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National Policing Priorities Statement

2025/26 Q2 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 September 2025, West Midlands Police (WMP) recorded 34 homicides. Domestic abuse is a significant risk factor for homicide. During the same period, 4 homicides were linked to domestic abuse. Notably, there was a 55.5% decrease in domestic abuse-related homicides compared to the previous year. This underscores the positive impact of WMP's ongoing efforts to tackle domestic abuse and protect those at risk of DA-related homicide.

WMP, in collaboration with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), continues to prioritise efforts to address domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG). Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster (PCC) recently reinforced this commitment by engaging small businesses in Birmingham through the 'Things We Can Do' campaign. Recognising that businesses vary in their support to

staff and the public, the initiative provides guidance on how to identify signs of abuse, respond appropriately, and signpost individuals to specialist support services.

By equipping frontline public-facing spaces, with the tools to recognise and respond to domestic abuse, this campaign extends the reach of early interventions. This proactive approach plays a vital role in preventing escalation, safeguarding victims, and ultimately reducing the risk of domestic abuse related offences.

Reduce Serious Violence

For the year ending September 2025, violence with injury offences decreased by 9.9%, with 33,803 offences recorded, marking a significant step forward in tackling serious violence. During the same period, serious youth violence also saw a 10.6% reduction

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) is tackling serious violence by creating positive opportunities for young people. Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) through the My Tomorrow campaign, the initiative is delivered by a local community organisation led by a former Birmingham City rugby player. Based at a rugby club, the programme provides free football sessions and coaching qualifications to vulnerable young people, including those referred by schools or the police. By engaging participants in sport and skill development, the project aims to steer them away from crime and anti-social behaviour, reducing the risk of involvement in serious violence.

Recently, the PCC has unveiled a new anti-knife crime patrol car, designed to engage and educate young people across the West Midlands about knife crime. The vehicle features powerful imagery and messages, including the #LifeOrKnife campaign, the iconic Knife Angel, and the impactful slogan 'Drop the knife, save a life.' The car will serve as a mobile engagement tool, visiting schools, colleges, and youth events to raise awareness about the dangers of knife crime and connect young people with support services and positive opportunities.

Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines

Turning to disrupting drug supply and county lines, in the year ending September 2025, WMP recorded 9,090 drug offences, marking a 21.8% increase compared to the previous year. While drug trafficking levels remained stable, drug possession offences rose by 28.4%, highlighting improved detection and enforcement. Earlier this year, Operation Prosper was launched in Walsall town centre, funded by the PCC, to tackle organised crime, youth violence, and anti-social behaviour. The operation has proven particularly effective in disrupting drug-related activity. Through intensified stop-and-search efforts, officers uncovered numerous cases of drug possession, significantly disrupting local supply chains.

Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

Reducing neighbourhood crime remains at the heart of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. For the year ending September 2025, WMP recorded 45,184 neighbourhood crimes, a substantial 19.6% decrease compared to the previous year. Key offence categories also saw marked improvements: vehicle crime fell by 16.2%, residential burglary by 22.0%, and personal robbery by 28.1%. These figures highlight significant progress in reducing the types of crime that most directly affect communities across the West Midlands.

Over the summer, the OPCC supported the launch of the Safer Streets Summer Initiative, a targeted approach aimed at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour in town centres while ensuring visible, meaningful consequences for those responsible. Across multiple locations within the West Midlands area, partnership efforts were intensified and tailored to address local issues and community concerns. Crucially, this initiative also contributes to reducing neighbourhood crime more broadly, extending its impact beyond retail areas and into the heart of communities.

Improve Victim Satisfaction

Supporting victims remains a key priority for the PCC. Efficient handling of 999 and 101 calls plays a vital role in improving victim satisfaction, and WMP consistently ranks among the top forces nationally for call performance. WMP's 999 and 101 call handling and response performance continues to be outstanding. The most recent 12 monthly data, up to September 2025, shows that 97.6% of 999 calls were answered within three seconds, with an abandonment rate of 0%. In addition, 96.8% of 101 calls met the agreed service level. These achievements have strengthened public trust and confidence in the force.

Furthermore, recently, the PCC has welcomed a series of strengthened measures designed to protect victims and improve satisfaction. In particular, he is strongly in support of the introduction of Restriction Zones for the most serious sexual and violent offenders, an important step in preventing reoffending and safeguarding communities. He welcomes increased electronic tagging for domestic abuse perpetrators, the identification of such offenders at sentencing, the expansion of specialist domestic abuse courts, and greater transparency for victims throughout the sentencing process. These reforms reflect the PCC's clear commitment to improving victim satisfaction and ensuring justice is both visible and effective.

Tackle Fraud and Cyber Crime

Fraud and cybercrime continue to pose significant challenges in today's digital age. In the year ending September 2025, Action Fraud received 2,963 reports of cybercrime and 14,243 reports of fraud across the

West Midlands. The PCC remains firmly committed to holding WMP accountable for taking robust action to prevent and address these crimes.

To strengthen the regional response to fraud, the PCC launched the West Midlands' first police force-wide public health approach to tackling fraud. This initiative prioritises prevention and brings together key partners under a unified strategic framework aimed at reducing fraud and protecting communities.

In addition, the PCC and West Midlands Police introduced the "Money Mules Campaign," designed to educate young people about the dangers of being exploited by criminals to move illicit funds. Reaching over 4,500 young individuals, the campaign raises awareness and offers proactive protection against financial exploitation.