

Please ask for: Arron Cullen
Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



National Policing Priorities Statement

2025-26 Q1 Update

Introduction

In 2021, the Home Office developed a range of National Policing Priorities with the intent that each police force must achieve significant reductions or improvements in each priority area. The purpose of these measures is to complement existing local priorities set out by the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Police and Crime Plan.

National Policing Priorities

- Reduce murder and other homicide
- Reduce serious violence
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines
- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Improve victim satisfaction with a focus on victims of domestic abuse
- Tackle fraud and cyber crime

Reduce murder and other homicides

For the year ending June 2025, West Midlands Police (WMP) recorded 32 homicides, a reduction of 16% compared to the previous year. Of these, 5 homicides were linked to domestic abuse (DA), representing a 55% reduction in DA-related homicides compared to the previous year. This highlights the positive impact of WMP's continued focus on preventing domestic violence and protecting vulnerable people.

WMP, in partnership with Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) remains dedicated in its commitment to addressing domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG). PCC Simon Foster reinforced this commitment by calling on small businesses in Birmingham to help tackle domestic and sexual abuse. The campaign named 'Things we can do' acknowledges that small businesses are often at very different stages in terms of being ready to offer support, therefore, is working with companies to

make sure they know how to signpost potential victims to support services and how to respond if they suspect a member of their staff is being harmed at home. This initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting staff and reaching those most at risk.

WMP have also taken steps to improve DA victim support. In 2023, a video reporting service was introduced, giving victims the option to report abuse securely via a video link. This digital tool ensures victims who cannot call or attend a police station in person still have access to police support, enabling quicker and more thorough investigations.

Reduce Serious Violence

In the year ending June 2025, violence with injury offences decreased by 11%, with 31,384 incidents recorded, marking a significant step forward in tackling serious violence. During the same period, serious youth violence also saw a notable reduction of 13%.

To build on this progress, a range of initiatives and campaigns have been delivered. Over £330,000 of money seized from criminal activity was reinvested into more than fifty organisations, aimed at strengthening communities and supporting young people. These projects focus on breaking down barriers, encouraging positive choices and diverting young people from crime, knife-carrying, and gang culture.

One example is support provided to the Black Country Basketball Club in West Bromwich. With this investment, the club introduced a mentoring programme alongside regular basketball training giving teenagers valuable guidance and opportunities. The chair described the initiative as inspiring, noting how more than 60 young people are already benefitting from a safe and supportive environment.

Reducing knife crime remains a key priority. The PCC recently updated the Police and Crime Plan, where the prevention and reduction of knife crime is a central focus within the 'Tackling and Reducing Violence' section. Year ending June 2025, knife-related offences fell by 15%, with 5,206 crimes. In August 2025, the PCC welcomed new legislation banning so-called "ninja swords" under Ronan's Law, a key step towards tackling knife crime.

Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines

During the same period, West Midlands Police recorded 8,650 drug offences, an increase of 16% compared to the previous year. While drug trafficking offences declined by 7%, drug possession rose by 24%, indicating enhanced detection and enforcement efforts. The PCC chairs the West Midlands Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership and remains committed to reducing drug-related harm across the region.

Through the most recent County Lines Intensification Week, which took place over the summer, WMP dismantled multiple drug networks, conducted targeted warrants, and safeguarded 113 victims of exploitation. The operation resulted in numerous arrests, the seizure of significant quantities of heroin and crack cocaine, and the recovery of thirteen firearms and nineteen bladed weapons. These actions underline WMP's commitment to tackling organised crime and protecting communities.

Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

Neighbourhood policing remains at the heart of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. Year ending June 2025, WMP recorded 46,718 neighbourhood crimes, a notable 19% reduction from the previous year. Key offences also experienced significant declines: vehicle crime dropped by 15%, residential burglary by 21%, and personal robbery by 24%. These figures reflect meaningful progress in addressing crime that directly affects communities across the West Midlands.

To strengthen local policing further, the PCC has introduced the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. This commitment ensures dedicated officers are present in every community, with a clear focus on engagement and direct problem solving. Additional neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs will be deployed across Local Policing Areas, ensuring that both personnel and police bases remain embedded within the communities they serve. Therefore, this guarantee aims to strengthen neighbourhood policing within communities and the relationship with residents.

Over the summer, the PCC backed the Safer Streets Summer Initiative, a region-wide effort to reduce retail crime, street crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and other offences that affect local communities and businesses. Twenty-seven locations across the West Midlands are currently benefiting from the Police and Crime Commissioner's latest commitment to community safety. Recently, the PCC joined neighbourhood policing teams in Wolverhampton city centre and Bilston High Street to observe the tangible impact of the initiative firsthand.

Improve Victim Satisfaction

Supporting victims continues as a key priority for the PCC. Recently, over £100,000 was allocated to organisations across the West Midlands that provide help to victims and survivors of "hidden" harms, including female genital mutilation, so-called honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and human trafficking. Ensuring victims can access the right help and support when they need it most remains a crucial commitment.

WMP's call-handling also continue to be strong. 999 and 101 call handling and response performance continues to be outstanding. As of June 2025, 999 calls were answered within 3 seconds, with an abandonment rate of only 0.01%. Additionally, 95% of 101 calls are answered within the agreed service level agreement. These improvements have helped to build public trust and confidence in the force.

Tackle Fraud and Cyber Crime

Fraud and Cybercrime is a modern-day challenge, in the year ending June 2025, Action Fraud received 13,225 reports of fraud and cybercrime across the West Midlands. The OPCC recently distributed a survey to just over 1,000 young people across the West Midlands, to find out about their experiences of using social media and how it affects their daily lives. The findings showed that a quarter of respondents had experienced harm online, from cyberbullying to harassment, scams, or exposure to inappropriate content. Cyberbullying and harassment were by far the most common harm experienced. This campaign is significant, as it highlights how the PCC is acknowledging online harm as a genuine threat and using public feedback to shape a more evidence-based response.