprocessors and semi-conductors, and the increased demand for second hand vehicles has pushed volumes

up significantly in last 12 months. Keyless entry is now the preferred way to steal vehicles. Theft of Vehicle has been elevated to a Force Tactical Priority. Significant activity is being done to tackle this across the force, with targeted patrols, dedicated operations to combat vehicle thefts – pursuing organised criminals and closing down ‘chop shops’, as well as a public awareness campaign with advice on vehicle security promoted to areas suffering from this issue.

24. Theft from Person has increased by 19% compared to the baseline, these numbers have started to rise, with February 2022 being the highest month for three years. Theft of mobile phones is a significant contributor to this, especially in the night time economy (NTE), 20% of all thefts occur within Birmingham City Centre neighbourhoods. Licensing officers are working with key venues to encourage customers to keep phones and bank cards safe whilst out.

Measure: Improve Satisfaction

25. There is no local data for the national measure since before the pandemic hit, however the previous Crime Survey for England and Wales sample showed West Midlands to be below the national average for perceptions that police do a good job.
26. WMP, in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner’s office, has developed a Citizen Charter and service standards. The Charter outlines the minimum standards that WMP intends to uphold whenever and wherever it deals with citizens. It was developed following consultation with members of the public and WMP employees and acts as a guide both for employees and citizens, letting employees know what is expected of them, and informs citizens what to expect from WMP.
27. Following the pilot of an SMS survey in late 2020 the citizen satisfaction project has embedded the SMS survey into Force Contact and Force Response since February 2021, giving an increased voice to the public about the service they have received. The survey obtains real time service satisfaction from the public across a much wider range of police involvement that our previous surveys have been able to. Information from SMS surveys is segmented against multiple factors, including incident type, caller demographics, location, day of the week, time of the day and down to team and individual level in order to gain insight, learn, develop and reward. The survey is reviewed regularly to learn further and make any necessary adjustments and explore long term impacts

28. WMP have received 13,509 completed surveys (approx. completion rate 10%) over the last 12 months, the results showed 68% of respondents giving an 8 out of 10 score or higher to the question focusing on whether WMP helped with their issue.

Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

29. The national measure data is not available at Police Force Area level. Therefore, proxy measures on Online and Fraud offences will be used, this will be from WMP data systems rather than Home Office data.

30. Similar to the national picture, Online and Fraud offences have jumped up significantly since the pandemic. Compared to the 2019 baseline, Cyber enabled offences have seen a five-fold increase.

31. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2020, people are now more likely to fall victim to Fraud or Cyber offences above any other crime type. Recent data published by the ONS (2021), states there has been large increases in Fraud offences over the past year, with particular rises in 'consumer and retail fraud' and 'advance fee fraud' – possibly linked to behaviour changes related to the pandemic such as increased online shopping.

32. Between 2020 and 2021, there has been a growth in overall fraud victimisation in WMP from 13,331 to 15,555. Over this period, there has been significant growth in a number of fraud categories identified by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). The categories with the greatest increase include:

- Share sales or Boiler Room Fraud (+46%)
- Dating Scam (Romance Fraud) (+44%)
- Rental Fraud (+43%)
- Advance Fee Fraud (+42%)
- Ticket Fraud (+30%)

33. Cyber enabled offences have seen a five-fold increase compared to national baseline, doubling compared to the similar period pre-pandemic, with February recording 2,836 offences (the highest monthly total ever recorded categorised as happening online). This now makes up 9% of all crime in the region. Although some of this may be a product of improved crime recording methods and the better data capture with the introduction of CONNECT. In the National Strategic Assessment, the National

Crime Agency (NCA) suggest that cyber crime increased in 2020 with more severe and high-profile attacks against UK victims. The estimated cost of these attacks ranges from several hundreds of millions to billions of pounds per year. This growth is expected to continue with cyber tools now being more widely available and increasingly easier for even less technical individuals to utilise. The most recent release of data from the ONS in September 2021 reaffirms this hypothesis stating that a 14% increase in total crime has been seen, driven by a 47% increase in fraud and computer misuse.

