



**Strategic Policing and Crime Board
May 2023**

Police and Crime Plan Priority: Regular Item

Title: Performance Report

Presented by: Deputy Chief Constable Scott Green

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.

National Policing Priorities

Measure: Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

3. The volume of Homicides in West Midlands has remained relatively stable in recent years averaging five a month. Volumes from Apr 2022 to Mar 2023 saw 40 homicides, compared to 52 in the year ending June 2019 baseline (National Baseline set by Home Office), a -23% decrease.
4. The last 12 months data from Homicide Index showed 20% of all Homicide was domestic-related, Drugs (54%) and alcohol (20%) are also significant factors. Analysis of victims and offenders also show the high proportion of victims (17%) that are under the age of 25. Almost one in four homicides take place within WMP's Impact Areas.

5. 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.
6. In the last 12 months WMP have completed a Homicide problem profile and been part of a HMICFRS thematic inspection.

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence

7. 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 (Dec 2021 to Nov 2022) saw 180 episodes, a reduction of 50 compared to the national baseline year ending June 2019. Police recorded crime data for Youth Violence With Injury is showing an increase of 722 (+9.7%) vs year ending June 19.
8. Between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023 WMP recorded 112 lethal barrelled firearms discharges. This is a reduction of 35 when compared to the 12-month period prior to this when 147 lethal barrelled firearms discharges were recorded. Where it has been possible to illicit a motive, 72% of incidents are associated with either drug activity or have links to gangs.
9. Whilst overall shotguns remain the most commonly used lethal barrelled firearm, in the most recent 12 months this has seen a reduction accounting for 45% of discharges.
10. With regards to recoveries, in the last 12 months WMP have recovered 107 lethal barrelled firearms which is slightly below the 12 months previous where 117 lethal barrelled firearms were recovered.
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 54 firearms warrants, 63 other related warrants and 139 Captiva visits as reported via the weekly submissions. The proactive activity in Q4 has resulted in 18 lethal barrelled firearms being recovered. The activity has also resulted in the recovery of five air weapons, 10 BB guns, a blank firer, a decommissioned rifle, live and

spent ammunition, substantial amounts of Class A and B, numerous large and small scale cannabis factories, and over £1 million in cash

12. Under 25 Violence is a tactical priority for West Midlands Police and is reviewed monthly at the Force Tactical Delivery Board (FTDB) where decisions are made on where to invest the Guardian Taskforce and other force resources.
13. Grip funding comprises £3.2m per annum for three years, WMP is now entering year 2. WMP are required to demonstrate 20% match funding in year one, 30% in year two and 40% in the final year. This fund is delivered under Project Guardian
14. The aim of Project Guardian is to suppress and reduce Serious Youth Violence (U25 violence with injury with a focus on knife enabled criminality). WMP have appointed a Superintendent to lead Project Guardian. It is recognised that Serious Youth Violence spans a number of portfolio areas including Violence and Intimidation Against Women and Girls (VAIWG), Night-time Economy (NTE), Serious and Organised Crime (SOCEX), Acquisitive Crime and County Lines.
15. In the last month WMP has made use of new legislation to tackle violence. The orders, known as Serious Violence Reduction Order (SVROs), were introduced on 19 April in four force areas, including the West Midlands. If granted, the orders allow officers to stop and search subjects to identify if they are in possession of a knife or blade, intended to reduce offences while also changing the behaviour of known knife and weapon carriers. The court will be able to make a Serious Violence Reduction Order when an adult (aged 18 or over) is convicted of an offence involving a bladed article or offensive weapon. These orders will help to tackle prolific, high-risk offenders, by making it easier for police to search them for weapons. Each investigation where suspects are charged with knife crime offences and have a history of knife related crime is eligible for an application to be made alongside the prosecution.
16. WMP have refreshed and refined Serious Youth Violence hotspots with the support of data scientists and overlaid with Organised Crime Group (OCG) activity and predictive knife crime data. There are 57 hotspots identified below that have been geofenced and a randomised deployment method is being conducted to target and evaluate policing activity. There are 57 areas that equate to 1.4% of WMP geography this covers 19% of SYV and 18.4% harm. This is

known locally as Targeted Guardian Patrols (TGPs) and was launched on 3rd October 2022.

