



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Police and Crime Plan Priority:** Regular Item

**Title:** Performance Report

**Presented by:** Chief Superintendent Joyce

**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**

3. Please note since the last version of this paper was written the National Baseline set by the Government has changed from 12 months ending June 19 to calendar year 2019.

**Measure: Reduce Murder and Other Homicide**

4. The volume of Homicides in West Midlands has remained relatively stable in recent years averaging less than five a month. Volumes from Aug 2022 to July 2023 saw 43 homicides, compared to 43 in the year ending Dec 2019 baseline (National Baseline set by Home Office), exactly the same number. The rate of homicides in the West Midlands is similar to that of most similar forces.
5. 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.

6. 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**

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 (Apr 2022 to Mar 2023) saw 170 episodes, a reduction of 20 compared to the national baseline year ending Dec 2019. Police recorded crime data for Youth Violence With Injury is showing an increase of 236 (+3%) vs year ending Dec 19.
8. Between 01/08/2022 and 31/07/2023 WMP recorded 98 lethal barrelled firearms discharges. This is a reduction of 50 when compared to the 12-month period prior to this when 148 lethal barrelled firearms discharges were recorded.
9. Shotguns remain the most commonly used lethal barrelled firearm. In the 12-month period between 01/08/2022 and 31/07/2023, 45% of discharges continue to be shotguns.
10. With regards to recoveries, between 01/08/2022 and 31/07/2023, WMP have recovered 72 lethal barrelled firearms which is slightly below the 12 months previous where 82 lethal barrelled firearms were recovered. 36 of the 72 recoveries have been the in the first quarter of 23/24 (April – June).
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. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023, WMP have completed 31 firearms warrants, 18 other warrants and 79 Captiva visits.
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 has entered 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). It is recognised that SYV spans several 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. 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 that have been geofenced and a randomised deployment method is being conducted to target and evaluate policing activity. The 57 areas represent 1.4% of the WMP Force area, 18% volume of SYV and 20% harm. This period was testing the impact of a patrol in a small geographical area for optimal length of time, displacement effect and residual impact of the patrol. The patrols were randomised by day and time and 50% of the Targeted Guardian Patrols (TGP's) were patrolled each day. This Phase was supported by technical IT+D solutions – TGP App for officers to Check in and Check Out allowing for their patrol to be GPS tracked, then a compliance dashboard in Qlik to govern and scrutinise the arrival, departure and quality of the patrol. The Ethics Committee are aware of the Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) Phase and are being kept up to date.
16. All patrol data collected in this Phase is subject to evaluation by WMP Data Lab, a full report is expected in September 2023. Early indicative data suggests the patrols are effective giving a 5% SYV reduction on the day of the Targeted Guardian Patrol and 41.5% reduction by Day 2 following the patrol. In this Phase officers are still scheduled to patrol, but against the temporal threat – i.e. the time the offences are occurring. The Robbery time frame was also included allowing for the patrol to cover both offence types e.g. Birmingham Stephenson St (The Ramp) is 2200-0000-time frame, this is both the SYV and Robbery u25 Knife time frame. Compliance in July is the best since TGP methodology was introduced, 73% overall, 75% patrols are led by a Constable and 50 minutes is the average time of the patrol.

17. WMP are committed to support the Violence Reduction Unit (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 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**

18. Recorded drug offending has significantly increased over the last 12 months compared to the national baseline. Overall increases have been 33% with 7942 trafficking or possession of drugs offences recorded. Possession offences account for 2/3 of the volume with an increase of 32% with trafficking offences increasing by 34%.

19. The County Lines Taskforce operating model continues to embed, operating across all West Midlands LPA's, regionally and nationally, supported by a clear 4P plan. The specialist investigative function now includes a dedicated capability to investigate exploitation of children and vulnerable adults linked to County Lines.

20. The digital forensic capability has been enhanced, whilst maintaining both digital media and drug expert witness support. Additional Communication Data Investigation Unit (CDIU) resilience has been created to support the additional demand placed against that function.

21. County Lines Financial Investigators are now generating income through seizure, confiscation and forfeiture of criminal assets.

22. Home Office line closure targets have increased within 23/24 to 240. During Q1, 91 drugs lines were successfully closed and 70 individuals charged.