34. A number of activities are planned over the next quarter to prevent people becoming victims including:

- Money Mules docudrama – Continuing to deliver a project across schools and colleges.
- Money Mules recruitment poster – Erecting posters in/around schools/colleges/universities. The poster will include a barcode for individuals to scan, specific to the school/college/university/location linking to a webpage that advises of the dangers of becoming a money mule.
- Fraud & Cyber protect video translated to British Sign Language – The video has been created and will be shared with the deaf community via charities etc.
- Digital Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) network – Expanding the Digital PCSO network and educating PCSOs to increase the capability/reach of protecting messaging in local communities.
- Special Constables – Deliver Fraud & Cyber inputs to all Special Constables.
- Multi-Agency Approach to Fraud – Implementing a coordinated multi-agency approach – working collaboratively with industry partners, sharing intelligence, information and best practices.

Next Steps

35. The board is asked to note the contents of this report.

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National Policing Priorities – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Statement

Introduction

36. This statement meets the requirements of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021 as it pertains to the National Policing Priorities.

Murder and other homicide

37. Whilst levels of homicide remain relatively stable within the West Midlands, it is saddening to see a high proportion of homicides within the West Midlands being linked to domestic-related offending (26%) and Organised Crime Groups (13%).

38. A global study by the United Nations on homicide highlighted the presence of Organised Crime Groups and the prevalence of gender stereotypes in society as drivers of homicide¹. I have put Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls at the heart of my Police and Crime Plan and as an Office we work closely with partners to spot and deal with potential male perpetrators, better education for young men on respecting women and girls and work with partners to make practical improvements to our streets including lighting and CCTV.

39. Recently I launched a new campaign to encourage all men and boys in the West Midlands to have important conversations with their peers about male violence against women and girls. The campaign, Here and Now, will ask men to step up and prioritise conversations about playing their part in putting a stop to unacceptable male behaviours and deep-rooted misogyny.

40. Alongside this, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have a range of preventative programmes in educational settings to explore harmful sexual behaviours, gender stereotyping, consent, relationships and coercive behaviours, which aim to improve young people's respect for others.

41. Organised Crime Groups and Gang Related Violence remain tactical priorities for West Midlands Police, I will continue to work closely with them on tackling these issues whilst also working with regional partners via the Regional

¹ [Homicide_report_press_release.pdf \(unodc.org\)](#)

Organised Crime Unit. This is an area which ties in closely with activities and initiatives to reduce serious violence and to disrupt drug supplies and county lines.

42. The West Midlands is part of the offensive weapons homicide review pilot where the aim is to provide a more holistic understanding of particular offensive weapons homicides in order to help inform preventative actions to save lives in the future. I am working with partner agencies within the Community Safety Partnerships to ensure that learnings from the reviews to ensure improvements are put in place where required. However, the report by the UN also highlights a number of wider factors which were also highlighted as drivers such as: inequality, unemployment and political instability. Homicide is not an area which can be tackled by policing alone, as for serious violence the prevention and tackling of violence can only be achieved through strong and sustained partnership activity.

Serious Violence

43. The main measure relating to serious violence relates to hospital admissions for injuries with a sharp object, in particular for those aged under 25 - It is encouraging to see that the latest data shows a continuing decrease in admissions. Our ability to understand and respond to serious violence is weakened by availability of partnership data; routine data sharing, particularly with ambulance services, would be hugely advantageous.
44. However, whilst admissions are reducing the increase in knife crime offences being recorded must be noted. Whilst some of this increase can be attributed to better crime recording practices and improved systems within West Midlands Police, increases in knife crime has been a trend seen in many large cities across the country for a number of years.
45. A focus for reducing knife crime within the West Midlands is around equipping young people with the life skills needed to respond, in the right way, if they see someone carrying a knife or weapon and to get the message across that if you carry a knife you're much more likely to become a victim of knife crime.
46. The Precious Lives initiative, funded by myself, sends people with real life experiences of knife crime into schools, colleges and youth centres to explain to

young people just how dangerous carrying a knife can be. It was reported recently that this initiative has now reached nearly 50,000 children in the West Midlands.

