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National Policing Priorities Statement

2025/26 Q3 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 12 months ending December 2025, West Midlands Police (WMP) recorded 39 homicides. Domestic abuse is a significant risk factor for homicide. During the same period, 3 homicides were linked to domestic abuse. Encouragingly, the number of domestic abuse-related homicides fell by 66.6% compared to the previous year. This substantial drop underscores the positive impact of WMP's ongoing efforts to tackle domestic abuse and protect individuals at risk of DA-related homicide.

The PCC has been conducting extensive work to reduce domestic abuse, support women, improve safety and strengthen prevention across the West Midlands. This has included major investment in specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence support services, funding for independent advocates to help victims

navigate the criminal justice system, and programmes aimed at early intervention and behaviour change among perpetrators.

Reduce Serious Violence

In the year ending December 2025, recorded violence with injury offences recorded decreased by 8.3% compared with the previous year, with 30,293 offences recorded, representing a significant advance in efforts to tackle serious violence resulting in harm. Over the same period, serious youth violence also declined by 6.3%, with just over 6,181 offences recorded.

Knife and gun crime constitutes a form serious violence that poses a significant threat to community safety and remains a central priority within the Police and Crime Plan. In the year ending December 2025, recorded knife crime offences fell by 25.2%, compared with the previous year. Gun crime followed a similar decline, with a 26.6% reduction. These reductions reflect the impact of effective enforcement, prevention activity and partnership working to reduce serious violence across the West Midlands.

Recently, the PCC revealed that more than 1,000 dangerous weapons have been taken off the streets of the West Midlands after being placed into his commissioned weapon surrender bins. This initiative provides a safe and anonymous way for members of the public to dispose of weapons, helping to prevent them from being used in violent crime, reduce the risk of serious harm and improve safety across local communities. By providing an easy method of removing weapons from circulation, the scheme plays a vital role in disrupting serious violence linked to weapons and supporting the wider effort to tackle serious violence.

Disrupt Drugs Supply and County Lines

In the same period, WMP recorded 9,248 drug offences, marking an 18.6% increase compared to the previous 12 months. While drug trafficking levels remained static, drug possession rose by 23.3%, reflecting improved detection and enforcement activity. This increase highlights the effectiveness of targeted policing in identifying drugs and disrupting drug-related criminal activity.

Over the course of 2025, PCC funded Operation Fearless was launched and delivered significant reductions in crime across key areas in Birmingham. The operational team worked intensively to tackle a wide range of offences, including drug offences, anti-social behaviour, violence, shoplifting and organised crime group (OCG) activity. Through proactive enforcement, including stop and searches and targeted drug seizures, the operation successfully disrupted OCG drug networks, reduced the availability of drugs and recovered large quantities of illegal drugs. Although this led to an overall increase in recorded drug offences, it demonstrates

an effective policing response enabling officer to identify and intervene earlier in drug-related harm and disrupt criminal behaviour before it escalates further.

Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

Preventing and reducing neighbourhood crime is an important priority within the Police and Crime Plan. In the 12 months ending December 2025, WMP recorded 44,335 neighbourhood crimes, representing a noteworthy 15.2% reduction from the previous year. Key offences also experienced significant declines: vehicle crime dropped by 13.1%, residential burglary by 15.9 %, and personal robbery by 26.0%. Together, these results demonstrate significant progress in tackling the offences that have the greatest impact on communities across the West Midlands, helping to ensure residents feel safer and more secure in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Lately, the PCC welcomed a government pledge for extra investment into neighbourhood policing. The Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee aims to increase public confidence in policing and enhance the capability and capacity of the WMPs neighbourhood policing workforce to address neighbourhood crimes. Effective investment in neighbourhood policing and the whole system means investment in stronger communities and, ultimately, safer streets for residents across the West Midlands.

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 by ensuring timely responses, clear communication, and appropriate support at the earliest stage of contact. WMP consistently ranks among the top forces nationally for call handling performance, helping to build confidence and ensure people receive the assistance they need quickly and effectively.

WMP's 999 and 101 call handling and response performance continues to be outstanding. In the 12 months ending December 2025, 97.4% of 999 calls were answered within 3 seconds, with an abandonment rate of only 0.1%. Additionally, 96.5% of 101 calls are answered within the agreed service level agreement, with an abandonment rate of 3.0%. These sustained improvements have helped to build public trust and confidence in the force.

In addition, further work is underway to improve victim satisfaction. At a recent PCC chaired Local Criminal Justice Board meeting, criminal justice partners from across the West Midlands came together to strengthen collaboration and ensure the region continues to lead in improving how victims experience the

criminal justice system, with the Victims' Code placed firmly at the core of practice. Ongoing work is also in place to ensure compliance with the Victims' Code is reviewed regularly and consistently.

Tackle Fraud and Cyber Crime

Fraud and cybercrime remain serious and growing risks. In the year ending December 2025, Report Fraud received 2,612 reports of cybercrime and 12,500 reports of fraud across the West Midlands. The PCC continues to prioritise strong oversight of WMP, ensuring decisive measures are in place to reduce and respond effectively to 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.