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cc. Jacky Courtney,
Chief Executive, Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

9 February 2015

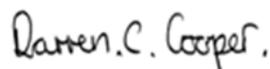
Dear David

Variations to the West Midland Police and Crime Plan 2015

On behalf of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel I would like to thank you for your attendance at the Panel Meeting on 2nd February 2015 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.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Darren Cooper
Chair West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

To the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

9 February 2015

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2015

1. 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 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The PCC must consider the Panel's report prior to publication of the Plan.

On 2 February 2015 the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan.

2. Members Present:

Councillors Rose Burley, Darren Cooper, Peter Douglas Osborn, David Hosell, Les Jones, Ann Lucas, Elias Mattu, Jess Phillips, Joe Tildesley, Dave Tyler.
Independent Members Nick Drew and Lionel Walker

3. Panel Decision

The Police and Crime Plan is an important document that will set out the criteria by which the Panel will hold the PCC to account in the coming year or longer and is a strong basis from which we will continue to challenge and scrutinise the PCC and his work.

We recognise the work that has gone into reshaping this document and are satisfied that many important issues have already been included. Below are several areas which the Panel would like the PCC to consider when finalising and delivering the Plan.

4. Panel Comments on the Police and Crime Plan

i. Supporting economic development

The Panel welcomes your intention to explore opportunities for apprentices and would like you to also consider reintroducing the police cadets programme for young people.

ii. Preventing and detecting "hidden crimes"

The Panel praises the efforts of officers in the Police Protection Unit but feels this section of the Plan could include more detail to reflect the proactive work of the Force to address "hidden crimes".

It was also felt that the Plan should include more detail on how improvements will be achieved in each of these areas. It was noted that whilst the Plan mentions both child protection and FGM, for example, there are no details.

The Panel note the passage of the Serious Crime Bill and the intention to criminalise coercive control. We suggest the Plan reflects this legislative change (and others within that Bill) and any new responsibilities for the Force and Commissioner.

iii. Prevent strategy

Members noted the new statutory responsibilities for local authorities (such as the operation of local panels) as part of the Prevent strategy, working alongside West Midlands Police, and felt the Plan should also include information about how the force will discharge its Prevent duties and support local authorities in theirs.

iv. A safe and secure road network

We note a concern about falling driving standards and the reduction in the force's resources to tackle dangerous or reckless driving on the West Midlands road network and note the PCC's priority to tackle this area.

v. Alcohol related crimes

Given the impact of alcohol in the region we were surprised by its omission from the Plan, especially given it has previously been raised as a priority in a number of Local Policing Plans and requested by this Panel for inclusion in previous Police and Crime Plans. We feel that alcohol has a severe impact on a lot of young people and is an area where prevention / reducing recurrences can have a positive impact.

vi. Better support for people with mental health needs

We welcome the joint mental health triage service and how this is used to provide appropriate mental health services for detainees. We suggested that attention be given to ex-military personnel within this work.

vii. Structure of the document

We suggest that to provide greater clarity to the public on the rationale for your chosen priorities, the Plan includes more context. Certainly if the narrative on what has been done comes in your Annual Report then this will need to link back to this document in some detail.

There needs to be more information on the targets and baselines, particularly for the nine headline quantitative measures contained in the Plan, to allow communities and the Panel to track and judge your success of these. However, we welcome your intent to put such information on your website so the public can track outcomes.

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.westmidlandspcp.co.uk on 10 February 2015.

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