

**AT THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS  
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD AT THE  
COUNCIL HOUSE, COVENTRY ON MONDAY 30  
SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 1330 HOURS**

**PRESENT:-**

**Birmingham**

Councillor Deirdre Alden  
Councillor Ray Hassall  
Councillor Jess Phillips

**Coventry**

Councillor Ann Lucas

**Dudley**

Councillor D Tyler

**Sandwell**

Councillor D Cooper (Chair)  
Councillor Julie Webb (Substitute)

**Solihull**

Councillor D Jamieson  
Councillor R Sleigh (Substitute)

**Wolverhampton**

Councillor E Mattu

**Co-opted Independent Members**

Mr N Drew  
Mr L Walker

**ALSO PRESENT:-**

Bob Jones, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner  
Jacky Courtney, Chief Executive, West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime

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54

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of the following: -

Councillor Safeena Arshad - Dudley  
Councillor M Bird - Walsall  
Councillor D Hosell – Sandwell  
Councillor K Meeson – Solihull  
Councillor Paula Smith - Birmingham  
Lord Michael Whitby - Birmingham

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 55 Councillor Jess Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Manager, Victim Services, Sandwell Women's Aid.
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**MINUTES**

- 56 The Minutes of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 24 June 2013, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
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**SCHEDULE OF ACTIONS/OUTSTANDING MINUTES**

The following schedule of Actions/Outstanding Minutes was submitted:-

(See document No.1)

In relation to outstanding requests for information in the Panel's report following its scrutiny of his role in Safer Travel in the West Midlands at the last meeting (Minute No. 48(i) refers), Bob Jones, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, advised as follows:-

- Recommendation 1 – British Transport Police (BTP) had now incorporated its approach to victims into the Local Transport Policing Plan (LTPP). BTP officers within Safer Travel had given a commitment to understand and compare their corporate approach to victims, and, if viable, follow the same approach as West Midlands Police.
- Recommendation 2 – the Safer Travel Partnership was currently working on a new, revised Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) package which would be delivered to Years 6 and 7. The package would look at social responsibility, codes of conduct, conditions of carriage and behaviour standards, as well as behaviour consequence.
- Recommendation 6 – this was also included within the LTPP under the zero tolerance pilot. The pilot would look at testing numerous interventions, including increased CCTV, improved cleaning and graffiti removal, and increased staff and driver support. The results would be monitored, especially with regard to whether drivers had an appropriate speed of response.
- Recommendation 8 – this was being reviewed by the Integrated Transport Authority as part of its standard processes.

With regard to police representation on Sandwell Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) (Minute No. 52 refers), the Chair (who was also Chair of the Sandwell HWBB), explained that many agencies were seeking representation on the Board, therefore a limit had to be imposed. He already had a good working relationship with West Midlands Police. However, it had been agreed to review Board membership in April/May 2014, when it had been running for 12 months. The Commissioner referred to the Adult Safeguarding Hub operational at West Bromwich police station

and suggested that, rather than establish an additional governance structure, it might be preferable to have police representation on the Sandwell HWBB.

57

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That Actions/Outstanding Minute Nos. 47, 48 and 52 be discharged;
  - (ii) that the remaining Outstanding Minute on the schedule be continued.
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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

58

There were no questions from members of the public.

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**PANEL QUESTION TIME WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

59

1. Councillor Deirdre Alden referred to recent decisions to close a number of police stations, and asked how police officers would travel around the region, in light of a corresponding reduction in the number of police vehicles. She pointed out that in her Ward, the only police car was funded by Birmingham City Council, and it was possible that the funding would be withdrawn next year.

The Commissioner explained that the Force was investigating use of technology to track the use of police vehicles, so that demand could be managed more effectively. If that proved unsuccessful, he might have to reconsider the vehicle fleet purchasing policy.

2. Councillor Jamieson asked how high traffic policing was placed on the Commissioner's list of priorities, particularly with regard to road safety.

In reply, the Commissioner confirmed that traffic policing was a key role of the neighbourhood policing teams, especially with regard to schools. However, it was important to ensure that traffic policing was not simply concerned with enforcement, but included education, the use of technology etc. The Force had discontinued fixed cameras, but the number of mobile cameras had doubled. There were also several physical cameras in locations previously covered by fixed cameras, and he was in discussions with the local authorities in Birmingham and Solihull regarding a replacement digital system, which could be operated remotely. He hoped to launch this initiative in November 2013.

The West Midlands, West Mercia and Staffordshire forces were also working together within the Specialist Traffic Department and the Central Motorway Policing Group.

