



## **West Midlands Police and West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner – Health and Wellbeing Boards**

Report to the  
West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on the current representation of West Midlands Police and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner on the newly formed Health and Wellbeing Boards.

### **Background**

2. Health and Wellbeing Boards were established by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and transformed from shadow form to their full form on 1 April. In accordance with statutory guidance issued by the Department of Health, there is a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in place for each Board and this should be used to inform the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and highlight areas to prioritise for commissioning. Feeding partnership data into these will allow a richer picture to inform the Board.
3. The Health and Social Care Act sets a minimum membership of:
  - one local elected representative
  - a representative of local Healthwatch organisation
  - a representative of each local clinical commissioning group
  - the local authority director for adult social services
  - the local authority director for children's services
  - the director of public health for the local authority

In addition, each Board is free to expand its membership to include a wide range of perspectives and expertise, such as representatives from police, the charity or voluntary sectors.

4. There is an overlap between the Health and Wellbeing agenda and policing agenda in various areas including safeguarding, mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, violence and domestic violence. Offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending experience significant health inequalities compared to the general population. They experience higher rates of mortality and suicide; drug and alcohol misuse; mental and physical health problems; homelessness, literacy and numeracy difficulties, and unemployment; and poor access to and uptake of health and care services.
5. Since there is an identifiable link between health inequalities and offending behaviour, improving health outcomes can markedly reduce re-offending rates. In turn, a reduction in re-offending is likely to bring health and wellbeing benefits to a wider local population as a result of improved community safety.
6. Improved partnerships with the criminal justice system, local authorities and health partners will improve commissioning and potentially achieve better health, criminal justice and community safety. There are also opportunities for joint upstream work to reduce demand on public services. For these reasons it is important that police are engaged in the work of the Health and Wellbeing Boards and are a full partner during the development of the JSNA and JHWS.
7. The current position is that all local authority areas other than Sandwell have agreed in principle to a police representative on their Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Police and Crime Commissioner has been invited to join the Wolverhampton Health and Wellbeing Board.
8. The Commissioner would welcome an opportunity to contribute to Health and Wellbeing Boards, through shared consultation and strategic planning and the maintenance of effective working relationships. However, this may not necessitate the Commissioner being a member of each Board. In contrast, in order to be effective, the Commissioner believes that it is essential that police are a full and active partner on each Board. Within the Force the lead officer for health matters is the Deputy Chief Constable, David Thompson.

<b>LPU</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board Police Representative</b>
Birmingham LPUs	ACC Garry Forsyth
Coventry	Chief Supt Andy Nicholson (LPU Commander)
Dudley	Chief Supt Stuart Johnson (LPU Commander)
Sandwell	Not agreed
Solihull	Chief Supt Sally Bournier (LPU Commander)
Walsall	Chief Supt Dave Sturman (LPU Commander) agreed in principle but not yet formally confirmed
Wolverhampton	Chief Supt Neil Evans (LPU Commander)