47. Coupled with increases in knife crime are the increases in serious youth violence. Over the past couple of years, serious youth violence is an area in particular which has increased within the West Midlands. As noted in my previous update the prevention and tackling of violence can only be achieved through strong and sustained partnership activity, in which communities play a leading role with the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit being at the forefront of this approach.
48. The VRU have supported schools to help children who are at risk of becoming involved in violence, with noted improvements in attendance and reduced behaviour issues already. Prevention activity is taking place in maternity and early years settings and also with every age group right up to those who have left education.
49. The VRU partnership is acutely aware that more options are needed for those who are already caught up in violence or exploitation. This year, the partnership has placed youth workers who have direct experience of adversity themselves into new locations such as emergency departments, sexual health clinics, exploitation hubs, and out and about in communities.
50. I welcomed the announcement the beginning of April that the VRU will be able to continue to support communities across the region, following a Home Office announcement that £14.5 million has been allocated to the unit, spread over the next three years. The VRU partnership has prepared the needs assessment for the area.
51. However, activity this important should not be subject to stop-start funding, changing requirements and last-minute government announcements. The VRU supported more than 10,500 young people between April and December last year. Each of those young people are entitled to that support to be consistent, which is why I underwrote the VRU services to keep them open until the government grant came through. It remains disappointing that Home Office promises to approve funding for 2022-23 in recent weeks remain unfulfilled; this is causing instability in the team and complicating local planning and activity.

52. I await the publication of the HMICFRS joint thematic inspection on serious youth violence. The insights that result from this inspection and, in particular, any examples of best practice in regards to partnerships and in implementing the serious violence strategy. In the meantime, I will continue to work with West Midlands Police and the partnership that supports the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit to prevent and reduce violence.

Drug Supply and County Lines

53. West Midlands Police's performance in increasing the number of positive drug and County Lines disruptions are noted, I particularly welcome the number of County Lines closed during 2021/22.

54. I am committed to protecting vulnerable people who are being ruthlessly exploited by Organised Crime Groups running County Lines. The Violence Reduction Unit continues to support the prevention of exploitation of young people through County Lines, with many precursor risk factors overlapping with involvement in serious youth violence. The County Lines Taskforce has transferred from WMROCU to Force CID. This shift enhances the connectivity between County Lines activity, the Force's investigatory and enforcement capacity and new SOC Exploitation Hubs, while maintaining good links with regional partners.

55. Reducing demand for illicit drugs is also a key issue in not only drug supply and county lines but also in wider offending trends. Within the West Midlands the Cranstoun Arrest Referral Service (CARS) has been commissioned to provide a consistent service for drug and alcohol users across the West Midlands Police Custody. The service helps to provide wrap around support, not only helping those tackle the root causes of their drug and alcohol problems, but will also help them to get their lives back on track through signposting for a range of services including housing and mental health support – An approach which has been highlighted as an example of best practice in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation last week published their Substance Misuse Effective Practice Guide².

² [Effective practice guide: substance misuse \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/effective-practice-guide-substance-misuse/)

56. The service also works with probation colleagues and in courts to increase the number of Alcohol Treatment Requirements and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements which are proven to reduce re-offending and tackle the drivers behind criminality. The service is seeing continued increases in both the referrals into treatment services being made and also in the number of treatment and rehabilitation requirements being put in place.
57. Coupled with this are the successes being seen with DIVERT, a scheme which offers Community Resolution outcomes for simple possession offences rather than individuals' being charged. Evidence suggests that short term prison sentences often lead to the offender committing more crime as opposed to engagement with a diversionary scheme. It is hoped that the scheme will not only reduce crime but also save the taxpayer money through cutting drug related crime.

Neighbourhood Crime

58. My Police and Crime Plan commits West Midlands Police to reductions in acquisitive crime, including burglary, robbery, and theft of motor vehicles.
59. I am encouraged by the continued positive performance in terms of reductions in burglary, I am continuing to ensure that improvements to safety and security within the West Midlands are made.
60. Last year in partnership with Birmingham City Council we successfully secured funding from the Safer Streets Fund for the improvement of street lighting, the introduction of mobile CCTV, and securing access to alleyways within Stockland Green. Recently, I have worked with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council to put forward an additional bid to the Safer Streets Fund (1 of 4 bids on a variety of issues being submitted from the West Midlands area) to target harden properties in the Bearwood area of Sandwell
61. The increases in theft from the person offences is an area which we will continue to monitor and support West Midlands Police activity to prevent these offences through working with night time economy venues in order to encourage customers to keep their phones and bank cards safe.

62. Whilst vehicle crime overall is below the June 2019 baseline, there is still a recent upward trajectory driven by theft of motor vehicle offences. Keyless car theft remains the preferred way to steal vehicles, with West Midlands Police taking a number of steps to tackle theft, such as targeted patrols and operations to disrupt organised criminals.
63. We will continue to support West Midlands Police in their activities and also work with car manufacturers to understand what can be done to help owners protect themselves from car thefts. As noted previously, I have committed to rebuilding community policing, with the objective of both reducing the measurable harm caused by crime in high priority neighbourhoods, and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour in these areas. I have published information on the relative risk of car theft across different manufacturers.