17. The RCT (Randomised Control Test) which underpins the Targeted Guardian Patrols is seeking to understand the impact of High-Visibility Patrols in smaller geo-fenced locations on Serious Youth Violence. Six months into the RCT early indicators show a positive impact on both the volume and harm index (Cambridge Harm Index) of Serious Youth Violence. Compliance with the RCT is improving and currently stands at *75% across Force. (*data associated with Officer arriving in Hotspot within 24hrs of the scheduled time)
18. 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.

Measure: Disrupt Drug Supply and County Lines

19. Recorded Drug offending has significantly increased over the last 12 months compared to the national baseline. Overall increases have been 53% with 7995 trafficking or possession of drugs offences recorded. Possession offences account for 2/3 of the volume with an increase of 49% with trafficking offences increasing by 66%.
20. Drug Testing in Custody during 2022 saw 1170 Tests being completed (69.3% Positive). 1031 were trigger offence (71.2% Positive) and 77 Non Tigger (55.4% Positive).
21. The County Lines Taskforce Hub and Spoke model was adopted in April 2022 and sits within the Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) command of WMP FCID. This was as a result of it being realigned from WM Regional Organised Crime

Unit (ROCU) at the end of the last performance year. The Hub consists of five operational teams, a dedicated intelligence cell and an operational support function consisting of Drug Expert Witnesses, Digital Forensic Officers and dedicated Digital Media Investigators. The Spoke consists of analytical support, which is embedded into each of the three regional force areas. The County Lines Taskforce delivers a specialist investigative response and drives activity to suppress the threat of county lines activity across the West Midlands region.

22. There are a number of operations that support county lines activity within the taskforce which includes, OP Skyclash which brings together key internal and external partners to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults, who are exploited by county line activity; Op Ferrari which targets subjects who utilise the main arterial networks to support their criminal activity; and Op Romano which explores county line activity within social media platforms. During this performance year the County Lines Task Force has closed 200 drug lines running across the West Midlands region. On top of this the force does around 200 further positive disruptions to the threat of organised exploitation.

Measure: Reduce Neighbourhood Crimes

23. 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.
24. Burglary Residential 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 21,501 Burglaries; the last rolling 12 months ending Mar 23 saw 15,682 equating to a 27% reduction.
25. Personal Robbery saw a peak in offending in October 2018 and the year ending June 2019 saw 7,843 robberies recorded. The last 12 months have seen 7,464 robberies, a 5% reduction. For victims under the age of 25, the reduction is higher at -9% as robbery and knife crime are key Guardian priorities.
26. Vehicle Crime has now seen increases compared to the baseline of 7.2%, especially around theft of vehicles – with October 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. A Vehicle Crime Taskforce has been launched at the start of September to tackle organised vehicle crime under Operation Seclusion.

27. As part of this, West Midlands Police has been undertaking wider intelligence and investigatative work to understand why vehicles are being stolen or have parts removed, the prevalence of 'chop shops', whether the vehicle remains intact, whether vehicles or parts remain in the UK, whether they are used to commit further crime, how they are stolen and whether they are stolen to order as part of wider organised criminality. This may involve the exploitation of vulnerable individuals.
28. The work of the taskforce and proactive local neighbourhood work saw March 23 be a record month for volume charges for recorded offences of vehicle crime.
29. Theft from Person has increased by 39% compared to the baseline. 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. Birmingham West ran Operation Equate targeting key offenders and joint patrols with partners in key areas. Crime prevention messages are in key hotspot areas as well as targeted social media campaign aimed at people attending large events. The Christmas German Market saw close to 150,000 people receive localised prevention advice aimed specifically at mobile phone thefts. This generated almost 5000 clicks onto further WMP messaging a click through rate of over 3% against industry standard of 0.65%. This tactic has been rolled out to organised vehicle crime and burglary dwelling.
30. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has reduced by 14,504 incidents in the last 12 months compared to national baseline, however the vast majority of this will now be crimed as Public Order offences which has increased by 14,474 during same period. Levels of ASB are fairly stable over the last 12 months with approx. 2000

incidents recorded a month and makes up approx. 3% of total incident demand the force receives.

