



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD

**Notes of meeting held on Tuesday, 18 July 2017
Main Conference room (G2), Lloyd House**

Present:

- David Jamieson - Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ashley Bertie - Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- Dr Lynnette Kelly - Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Thompson - Chief Constable
- Louisa Rolfe - Deputy Chief Constable
- Michele Larmour - Assistant Chief Constable
- Marcus Beale - Assistant Chief Constable

- Ernie Hendricks - Board Member
- Brendan Connor - Board Member
- Gurinder Josan - Board Member
- Dr Sarah Marwick - Board Member
- Waheed Saleem - Board Member
- Liam Preece - Board Member

- Jonathan Jardine - Chief Executive
- Sue Davis - Chair of Joint Audit Committee
- Lynn Joyce - Internal Audit Manager
- Sally Bournier - Chief Superintendent, Head of Force Contact
- Neil Chamberlain - Acting Director of Commercial Services

9 observers
1 note taker

Note: *Webcasting did not take place for this meeting.*

084/17	The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that it would be ACC Larmour’s last meeting and on behalf of the Board, wanted to thank her for the contributions she had made during her time with the Force. ACC Larmour reciprocated by thanking the Board for their support and scrutiny and appreciated the kind words.	084/17
085/17	Item 1 – Conflicts of Interest There were no conflicts of interest declared.	085/17
086/17	Item 2 – Apologies Apologies were received from ACC Sarah Boycott, Board Member Dr Cath Hannon and Chief Finance Officer Mark Kenyon.	086/17

087/17	<p>Item 3 – Notes of last meeting</p> <p>The board agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 July 2017 as an accurate record.</p> <p>Outstanding items from previous meetings There were no outstanding actions.</p>	087/17
088/17	<p>Item 4 – Acceptance of Petitions</p> <p>There were no petitions received.</p>	088/17
089/17	<p>Item 5 – Public Questions</p> <p>There were no questions from members of the public.</p>	089/17
090/17	<p>Item 6 – Internal Audit Annual Report</p> <p>Chair of Joint Audit Committee, Sue Davis, presented the report which summarised the activities in 2016-17 of the Commissioner’s and Chief Constable’s Joint Audit Committee (JAC) and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner and Chief Constable were thanked for the support and timely response they had provided in regards to the need for more resources i.e. increased staff for Internal Audit. It was considered as a positive step including the attendance of the Deputy Chief Constable at committee meetings. It was also noted that four Board members were now attending the meetings. • There was an opportunity to re-define how the audit committee looked at findings and looked at new plan. • There was positive work being done on HMIC tracking. <p>The Chief Constable thanked Sue and commented that Internal Audit was much improved. He also took the opportunity to thank the Deputy Chief Constable for the work she had done. He was grateful and felt that good progress had been made.</p> <p>The Commissioner drew the Board’s attention to point 7.4 of the report which highlighted the work done by the Joint Audit Committee to assist both the Commissioner and Chief Constable in providing best value to local citizens. There was acknowledgment of the work that Sue had done and that she is highly valued.</p>	090/17
091/17	<p>Item 7 – Questions from the Board on matters not on the agenda</p> <p>1. Can the Chief Constable set out the number of violent incidents involving a knife over the last 12 months in the Birmingham areas and can he set out how the Force will be tackling the increased violence on our street over the last few weeks?</p> <p><i>(to be asked by Waheed Saleem)</i></p>	091/17

The Chief Constable confirmed the following:

- There had been a rise in knife crime in Birmingham during the last month. However, this had also been seen on a national scale.
- Within the last few weeks there had been four fatal incidents, each had been a separate incident and were not gang related. It had been difficult to see how the Force could have prevented such incidents. There had been recent media coverage regarding Dan Baird, a 26 year old, who had been fatally knifed outside a pub in Digbeth. Youths aged between 15-16 years old had been charged in connection.
- Where violence was known, an increase in stop and search had been used to try and address the issue; in particular the Force would look at the city and the night time economy to enforce. The Force was conscious of the increase in stop and search.
- There was a particular concern that young persons were carrying knives and that this may have increased.
- Work needed to continue with the Violence Prevention Alliance.
- The Force was doing well in bringing offenders to justice.
- Improved weather conditions contributed to a noticeable increase in gun crime.
- The Force continued to encourage the public to come forward in regards to intelligence they may have in relation to fire arms.
- Work was being done to target people involved in gun crime and to work with partners like Birmingham City Council to restrict individuals.
- The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) continued to make links involving gun crime and that intelligence submitted via Crimestoppers would be looked at.
- It was noted that weapons being used were low quality, with many being re-activated antique guns.
- There had been an increase in media coverage regarding acid attacks. The Force could see no trend in the West Midlands but would look at patterns and trends in London and do some work around this. The Chief Constable was keen to see what policy makers would do as it was felt that more laws would not be helpful.