Councillor Jamieson commented that a number of police forces across the country had ceased road policing, and he had been looking for an undertaking that it was a priority for the Commissioner and his force. The Commissioner emphasised that in his view, the community's priorities came first, and road safety had emerged as a significant priority at police tasking meetings. The role of Police Community Support Officers had been extended to cover routine aspects of traffic enforcement, releasing police officers for more specialised tasks. Community Speed Watch was also widespread in areas where there was community commitment to the project, and although the police could only issue

advisory notices for traffic offences captured, it could be useful to build up intelligence.

3. Councillor Sleigh asked whether the Policing Plan and the plans of other criminal justice agencies, for example, Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust, were aligned.

The Commissioner confirmed that the plans were similar. However, he expressed concern regarding the Secretary of State for Justice's proposals to put rehabilitation of offenders out to tender, as this could undermine the excellent partnership working that was currently taking place.

4. Councillor Jess Phillips expressed concern regarding the transformation of offender management, and asked how the Commissioner viewed its future, as, in her understanding, private sector companies were not obliged to take part in case conferences etc.

The Commissioner agreed that there was a need to examine how existing partnerships could be maintained and ensure that victims continued to receive support. A Summit of the 4 Police and Crime Commissioners for the wider West Midlands region and representatives from the criminal justice agencies was planned.

5. Councillor Ann Lucas referred to the recent case of Daniel Pelka, and asked when communication between the agencies dealing with safeguarding of children would be improved. She hoped that the Commissioner would play a significant part in the national debate on this issue and support establishment of a national database, mandatory reporting etc. She also asked whether a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) could be established in Coventry more quickly than was currently planned.

The Commissioner acknowledged that the serious case review had highlighted the inadequacy of communication between agencies. His Safeguarding Summit had agreed an action plan, which emphasised the need for agencies to work and train together, and the new approach would be piloted in Sandwell. There would be a thorough review of the West Midlands CPS Public Protection Unit, and a Director of Children's Services would join this. A senior figure would also be taking forward the issue of data protocols, and an announcement would be made shortly.

Councillor Phillips noted that the Sandwell MASH was the only hub nationally to include domestic violence services, and she would encourage this as the standard model for roll out across the West Midlands where resources were available.

The Commissioner suggested that the Safeguarding Action Plan be considered at the next meeting, as he would welcome the Panel's engagement to ensure that it worked effectively.

**COMMISSIONING OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

The following report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Bob Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, presented his report and advised that a meeting between Police and Crime Commissioners and the Ministry of Justice had been held the previous week, and it had not yet been agreed how responsibility for victims should be allocated. In his view, the interests of victims would be best served by continuing with national commissioning, but that appeared unlikely. He favoured establishment of a Victims' Commission to advise on how best to commission services across the region, possibly led by Victims' Support.

During discussion, Panel members agreed that there was a need to ensure independence and fairness in the allocation of funding, so that vested interests did not predominate. Members were also concerned that a national framework would be too prescriptive, and suggested that it should incorporate an element of local flexibility.

60

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) that the Police and Crime Commissioner provide a further update as matters progress.

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**MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROCEDURE UPDATE AND SUMMARY OF CASES**

The following report of the Panel Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

John Polychronakis, Lead Chief Executive, presented the report, which finalised the complaints procedure and summarised the complaints received to date. Members noted that a Complaints Sub-Committee would be established so that complaints against the Commissioner and his deputy could be examined in public and resolved informally where appropriate, although the parties did not have to comply with the resolution.

Panel members commended the clarity of the information document attached as Appendix B to the report, which explained the complaints procedure to members of the public.

61

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the revised complaints procedure at report Appendix A be approved;
- (ii) that the establishment of a Complaints Sub-Committee to resolve complaints informally in cases where the Monitoring Officer deems it appropriate be approved;
- (iii) that the complaints summary report in paragraph 5 of the report be noted; and
- (iv) that an update on complaints be presented to the Panel each year.

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**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The following report of the Panel Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

John Polychronakis, Lead Chief Executive, presented the report, drawing attention to the proposal to develop a stand alone Panel website at a cost of £3-5k.

It was suggested that each West Midland local authority website should have a clear link to the websites of both the Panel and the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime.

62

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the proposal to develop a stand alone website for the Panel be approved;
- (ii) that the suggested protocol for Member contact with the media regarding Panel matters be noted.

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Councillor Jess Phillips in the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL BUDGET 2012/13 AND 2013/14**

The following report of the Panel Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

63

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the spend for 2012/13 be noted; and
- (ii) that the Panel budget 2013/14 be noted.

**WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

The following report of the Panel Secretary was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

64

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the indicative future work programme be noted;
- (ii) that the following issues be included in the work programme:-
  - Safeguarding Action Plan (18 November 2013)
  - Transformation of rehabilitation services at Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust – role of the PCC and Community Safety Partnerships in contracts
  - Transfer of Public Health budgets to the PCC
- (iii) that recent decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

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The meeting ended at 1505 hours.

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CHAIRMAN