23. The County Lines Taskforce continues to drive Operations Skyclash and Ferraro in response to targeting exploitation and use of the road network.

**Measure: Reduce Neighbourhood Crimes**

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 Dec 2019 saw West Midlands record 18,733 Residential Burglaries; the last rolling 12 months ending July 23 saw 13,714 equating to a 27% reduction.
25. Personal Robbery saw a peak in offending in March 2018 and the year ending Dec 2019 saw 7,714 robberies recorded. The last 12 months have seen 7,619 robberies, a 1% reduction.
26. Vehicle Crime has increased compared to the baseline by 17%, especially around theft of vehicles. 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. Since April numbers have been reducing as the efforts to arrests more offenders and understanding the offending patterns under Operation Seclusion. July 23 saw the highest level of arrests for vehicle crime for over 3 years. The proactive local neighbourhood work has seen the last 4 months all show reductions on previous 12 months with June 23 being lowest volume month for 2 years. April 23 was a record month for volume of detections for recorded offences of vehicle crime.
27. As part of this, West Midlands Police has been undertaking wider intelligence and investigative work to understand why vehicles are being stolen or have parts removed, the prevalence of 'chop shops', whether vehicles remain 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. Theft from Person has increased by 43% 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 are running 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.

29. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has reduced by 10,059 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 12,454 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**

30. There is no local data for the national measure since before the pandemic hit, however the latest Crime Survey for England and Wales sample showed West Midlands to be below the national average for perceptions that police do a good job.

31. 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 to gain insight, learn, develop and reward.

32. WMP have received 11,473 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.

33. 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 8 months 343 responses (including peak month in July with 77) 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 78% said the reasons for search were explained.

**Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime**

34. 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.
35. From 01/05/2023 to date there have been 3828 reports of Fraud / Cyber Crime within the West Midlands Police force area equating to £30.1m worth of losses.
36. Due to the increases experienced, three different volunteer roles are currently being recruited to expand the reach of Fraud & Cyber protect activity across the force area. There is no limit to the number of volunteers that can be accepted and those who have the relevant skills will be onboarded.
37. Following the success of Operation Henhouse 2 and the pursue activity around Money Mules, this activity is now embedded as part of daily business. To support demand/delivery, PCSO's on the LPA's have been upskilled so they can tackle this problem in their local communities. To enhance this work Money Mule awareness training continues to be delivered in schools in addition to this the Schools Link Officers have also been trained to expand the reach.
38. The ECU have Supported Op Advance (Wolverhampton and Birmingham LPAs to date which plans to support all future dates). Support consists of an increased visible presence within the community, erecting crime prevention stands, delivering Fraud & Cyber inputs and issuing Cease & Desist notices to lower-level offending. Moving forward this will be expanded by seeking support from the Digital PCSO network to extend the reach in local communities.
39. Working alongside Corporate Communications, the production of 2 x Courier Fraud protect videos has been completed aimed at raising awareness / educating

the public on Courier Fraud. This type of Fraud harms the most vulnerable in our communities. Alongside these videos we have also produced Courier Fraud Social Media Campaign assets and posters which have been shared Regionally and Nationally with all forces. To further support this piece of work partnership work has commenced with local Care Homes, working closely with them to educate staff / residents on Courier Fraud and using these materials to aid this.

40. The ECU within WMP continue to work with partners to produce Fraud & Cyber Protect materials in multiple languages and large print to enable us to reach the harder to reach communities. Further funding is currently being sought to progress this further.
41. The process has begun to launch our first West Midlands Multi Agency Approach to Fraud, alongside National Trading Standards, Local Trading Standards and other key partner agencies such as, Adult Social Care, Age UK, Victim Support, UK Finance etc. Given the scale of Fraud the aim is to work with partners to better support victims in our region alongside educating and empowering the public to protect themselves from fraud.

### **Equality Implications**

42. Levels of crime are not equally spread across the West Midlands area both in terms of geographically or population. Areas where analysis has shown there is a disproportionate amount of crime, demand, deprivation and harm have significant disproportionality around victimology.
43. Young People in particular are more likely to be victims of violent crime such as robbery and serious youth violence is a force priority.
44. Details are provided where applicable within the relevant sections of the report, areas like Burglary and Vehicle crime are more targeted for the property that is stolen.

### **Next Steps**

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

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