The Commissioner was concerned to see an increase in gun crime and took the opportunity to urge the public to assist police in any intelligence they may have. He went on to say that his Assistant Police and Crime

Commissioner was working with the Gangs and Gun Commission on prevention and would continue to do so. He concluded that the Zombie Knife campaign was successful in influencing Parliament, however, he also acknowledged that the issue of acid attacks was a more difficult one to address.

2. What measures has the Chief Constable put in place to increase public confidence in regards to dealing with burglaries?

(to be asked by David Jamieson)

The Chief Constable responded with the following points:

- Burglaries were a high priority for the Force with levels generally lower compared to other Forces.
- The Government had changed the way in which crimes were categorised.
- There was a peak in February but it had remained static for the time being.
- The Force were using a range of activities to target areas with a high burglary rate and responding quickly to burglaries which were taking place.
- The Force had made 100 arrests in a day in relation to burglaries and would continue with their operations to catch persist offenders. It was a huge priority for the Force which they appreciated had a significant impact on members of the public.

The Commissioner concluded that this was an intrusive crime and affected people psychologically. He stressed that crime was not falling but changing.

3. What assessment has the Chief Constable made of the amount of resources required from Force Response and Force Support for attending NHS hospitals and what steps can be taken to reduce impact on operational resources?

(to be asked by Brendan Connor)

The Chief Constable confirmed the following:

- The Force had a better understanding and was in a position to capture more accurately these requests. A 30-day snap shot had been done to count calls which involved 27,000 members of staff who had either been used to guard / watch people in custody, hospital or premises under investigation.
- The Force has questioned how they could deliver this differently and whether the option of using civilians for persons considered as low risk could be a viable option in future.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The job role and contract options would be looked at by September. There was an opportunity for the Force to be more efficient and a chance to free up officers' time. • It was noted that the work which had been carried out had not included Force response. <p>4. How many Search Warrants have been requested in each of the last 3 years? How many were refused by Magistrates in each year? What measure of effectiveness does WMP use in assessing the impact of the use of search warrants in operational policing?</p> <p><i>(to be asked by Brendan Connor)</i></p> <p>The Chief Constable responded by saying that he was unable to accurately provide an answer to the question posed as he was unable to access the data in time.</p> <p>Action: Chief Constable to obtain relevant information from the courts in order to update to the Board on the question posed.</p>	
092/17	<p>Item 6 – Chief Constable Update</p> <p>In a change to the usual running order of items, the Chief Constable provided an update to the Board on the 1974 Birmingham Pub bombings with the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRA bomb maker Michael Hayes had been reported in the media recently after making comments about the Birmingham Pub bombings. • The investigation into the pub bombings had never been closed and any new leads had always been looked at by the Force. • The Force had written to the BBC requesting to view the interview that Mr Hayes had given and would work with the Crown Prosecution Service. • The Chief Constable wanted to refrain from having to provide a running commentary on the matter. • Assurances had been provided to the families and the coroner in regards to what had been taking place. 	092/17
093/17	<p>Item 8 – Update on work of Combined Authority and West Midlands Mayor</p> <p>The Chief Executive presented the report and drew the Board's attention to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police and Crime Plan sets out how the Commissioner will 	093/17

