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Our reference: MK / PCP/CSF



west midlands  
office of the police  
and crime commissioner

Emma Williamson  
Head of Scrutiny Services  
West Midlands Police and Crime Panel  
Secretariat

11 January 2016

Dear Emma

### **Panel Report – WMPCC’s Arrangements for Community Safety Grants**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report for the inquiry into Community Safety Funding. The report details that Community Safety Funding is no longer a specific funding stream and all the activity is funded from the Police Main Grant. This is very important point to emphasise with the funding of Community Safety allocations being considered alongside all other police activity across the area. Please refer to my detailed comments below into the report’s recommendations under each principle.

#### **Principle 1 – Local Funding is Vital?**

I agree local funding allows crime and reduction activities to be delivered in line with the particular needs and characteristics of the area. It is very important that outcomes from this investment are clearly demonstrated and services are jointly commissioned where appropriate by partnerships to achieve efficiencies.

#### **Principle 2 – Simplified Monitoring**

I consider the requirements to submit quarterly returns to my office are appropriate for both financial and the achievement of outcomes. This is to ensure accountability for public money and there is an oversight on the delivery of outcomes. An area of activity my office will be undertaking over the coming months is a review of processes for submitting returns to ensure they are as efficient as possible for partners.

Joint arrangements and one funding model including victim commissioning is not appropriate to be passported to local authorities. The victims fund is for service provision in the voluntary and community sector to be delivered on a thematic basis rather than geography. There are already appropriate structures in place within the West Midlands to distribute funding to these groups that reflects the Ministry of Justice guidance. Funding is

distributed to organisations that are best placed to deliver outcomes for victims. This includes victims of crimes such as child sexual exploitation and violence against women.

I agree for small in-year changes to be vired from one part of the plan to another, provided that this is in line with already published plans.

### **Principle 3 – Reductions in Funding**

At the Partnership Summit and other Heads of Community Safety Funding meetings since September 2015 partners have been informed to financially plan for a 25% reduction in funding from April 2016. I consider this level of notice adequate for partners to plan for reductions in funding. Locally over recent financial years, Community Safety Funding has remained at a protected level and not been affected by reductions in Government Funding. The level of reduction in Community Safety Funding planned from April 2016 reflects how the Police Main Grant has reduced as part of the Government's austerity programme.

### **Principle 4 – Longer Funding Terms**

I recognise the importance of multi-year funding settlements. Therefore, in my preliminary budget proposals for 2016/17 there is a commitment to provide a 2 year allocation for Community Safety Funding from April 2016. This commitment is offered providing there is not a significant reduction in Police Main Grant in 2017/18 and there is significant joint working being undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships to achieve efficiencies.

### **Principle 5 – Opportunities for Joint Funding**

As detailed above as part of moving to a multi-year settlement for Community Safety Funding, I want to see Community Safety Partnerships working together to achieve common priorities. This will help achieve efficiencies and improve outcomes in relation to reducing crime across the West Midlands. I will be working with partnerships to ensure this joint working is undertaken. This includes an away day on the 20th January with Heads of Community Safety to explore cross boundary working.

Yours sincerely



David Jamieson  
Police and Crime Commissioner