



west midlands  
police and crime  
commissioner

**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 01 October 2013  
in the Main Committee Room, Lloyd House**

- Present: Jones, Bob – Police and Crime Commissioner  
Connor, Brendan – Non-executive  
Hannon, Cath – Non-executive  
Hendricks, Cllr Ernie – Non-executive  
Mosquito, Cllr Yvonne – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner  
Nazir, Cllr Mohammad – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Sawdon, Cllr Tim – Non-executive
- In attendance: Beard, Chief Insp Andy – Professional Standards Department  
Jacky Courtney – Chief Executive  
Hickman, Fiona – Committee Manager  
Howard, Sgt Lee – Birmingham West and Central LPU  
Platt, Chief Insp Mandy – Birmingham West and Central LPU  
Rowe, Sharon – ACC Crime  
Rowson, Chris – Head of Human Resources  
Sims, Chris – Chief Constable  
Thompson, David – Deputy Chief Constable  
Wilkin, David – Director of Resources  
Williams, Mike – Chief Finance Officer
- Observers: Approximately 6

**069/13 Conflicts of Interest 069/13**

None.

**070/13 Apologies 070/13**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Faye Abbott and Cllr Judy Foster.

The Commissioner congratulated Cllr Abbott on the birth of her daughter, Francesca.

**071/13 Notes of the Last Meeting**

**071/13**

The Board approved the notes of:

- a) the meeting held on 03 September 2013 in public, subject to noting that Cllr Nazir had given his apologies for the meeting
- b) the meeting held on 03 September 2013 in private

**072/13 Public Questions**

**072/13**

No questions from the public had been received.

**073/13 Finance: Revenue Monitoring and Procurement Activity – August 2013**

**073/13**

The Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Resources introduced the report which provided the revenue monitoring position as at August 2013 and an overview of the procurement activity from January to March 2014.

The Board's attention was drawn to:

- paragraph 9 which referred to the flexibility that the savings gave to consider workforce mix or recruitment opportunities.
- appendix 2 which set out the procurement activity for January to March 2014. The inclusion of this list in future reports had been requested at the last meeting.

The Board noted the Commissioner's intention to launch the consultation on 2014-15 budget and precept at the next meeting.

**074/13 Estates Strategy Update**

**074/13**

The Director of Resources introduced the report which provided an update on the estates strategy.

The Board considered the report and noted that:

- The Force had had a series of meetings with Coventry City Council and had a good understanding of their estates plans. The Friargate development in Coventry did not match any of the Force's estates requirements but the Force would continue to work with the Council. There might be opportunities, for example, to use Broadgate House.
- The Force was currently in negotiations with Walsall Council about Walsall Civic Centre. The Director of Resources could provide an update to Board Members outside the meeting, if they so wished.

- The Force would continue to look for ways through its estates strategy to work smartly and make itself more accessible to the public.
- The Force reviewed annually its planned maintenance schedule as part of its asset management programme.

**075/13 Performance against the 2013-14 Milestones and Deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan 075/13**

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which outlined performance against the milestones and deliverables set out in the 2013/14 Police and Crime Plan.

During the discussion, the Board noted that:

- in the Commissioner's view, the Force might be in a position next month where it would be the longest period since 2002 where there had not been an overall reduction in crime. There might be a point where the Force had only a finite capacity to work smarter with fewer resources and the figures next month might be an indication of that;
- it might be helpful to see below the surface of the figures. For example, an analysis of the trends in violent crime: where it occurred, the context, whether it was related to domestic violence and such like. It might be helpful to have an in depth look at different areas each month. **ACTION. WMOPC would contact Board members to ascertain their specific areas of interest. WMOPC would then work with the Force to provide information for the informal group meetings of the Board. Consideration would then be given to providing reports for the formal Board meetings because it was important to have an effect on public perceptions about rising crime figures; Mark Wentzell has invited comment from Board members. To date none have been received. Arrangements have been made for performance issues to be considered at the Group meetings in February, May and September 2014.**
- in future, the way in which the Police and Crime Plan was developed would change. Local plans would be developed to support the Plan by the emerging Local Policing and Crime Boards. The aim was to reflect the priorities of the localities around the West Midlands. Sgt Lee Howard and Chief Inspector Mandy Platt gave a presentation on how a local priority in Birmingham West and Central was being addressed. The problem that had been identified was that of begging and homelessness. *(A copy of the presentation was circulated to Board members following the meeting).*

The Board was very impressed by the excellent work being done by Sgt Lee Howard and the team. The project was a great example of hypothesis-based problem solving. It also illustrated

how the Force could add value by working with partners and other agencies to deal with a problem. There were many aspects of this project that could be used elsewhere across the Force.

