

Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 6th September 2016

Draft West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2016-20

1 Introduction

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 On 5th September 2016, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the draft plan for 2016-2020.

2 Members Present

- 2.1 The members in attendance were Cllrs Sean Coughlan (Chair), Ken Hawkins (Vice Chair), Gary Clarke, Peter Douglas-Osborn, Abdul Salam Khan, John O'Shea, Paul Sweet, Wendy Thompson, Dave Tyler and Fiona Williams; and independent members Lionel Walker and Kristina Murphy.

3 Panel Decision

- 3.1 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 over the coming term, and is a strong basis from which we will continue to challenge and scrutinise the PCC and his work.
- 3.2 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 (WMP) and partner organisations to reduce crime and improve community safety.
- 3.3 Below are several areas which the Panel would like the PCC to consider when finalising and delivering the Plan.

4 Panel Comments

(a) General Comments

- 4.1 In reviewing the Plan, we welcome the changes made to strengthen the Plan, for example the inclusion of an objective focused on standing up for young people. We also note the response to previous Panel comments, and welcome the focus on hidden crimes (such as those suffered by businesses), FGM, substance abuse and police cadets.

- 4.2 The Panel were pleased to hear about the provisions in the plan to strengthen diversity in the police force. The recognition of the importance of tackling cyber-crime was also welcomed.

(b) Performance Targets

- 4.3 The plan contains a number of performance measures, against which it would be useful to see some benchmarking information (past performance and the performance of comparative police forces e.g. Greater Manchester).
- 4.4 The impact of efforts to increase reporting of certain crimes should also be acknowledged.

(c) Learning from Others

- 4.5 We welcome your statement at the meeting that WMP should be a learning organisation and look forward to hearing more about how we can learn from other forces. We note that WMP does lead the field in many areas, and others are learning from the West Midlands (nationally and internationally).

(d) Communications and Use of ICT

- 4.6 We note the improvements being made in the use of mobile and web communications, and the forthcoming plans to enable more non-urgent crime to be reported on-line.
- 4.7 The use of body worn cameras is also welcomed, and we note your comments on the success of the pilot, e.g. in getting earlier guilty pleas and the decrease in the number of complaints against frontline officers. It was noted that this matter should have been tackled earlier. We were pleased to hear that Response officers will get the body cameras by the end of this month and we would encourage use of the cameras to be compulsory.

(e) Staff Numbers

- 4.8 Page 32 of the draft plan sets out your commitments with regards to recruitment and implementation of the Living Wage. These are welcomed, and we recognise the difficult financial environment in which these decisions are made. We ask that when the pledges on recruitment of officers are made, it is made clear that these are not additional officers overall – i.e. the number of police officers overall will continue to fall as stated in your medium term financial plan – so as to avoid confusion.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 The Panel looks forward to your response to this report and receipt of the final version of the Police and Crime Plan.
- 5.2 The Panel will publish this report on their website - www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk

Councillor Sean Coughlan
Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Lead Officer:

Sarah Norman – Chief Executive, Dudley MBC

Contact Officers:

Emma Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Services, Birmingham City Council

Baseema Begum – Research and Policy Officer, Birmingham City Council

wmccp@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 0121 303 1668