

DRAFT – Subject to Panel approval

Report of: Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 12th October 2015

PROPOSED INQUIRY: PARTNERSHIP WORKING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel (WMPCP) is responsible for scrutinising and supporting the actions and decisions of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 1.2 At its meeting of the 29th June 2015, the WMPCP agreed to undertake scrutiny of different aspects of the Police and Crime Plan. There are six themes, covering the extensive range of activity within the PCC's remit. Officers were tasked with narrowing down the potential areas of work.
- 1.3 Reviewing the six themes and following the discussion at the June meeting, a common thread was that of the role of partnerships to support the delivery of each theme's objectives. It is therefore suggested that the Panel considers aspects of the Police and Crime Plan through the examination of how effective partnership working by the PCC is in delivering outcomes.

2 Background

- 2.1 PCC's have a reciprocal duty (under section 10 of the Act) with relevant local agencies (including local authorities, the fire service, probation and health) to co-operate. Beyond that, the WMPCC's Plan makes clear that effective partnership working is central to delivering the plan's objectives. Creating stronger partnerships is one of the key objectives in itself:

Both the Commissioner and West Midlands Police realise the importance of working in partnership with public, private and charitable organisations ensuring that they are in a position to understand and provide the services required.

- 2.2 The major transformation programme, WMP2020, is considering how to improve how West Midlands Police works via new business processes, better technology and more effective partnership working.¹ This partnership working could also be cross-boundary with other PCCs; it will include local partnerships, and working with private, public and third sector bodies.

3 Suggested Approach

- 3.1 The proposed focus of the inquiry would be to examine how the Police and Crime Commissioner is strengthening engagement with partners to achieve objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

¹ WMPCC Plan 201516, page 4

- 3.2 There are a wide range of partnerships or areas of partnership that could be considered, so it is suggested that the Panel focuses on those areas where most value can be added. On the work programme, two sessions are set aside for this work, so the work would need to be focused.
- 3.3 Reviewing the Police and Crime Plan, and following discussions with the PCC, it is suggested that the Panel focuses on two areas:
- Reviewing the allocation of the Community Safety Funding grants to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs);
 - Considering how statutory agencies can work more closely together to tackle issues such as re-offending.

4 Inquiry Area (1) Engaging with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

- 4.1 There are a number of local partners supporting work at the local level, including local authorities, often working through CSPs. Through this, the PCC issues Community Safety Funding grants to the seven CSPs. The 2015/16 allocations were:
- Birmingham £2,497,583
 - Coventry £546,304
 - Dudley £396,364
 - Sandwell £530,190
 - Solihull £285,938
 - Walsall £402,203
 - Wolverhampton £492,495
- 4.2 The PCC is reviewing the arrangements, and has asked the Panel to look at these arrangements with a view to understanding the perspectives of CSPs and other relevant stakeholders. The inquiry would consider the current arrangements, its effectiveness and whether an alternative approach would be more beneficial.
- 4.3 This work would take place in Autumn 2015, to feed into the PCC's budget making process for 2016/17. A draft terms of reference is set out below.

Purpose	To consider the current community safety funding model and possible alternative approaches
Suggested key lines of inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore how the PCC engages with Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) • To consider the community safety funding model, whereby the PCC allocates funds to CSPs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is the amount right? ○ Are the conditions attached appropriate, too stringent or too relaxed? ○ Is the current approach the most effective way to commission services or should alternatives be considered? • What role do Local Policing Boards play in community safety funding? • What is the best approach to take with regards to funding and the appropriate co-ordinating of activity?
Anticipated outcome	The Panel will produce a report with recommendations for the PCC.
Key witnesses/ organisations to invite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Partnership Chairs • Head of Community Safety Partnerships • West Midlands Cabinet leads for community safety • Other third and public sector bodies • Victim Commission representatives
Suggested timeframe	<p>It is proposed that all witnesses will be invited to submit evidence (via a letter sent following the Panel meeting in October).</p> <p>Selected witnesses will then be invited to the 23 November Panel meeting. Draft recommendations will be agreed following that meeting.</p> <p>A report will be agreed at the January Panel meeting.</p>

5 Inquiry Area (2) Effective Criminal Justice

5.1 The policing protocol requires PCCs to:

- Enhance the delivery of criminal justice in the area
- Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners at force level.

5.2 Governance of the criminal justice is critical to achieving these outcomes and could be examined through a case study such as re-offending, which requires close co-operation between statutory agencies including local authorities and the probation service.

5.3 The forthcoming Combined Authority may present one useful way to consider opportunities to support/improve effective criminal justice. This work would take place later in the year and so would be informed by the emerging Combined Authority plans.

6 For Decision

6.1 For Panel members to:

- Agree the approach to inquiry work for 2015/16 set out in section 3;
- Comment on and agree the terms of reference set out in section 4;
- Agree witnesses to write to and invite to contribute to this piece of work.

Contact Officers:

Emma Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Services, Birmingham City Council

Sarah Fradgley – Research and Policy Officer, Birmingham City Council

wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 0121 303 1727