The work with partners prompted the Commissioner to raise the discussions he had had with the Chief Constable about the possibility of introducing a scheme with local retailers and partners to ban the sale of super-strength alcohol with a view to reducing alcohol-related street crime. He had been very impressed with a successful pilot scheme which had been run in Ipswich last year.

**076/13 ACC Crime Portfolio**

**076/13**

ACC Rowe introduced the report which provided an update on the crime portfolio for which she was responsible.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focussed on:

**Child abuse and domestic violence.**

- The Board noted that the Force worked in accordance with the national guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, which came into effect in April 2013. The guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.
- **ACTION. The action plan from the Safeguarding Summit held by the Commissioner on 6 September would be considered at the next meeting.**  
*The action plan is on the agenda for the 5 November Board meeting.*

**Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)**

- The Board noted that there was nothing significant in the figures shown in paragraph 86 relating to receipts from the Home Office. They simply reflected the ebb and flow of seizures and their timings.
- The Board noted that the Commissioner had signed up to the PCC of West Yorkshire's e-petition to the Government seeking fairer distribution of POCA funds. He encouraged others to do so.
- **ACTION. There would be a report about income streams at the next meeting which would also cover POCA funds.**  
*The income streams report is on the agenda for the 5 November Board meeting.*

**Office of Surveillance Commissioners**

- The Board noted that the Commissioner had met recently the Surveillance Commissioner who had been very complimentary about the Force and provided him with appropriate assurance about Force activity in this area.

The next update on the crime portfolio would focus on:

- Tackling gangs and organised crime
- Tackling sexual exploitation and human trafficking

**077/13 Force Contact – 5Ci Programme**

**077/13**

ACC Rowe introduced the report which provided an update on the developments within Force Contact and an overview of the progress of the 5Ci Change Programme.

The Board considered the report and praised the Force for the efficient and effective way in which it had managed this major project involving, as it did, one of the Force's most critical services. The Chief Constable echoed the praise for the team managing this project.

During the discussion, the Board noted that:

- Cllr Hendricks sat on the 5Ci Board;
- members of the Board would be welcome to attend the opening events of the two contact centres in November;
- the shortcomings of the automatic resource location system (ARLS) were not as great as had been thought. The 5Ci Board had had a presentation on the system at its last meeting. While there was a whole range of issues with ARLS none was a show stopper. ACC Rowe would be happy to share the report with members of the Board, if they wished to see it. It should be noted that ARLS was an interim system. The future innovation and integration partner might well look at other systems.

**078/13 CCTV, ANPR and Surveillance**

**078/13**

The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the report which outlined Force use and management of CCTV, ANPR and aspects of surveillance. Chief Inspector Andy Beard was available to answer questions.

The Board considered the report and the discussion focussed on the body-worn cameras and possible disclosure issues. The Board noted that:

- the Force would take a cautious approach to body-worn cameras. It would review carefully the current usage before making any further investment;
- this was an area for potential discussion with the Force's future innovation and integration partner, particularly if it were considered to be something that could change the way the Force operates. This was not just about new ways of giving evidence;
- on the matter of disclosure, the Force's policies were in line with Home Office guidance on disclosure.

On a wider note, the Board observed that the regulatory framework was confusing with three different overlapping inspection regimes. The Chief Constable suggested that Andrew Rennison, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, could be invited to give a talk about the framework.

**079/13 Force Chaplaincy**

**079/13**

The Head of Human Resources introduced the report which provided an update on the work of the Force chaplaincy service.

The Board and the Force paid tribute to the excellent work of the Revd John Butcher in building up the network of chaplains.