Measure: Improve Satisfaction

31. 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.
32. 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.
33. WMP have received 13,987 completed surveys (approx. completion rate 10%) over the last 12 months, the results showed 66% of respondents giving an 8 out of 10 score or higher to the question focusing on whether WMP helped with their issue.
34. A pilot is currently underway to understand satisfaction with service surveying people after they have been subject of stop and search. A quick response (QR) code is used to capture feedback of individuals subject to stop & search which people take away to fill in; this has also been trialled in a similar format in Custody. In the first 5 months 201 responses have been recorded from people who have been subject of stop and search – which is approx. 2% of all stop and search undertaken in this period. 72% of respondents stated they felt the police officer acted fairly and 75% said the reasons for search were explained.

Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

35. 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.

36. 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 (+435%) recording 27,111 offences in last 12 months, although this is reducing since peak in 2021.
37. From 01/02/2023 to date there have been 2303 reports of Fraud / Cyber Crime within the West Midlands Police force area equating to £10.4m worth of losses. Planned activity and updates are as follows:
38. WMP will continue to work with a number of partners to combat fraud and will look to enhance the level of service offered to the public. The recently published National Fraud Strategy and creation of National Fraud Squad offers a more cohesive and collaborative approach to tackling fraud placing more emphasis on service to the victims and places more responsibility and accountability on other organisations to play their part in combatting the tactics used by fraudsters.
39. An enhanced website and reporting service will also make it easier for the public and business to report crimes and know what has happened to their report and there will be more proactive campaigns targeting Fraud similar to Operation Henhouse detailed below.
40. Operation Henhouse (Fraud intensification month) – Throughout the month of February, The Economic Crime Unit's focus was to disrupt Money Mule activity across the force area. We successfully visited 112 Money Mule nominals and issued them with cease and desist letters explaining the implications of their behaviour and provided protect advice. A Press release promoting this work was issued. Due to the success of Operation Henhouse we intend to continue this activity which will be supported by the Digital PCSO network.
41. Cyber Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment - Working with external partner agencies to identify relevant audiences and delivering the Cyber Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment materials / presentations. The aim is to raise awareness and educate those around Cyber offending tactics and Domestic Abuse.

42. Hackers Den / Cyber Escape Room - We have recently been successful in securing funding to purchase 'The Hackers Den' and 'Cyber Escape Room' equipment. This will be used to facilitate fun, interactive fraud/cyber-security exercises to teach the general public / businesses good online security behaviours through a variety of problem-solving tasks.
43. Money Mules - Internal Staff Training - We are working closely with officers to educate / provide them with a full understanding of Money Muling, what to look out for and the impacts this crime has on their neighbourhoods. We have delivered inputs to various teams to date including: School Intervention & Prevention Teams and Youth Offender Teams.
44. Private sector – Partnership working with several Banks to educate both their staff and customers.
45. The aim is to educate all ages around Fraud by delivering webinars and face to face inputs to Organisations, Nurseries, Schools, Colleges, Universities, Libraries, Care/Retirement homes etc with relevant fraud and cyber protect advice as appropriate.

Equality Implications

46. Levels of crime are not equally spread across the West Midlands area both in terms of geography and population. Analysis of identified Impact Areas has shown there is a disproportionate amount of crime, demand, deprivation and harm.
47. Young People in particular are more likely to be victims of violent crime such as robbery. Serious youth violence remains a force priority.
48. Improvements in recording ethnicity is required to address the analysis of disproportionality; age and geography profiles are better understood.

Next Steps

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

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