

Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 6th September 2016

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2015-2016

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 5th September 2016, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the 2015-2016 Annual Report.

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 Comments

(a) Performance Information

- 3.1 We note the performance information in the report and the need for further analysis of some of the figures (for example to understand whether the rise in burglaries is a temporary rise or part of a longer trend). However, more information could be provided on why these increases are happening.
- 3.2 Also, the apparent contradiction between encouraging reporting in areas such as domestic violence or sexual offences and the targets to reduce crime should be further explored and explained to the public.

(b) Impact

- 3.3 The report gives a lot of rich information on the work of the PCC and his team, including on social media engagement and custody visits. However there is little in the report about the impact and outcomes of this work – for example how the custody visits have assisted you in achieving your objectives. Also, the impact of changes in crime levels – such as the fall in business crime – could also be included.

(c) Custody Visits

- 3.4 We reviewed the data on custody visits and the additional information you gave at the meeting regarding the purpose of such visits. This information could usefully be included in the report to give readers more explanation about why such visits are important. Whilst we

acknowledge that custody visitors were volunteers and can visit any custody suite at any time, we do think it would be beneficial to encourage more visits “out of hours” to give more reassurance. We also question the benefits of large numbers of very short (under five minutes) visits.

(d) Supporting Prosecutions

- 3.5 Panel members noted that there are occasions when the poor preparation of cases for prosecution by the Police leads to those cases failing. This should be looked into to ensure that public money is not being wasted.

(e) Final Comments

- 3.6 Thank you for your annual report. 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.
- 3.7 The Panel hope that you consider this feedback helpful and look forward to your response to this report.
- 3.8 Finally, we discussed at the meeting the importance of supporting any inquiry into the Birmingham Pub Bombings and welcomed your undertaking to give full co-operation. We emphasise this point again as the handling of historical events can have a very detrimental effect on current and future projects, particularly in relation to trust. It is therefore essential that such matters are handled correctly, openly and with full support.

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Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

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