**080/13 Decision**

**080/13**

There was one draft decision for discussion:

**Disposal of Property**

The Director of Resources introduced the report which sought the Board's comments on the draft decision to dispose of Canterbury Road Police Station in Perry Barr.

The Board considered the report and supported the disposal of the property.

**ACTION The Commissioner would make a formal decision to dispose of Canterbury Road Police Station in Perry Barr.**

*The Commissioner made the decision on 3 October 2013. Decision WMPCC 038 2013 Disposal of Property can be found on the Commissioner's website [www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)*

**081/13 Referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, Police and Crime Panel and partner bodies** **081/13**

There were no referrals from Local Policing and Crime Boards, the Police and Crime Panel or partner bodies. No thematic issues had yet been raised by any members of the Board.

The Board noted that the Commissioner expected the local policing and crime boards to provide information for the forthcoming Partnership Summit scheduled for 29 November 2013.

**082/13 Chief Constable Update**

**082/13**

The Chief Constable gave an oral update on the following matters.

**Knife Crime**

- The Board noted that the Commissioner and the Force had set up a meeting with partners in Birmingham to explore the issues around knife crime.

### **Operation No Deal in Wolverhampton**

- The Board noted that the scale of the operation would emerge over the next few weeks. A special feature of the operation was the degree to which the Force had worked with partners. There was a harm reduction strategy sitting behind the enforcement activity around drugs.

### **Daniel Pelka Serious Case Review**

- The Board acknowledged that this was a very traumatic case for the whole of the country as well as for the families and agencies concerned.
- The Board noted that the Force would respond to the issues raised in the Serious Case Review but would also be thinking beyond this, particularly around the issues of information sharing which needed a strategic approach.
- The Board noted that the Force was in the process of centralising how it would attend case conferences in future. It wished to ensure that it attended the conferences at which it was needed and to encourage local authorities to give the Force plenty of notice of such conferences coming up. In that regard, the Board noted that the local authorities were the primary players in case conferences. The Force and other agencies expected to be held to account by them and expected them to take the lead in these matters, not simply co-ordinate them.

### **The New Landscape for Policing**

- The Board noted that the National Police Air Service would be providing a service for the Force from the beginning of October 2013. The Chief Constable was confident that the Force had done as much due diligence work as it could to ensure that NPAS would provide a service that was right for the West Midlands.
- The Board noted that the National Crime Agency was about to be launched. ACC Rowe had been involved in helping the agency to develop its approach to intelligence.

### **Chief Executive Officer of the College of Policing**

- The Board noted that Alex Marshall, the Chief Executive Officer of the College of Policing had attended the Evidence Based Policing Conference held at Tally Ho! on 27 September. He had been impressed by the work that was going on in the Force, particularly the use of hypothesis-based problem solving and the Turning Point work.

	<b>Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings</b>	
007/13	Force Performance 2012-13	007/13
	The data that the Force could now track at neighbourhood level was very good. It would be worth the Board having a full presentation on	

	this; <b>ACTION: Chief Executive to arrange for Board to be briefed.</b>	
016/13	Professional Standards Department, Quality of Service	016/13
	West Midlands Police Working Group on disproportionality. The Board welcome the work being done on disproportionality. <b>ACTION The Force would circulate the action plan to members of the Board.</b>	
040/13	Performance against the 2013-14 milestones and deliverables in the Police and Crime Plan	040/13
	<b>ACTION The Deputy Commissioner would discuss with the Force how she might promote the good work of the Counter Terrorism Unit in ensuring public safety.</b>	
045/13	Collaboration Update	045/13
	There were no further details yet about the £50m innovation funding mentioned in the Comprehensive Spending Review statement. <b>ACTION The Board would be updated on the innovation funding once the details had been received.</b>	
046/13	Outcomes from the Victims' Consultation	046/13
	The Board considered the report and supported option 1 which was to set up a West Midlands-wide structure, led by Victims Support, working with other voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations. <b>ACTION The Commissioner and Cath Hannon would explore this option further taking into account the concerns raised by some of VCSE organisations.</b>	
064/13	ACC Operations Portfolio Update	064/13
	o <b>ACTION. The Force and the Commissioner would explore whether it would be possible for a representative from the West Midlands Police to attend the regional NPAS board meetings as an observer.</b>	