	<p>work with the Combined Authority and Metro Mayor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner's office was keen to engage with the Combined Authority and Mayor at the right point. • It was expected that an announcement would be made shortly on devolution. • Support would continue for the Combined Authority & Mayor in regards to the devolution plans but it was hoped that the Commissioner would be recognised as part of those plans i.e. Criminal Justice sits within the PCC role and the Police fund that goes to the Local Authority. The Commissioner was a greater contributor than others. <p>The Commissioner confirmed that there had been productive meetings with the Mayor on issues like roads and young people and that they would continue to work together regardless of political differences.</p>	
094/17	<p>Item 9 – WMP2020 Update</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Constable presented the report and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of the financial year the Force had made savings and there was an opportunity to invest. • The Force was redesigning investigations and exploiting technology to help them. • The Force was looking to be more efficient and lean and would look at ways in which the public could make contact with them. • The Force would look to involve the Board so they could scrutinise the work being done. • More updates would be provided to the Board on the work being done. • Work was being done on Criminal Justice especially around technology. Emergency Services Network (ESN) was a national programme and a gateway review had been done. • It was important that work was done with regional partners as well. • It was acknowledged that demand on the Force was high and this was causing stress within the Force. <p>The Commissioner concluded that seeing mobile devices being rolled out i.e. Body Worn Cameras, helped with complaints against the Police, which he welcomed. He also welcomed the new 24 hr counselling service that the Force now provided to officers and staff and thanked the Chief Constable for introducing it.</p>	094/17

	The Commissioner then handed over to SAPCC Ashley Bertie to continue chairing the meeting.	
095/17	<p>Item 10 – Access to services – Force Contact</p> <p>ACC Beale presented the report, supported by Sally Bourner. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force acknowledged they were short on service expectations. This was due to the rise in crime and demand which had not been anticipated. • Staffing levels had been prioritised and it was expected that the Force Contact department would be fully staffed soon in order to provide a better service. • Digital Experience was coming soon which would create other channels of reporting. • Neighbourhood Teams (NHT) were helping to take the lead when responding to calls. A lot of the activities that the team had taken on would have been done by them anyway. There was no data to show how much the NHT and response team were involved in. However, there were assurances from the Force that this was not having an impact on Neighbourhood Policing and that it was right that they assisted. • In terms of quality of service, the Force aimed to resolve with three quarters being resolved at source so that it would not have a knock on effect on the service. • WMNow provided a survey function that could be used in future to gauge public satisfaction with the service. • The Force acknowledged that National Police Checks (NPC) did affect Force Contact. It was anticipated that data on this could be provided around autumn time. As a way of managing this, the Force had offered officers the chance to e-mail their NPC queries instead of ringing through to Force Contact but this was only seen as a short term solution. It was not practical for officers to be e-mailing whilst they were at the side of a road and possible voice technology could be used in future. • Call handling targets for the Force were much broader compared to the Ambulance and Fire service who use evidence base targets. The Force would look more at this and look nationally as well. • Good progress had been made with the 999 calls and services would be looked at to assist the 101 number i.e. digital help in the form of online reporting and voice apps. • There was a need to work with the Commissioner and the Board 	095/17

	<p>to reduce demand and drive up productivity with technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work was being done to reduce demand, with prevention better than cure. <p>Following questions from the Board, the following matters were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear that staff are under pressure and there was a concern that there was an eight hour wait for a Force response. • There was a concern in how long it was taking the Force to implement the new proposed app which would help assist officers in requesting checks. It was suggested that even testing the app would be helpful in knowing how it would assist in the long term. <p>Sally Bourner thanked the Commissioner and the Board for coming to see staff in Force Contact. She extended an invitation to them to re-visit so that they could see the improvements that will have been made by then. She took the opportunity to provide assurances that the Force were reducing abandoned calls, with 999 calls into single figures now.</p> <p>Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner expected to see improvements in this area.</p>	
096/17	<p>Item 11 – Preventing crimes against vulnerable people by police officers or staff</p> <p>Mark Payne presented the report to the Board and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been an increase of people exploiting their positions and the Force had developed a plan to help tackle this. • There was a clear expectation on officers on what was expected of them, with work also being done with student officers. • The Force ran a ‘dilemma of the month’ which helped staff and officers understand their expectations. • Work had been done in reaching out to vulnerable groups. • The vetting department had been boosted with extra staff to help deal with the backlog of re-checking of officers. • Vetting checks that had to be made with other Forces took the longest to process. It was acknowledged that there was no quick or easy solution to this. • Vetting for police recruitment would be prioritised together with re-vetting for staff within the Public Protection Unit and Firearm officers. 	096/17

	The Senior Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner reiterated that he expected to see improvements in this area.	
097/17	Item 12 – Strategic Policing and Crime Board Workplan The Chief Executive informed the Board that an amendment was needed to the workplan and that an update would be sent out to members informing them of the change.	097/17
098/17	The meeting concluded at 13.10 pm	098/17