



**WMPCP West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**

WMPCP  
Scrutiny Office  
Birmingham Council House  
Victoria Square  
Birmingham  
B1 1BB

Mr Bob Jones  
West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner  
Lloyd House  
Colmore Circus  
Birmingham  
B4 6NQ

cc. Jacky Courtney,  
Chief Executive, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

14<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

Dear Bob

**Variations to the West Midland Police and Crime Plan 2014**

On behalf of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel I would like to thank you and the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Sharon Rowe for your attendance at the Panel Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 to present and discuss your proposed changes to the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan.

Please find attached the Panel's statutory report. We hope you find our comments helpful in updating your Plan.

Whilst we fully understand the pressure you were under for producing the Plan, late papers make it more difficult for Panel Members to undertake their work. We sincerely hope the Panel's statutory requirement for publishing meeting papers 5 clear working days before meetings will be taken into account in the timetable for any future variations of the Plan.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jess Phillips  
Vice-Chair West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

## **Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**

### **To the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

14<sup>th</sup> February 2014

## **WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with section 28 (3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review any changes to the Police and Crime Plan and make a report to the PCC. The PCC must consider the Panel's report prior to publication of the Plan.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the Commissioner's proposed changes to the Police and Crime Plan.

### **Members Present:**

Councillors Alden, Bains, Hosell, Jamieson, Meeson, Phillips, Rowley, Smith, Tyler Nick Drew and Lionel Walker

### **Panel Decision**

The Police and Crime Plan is an important document that will set out the criteria by which the Panel will be holding the Commissioner to account in the coming year.

Below are some areas which the Panel would like the Commissioner to consider when finalising and delivering the Plan.

### **Targets and Measures**

The Panel noted that perception figures can be difficult to interpret because it is generally unclear as to how interventions change perceptions.

*The Panel accepts the concerns you raised about how target setting can distort policing priorities and would not like to see that in the West Midlands.*

*The Panel notes the work of Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Sharon Rowe is carrying out to better understand confidence in local neighbourhoods.*

### **Crime Solving / Detection rates**

The Panel asked if you could include targets relating to prosecutions around areas such as domestic violence (such as referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service and convictions as a result).

*The Panel understands that you are learning from restorative justice projects and victims' views.*

*You agreed to share information on the level of prosecutions with the Panel.*

### **Harm**

The Panel was concerned that there was no mention of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs) being set up. There was little additional information on children's safeguarding in this version of the Plan than last year when the Panel also raised concerns about this.

*However, you noted that MASHs are being embedded and that Stephen Rimmer has been employed as a regional lead on child safeguarding and his work is ongoing.*

The Panel would, therefore, expect significantly more detail in the 2015-16 Police and Crime Plan on children's safeguarding and children's sexual exploitation.

As noted above, the Panel felt the emphasis on domestic violence is important and targets should be set about referrals to the CPS.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

The Panel was concerned about the absence of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Plan. The suggestion was made that they could be better integrated with local Police and Crime Boards.

*The Panel noted that you held a summit on this topic and your agreement that you need to find a better way to support Neighbourhood Watch schemes.*

### **Progress on Local Police and Crime Boards**

The Panel noted the section of the Plan on developing greater local identity across the West Midlands. It congratulates you on progress being made on bringing partners together in this way.

*You set out the progress of the Local Police and Crime Board in Wolverhampton.*

The Panel would like a formal report on progress elsewhere across the region and will add this to the work programme.

### **Young People**

The Panel would like to see you develop a broader strategy on working with young people as victims and perpetrators.

*You discussed the Youth Summit you held and the development of a Youth Action Plan.*

The Panel considered that knife crime and firearms possession should have been explicitly included in the Plan.

*The Panel notes that you are intending to launch a knife surrender amnesty shortly.*

The Panel would like to receive an update on knife crime and firearms trends over the past five years, including information on sentencing. The Panel would be interested in evidence on the benefits of knife surrender amnesties.

### **Magistrates**

The Panel noted the requirement of the PCC to work with local Criminal Justice Services and asked for details of how magistrates' views feed into this.

*You noted a summit to be held shortly to which magistrates have been invited. The Panel would be interested in the arising action plan.*

**Final Comments**

In conclusion and, subject to the above comments, the Panel is satisfied that the Police and Crime Plan is reflective of the current priorities across the West Midlands and that it will support the continuation of the existing work being undertaken by West Midlands Police and partner organisations to reduce crime and improve community safety.

The Panel will publish this report on [www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmpcp) on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The Panel looks forward to your response to this report and receipt of the final version of the amended Police and Crime Plan.