

Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 29th June 2015

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2014-2015

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review the Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report and make a report or recommendations to the PCC.
- 1.2 On 29th June 2015, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the 2014-2015 Annual Report.

2 Members Present

- 2.1 The members in attendance were Cllrs Cooper (Chair), Arif, Burley, Hawkins, Holl-Allen, Leddy, Lucas, Mattu, Rowley, Thompson and Tyler and Lionel Walker (independent member).

3 Panel Comments

(a) Budget

- 3.1 We note the budget pressures that you are under and note the difficult decisions you may have to make if further cuts are made. We would welcome more in-depth discussion with you before final decisions are taken and would like to offer support in making the case against further reductions to the police budget to Government.
- 3.2 We understand that policing may well look different in the future as a result of the financial situation.

(b) Working with Local Authorities

- 3.3 We also agree that close working with local authorities is key to ameliorating some of the negative impacts of budget reductions. This is partly about looking to where local authorities and other agencies including the police can sensibly pool budgets, and looking at where activity can be shared, where there is common interest.
- 3.4 Three examples were discussed at the meeting:
 - Child protection – where local authorities and police could co-ordinate activity better to protect families;
 - Cyber-crime – where there is some good practice of local authorities and police working together with community organisations to get information out to people about cyber-crime and how to protect themselves;
 - Planning and building crime out – for example with regard to “bilking”, whereby the appropriate design of petrol forecourts can help eradicate this crime.

3.5 The Panel offers its support in exploring the ways in which closer working could result in better use of resources.

(c) Domestic Violence

3.6 We note the work being done to combat domestic violence, including more reporting and better recording and the use of other remedies (such as civil orders).

3.7 However, we would like to see that support for victims and their families (particularly when it comes to giving evidence in court) is maximised.

3.8 We would welcome further information on the funding and services commissioned via the Victim's Commission for victims of domestic violence and their families.

(d) Final Comments

3.9 Thank you for your annual report, which the Panel found to be both informative and easy to read. Members ask that thanks are passed on to your officers who helped prepare the report, and to frontline officers for the work that they do.

3.10 The focus on supporting a strong economy, which will help reduce crime, is welcomed, as is the focus on offenders. We were pleased to hear that both knife and gun crime are reducing, when not so long ago, both were major issues.

3.11 The Panel hope that you consider this feedback helpful and look forward to your response to this report.

3.12 The Panel will publish this report on www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk

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Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

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