Victim Satisfaction

64. I am continuing to work with West Midlands to build up a picture of satisfaction locally.
65. The recently embedded SMS surveys will help in starting to build a more comprehensive picture of satisfaction within the West Midlands, and I will continue to support the roll out of these in order to offer victims as many opportunities to feedback on the service received as possible.
66. We know that demand for Police services within the West Midlands are at an all-time high, with wait times longer than they should be on some channels. I continue to work with West Midlands Police to ensure that resources are made available, where possible, under the uplift programme to tackle increasing demand.
67. In collaboration with West Midlands Police, a Citizens Charter has been developed in order to outline the minimum standards people can expect when in contact with West Midlands Police. As part of my Police and Crime Plan, I routinely discuss performance against the Citizens Charter service level agreements with the Chief Constable. The Government's intention to publish 999 "league tables", if implemented, will be highly counterproductive.

68. Linked with victim satisfaction, I am also working to improving both confidence in West Midlands Police as well as our understanding of confidence in local policing within the West Midlands.
69. It is recognised that recent events involving police officers' behaviour nationally has damaged police legitimacy and had a deeply profound impact on people's trust and confidence in the policing service, particularly with women and girls
70. The recent IOPCs Operation Hotton³ investigation report found evidence of bullying and harassment, discrimination, and a culture of 'toxic masculinity', sexual harassment and misogyny. A YouGov survey commissioned by the End Violence Against Women Coalition found that almost half of women have less trust in the police following the rape and murder of Sarah Everard by serving Metropolitan Police officer, Wayne Couzens.
71. I am working with West Midlands Police to take the appropriate steps to ensure that the behaviours identified by the IOPC are not more widely prevalent and to also do more to monitor the performance of individual police officers.
72. West Midlands Police is implementing a comprehensive action plan, led by the Deputy Chief Constable, to further address issues relating to officer and staff performance and conduct.
73. Regarding violence against women and girls (VAWG) more generally, my Victim's Commissioner Nicky Brennan is establishing an Ending Male Violence Against Women and Girls Alliance to bring together system leaders to spearhead work in this regard.

Cybercrime and Fraud

74. The recent State of Policing report⁴ notes how online crime is now by far the most prevalent crime and that online enabled fraud has exploded. In HMICFRS's assessment of the police response to fraud⁵ it was noted that people are more

³ [Operation Hotton Learning report - January 2022.pdf \(policeconduct.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2021 - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Police response to fraud - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](#)

likely to be a victim of fraud than any other crime and more needed to be done to prioritise fraud investigations.

75. The police response to fraud is a collaboration between territorial police forces, the City of London police, the National Crime Agency, the National Economic Crime Centre and the Home Office. Despite this, no collaboration agreement exists that sets out the mutual expectations, service levels and obligations that each of the parties should expect from the others. The status of taskings is not always clear. Responsibilities overlap and are confused, more needs to be done to make fraud and cyber-crime a national priority.
76. Locally, I continue work to increase awareness of cybercrime and fraud, and the steps people can take to protect themselves whilst working closely with partners locally, utilising the West Midlands Fraud Board, to monitor rates of Fraud and Cyber Crime and to direct action as appropriate. Through data collated at this Board, we ascertained that money muling was becoming a significant problem in the West Midlands. I have therefore commissioned a money mule docudrama to address the levels of young people being exploited in our schools and online. This docudrama is now being taken into classrooms across the West Midlands by our Fraud Protect coordinators.
77. Through the West Midlands Fraud Board, I have commissioned, in partnership with West Midlands ROCU and the Midlands Fraud Forum, for research to be performed into what a public health approach to Fraud looks like in the West Midlands. We now have a series of recommendations delivered by Professor Michael Levi and Professor Jonathan Shepherd, on what this looks like in a West Midlands context. I will be working with the partners engaged in the West Midlands Fraud Board over the next year to implement the findings from this report.
78. Furthermore, I will continue to engage at a national level to support the APCC with the establishment of a national Fraud Forum for PCCs and an academic network focusing on the development of the UK's response to fraud.

Next Steps

79. Reports on performance against the Police and Crime Plan and the National Priorities will be reported at the Strategic Policing and Crime Board on a quarterly

basis, with the latter required by the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021.