

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON 20 MARCH 2017 AT 1400 HOURS, DUDLEY**

**PRESENT:-**

Cllr Sean Coughlan (Chair) - Walsall  
Cllr Ken Hawkins (Vice-Chair) – Solihull  
Cllr John O’Shea – Birmingham  
Cllr Fiona Williams – Birmingham  
Cllr Abdul Salam Khan – Coventry  
Cllr George Duggins – Coventry  
Cllr Dave Tyler - Dudley  
Cllr Paul Sweet – Wolverhampton  
Cllr Wendy Thompson - Wolverhampton  
Kristina Murphy – Independent Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

David Jamieson – West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner  
Ashley Bertie – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Judy Foster – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC  
DCI Gareth Morris, West Midlands Police  
Peter Ashplant, Head of the Midlands Region, Youth Justice Board  
Claire Dhami, Walsall Youth Justice Service / Public Service Reform lead for Criminal Justice  
Georgina Kell, Youth Offending Services, Coventry City Council  
Mike Galikowski, Youth Offending Services, Dudley City Council  
Trevor Brown, Youth Offending Services, Birmingham City Council  
Sally Nash, Youth Offending Services, Wolverhampton City Council  
Pali Obhi, Youth Offending Services, Solihull Metropolitan Council  
Benita Wishart – Panel Officer  
Baseema Begum – Panel Support Officer

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**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

319 The Chair advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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**2. APOLOGIES**

320 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mike Bird, Gary Clarke, Cathryn Bayton, Julie Webb, Preet Kaur Gill and Lionel Walker.

Apologies were also received from Sarah Norman, Panel Lead Officer.

### **3. MINUTES**

(See document No. 1)

- 321 The minutes of the meeting held on 06 February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### Matters arising

Cllr Thompson stated that she had not received any further information as requested at the last meeting with regards to the closure of Tettenhall police station and where police staff would be deployed from in the future.

The PCC replied that consultation took place in 2015 and that he would provide Cllr Thompson with a briefing note.

The PCC said that he would clarify the issue of parking in cycle lanes as raised at the last meeting. It was his understanding that if someone is causing an obstruction then that would be classed as a criminal offence and he would provide clarification on what is classified as an obstruction. Other issues would fall under the jurisdiction of the local authority.

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### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 322 None.
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### **5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 323 None.
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### **6. PANEL SCRUTINY INQUIRY - PARTNERSHIP WORKING: YOUTH JUSTICE**

- 324 The Chair, Cllr Coughlan introduced the item and welcomed all attendees. He asked Peter Ashplant to give an overview of Youth Justice.

Peter Ashplant outlined the role of Youth Justice Partnerships, giving the legislative background and local authority responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. There is a duty for the Police, health bodies and Probation to co-operate. He also explained the national context in light of the Charlie Taylor review of Youth Offending Services in September 2016, and the Government's response to the option of youth justice devolution. The government has since appointed Charlie Taylor as Chair of the Youth Justice Board.

He added that the seven Districts are operating with good success. The West Midlands region has been given £9m for three years however this does not include any specific money for prevention work. In addition the Home Office has taken away the grant that local authorities

receive and has given it to the Office of the PCC who then passports it back to Youth Offending Services and claimed through community safety partnerships bids.

Contributors raised other points including:

- 392 young people up to age 17 were held in custody in April 2011 in the seven districts. In 2016 the figure was 205. There has been a huge success and reoffending reduced.
- Between 2010 and 2015, 1,563 of 5,243 young people re-offended in the West Midlands. Re-offending rates may be on the rise however the investment into prevention was a big help.
- Children that are currently very vulnerable are high risk and managing them is more difficult. There is a pilot of two secure schools in the north and south of England where children are managed in a secure estate and work takes place to manage them back into the community.
- Mental health is a key issue. Dealing with individuals with complex needs is important and requires more data as need has changed. Interventions and services are in place locally and nationally.

(See document No. 2)

Claire Dhimi explained the role of the Combined Authority and regional activity taking place; specifically the Public Service Reform Agenda and the relevant work-stream focussed on four element:

- Mental health
- Employment and skills
- Multiple and complex needs
- Criminal Justice

The YOS meet quarterly and work across regional borders. There are different demographics but some commonality.

West Midlands Police provide financial support through the WMP2020 programme. The Police are the only body that has increased its funding to Youth Offending Services in comparison with other funders who have reduced the amount of funding given.

Claire Dhimi added that the Charlie Taylor review highlighted that the grant that government gives for youth offending should be ring-fenced and with less input from government.

There is some very good work with the Police and outside of courts. There is a need to look at the money given for prevention work to reduce reoffending. Currently this money is being administered through the PCC's office.

The PCC added that he welcomes this piece of work and made reference to the youth manifesto in the Police and Crime Plan. He highlighted the 15-24 year age group as the most prolific offending of which almost all are boys/young men.

£1.1m is invested in youth offending teams. It was clarified by the PCC that this passporting of funding will not occur after April 2018 and that it is his intention to develop a new model for spending this money in the West Midlands to encourage collaborative working. The PCC said that one model that will be considered is that used by the Victims Commission.

DCI Morris, West Midlands Police, added that a lot of young people offending are victims too. He stated that

- The Police are embedded in Youth Offending Services across the region
- Youth Offender Management has been in place since 2010/11
- Offender management deal with approximately 8,000 young people
- There is a need to look at all the issues surrounding individuals including health, education and the family set-up.
- It is important to cater for young people with learning difficulties.

During discussion Panel Members made the following points:

- How will the changes to the passporting of funding to Community Safety Partnership be consulted on?
- A lot of money has been taken out of prevention activities.
- Holistic health needs assessments in Youth Offending Services – how effective are the interventions and are these evaluated?
- The transition between child and adult services is crucial for vulnerable young people at risk of offending or re-offending.
- Appropriate education for young people to ensure that they do not fall by the wayside. Are there organisations out there that can help with this?
- In terms of mental health a lot of issues start at a young age with children in primary school. There is a need for pastoral care looking at mental and emotional health and support at primary school not just at secondary. Only 1% of offenders get the help they need through community sentencing.
- Regarding the role of school and academies, is there a way of bringing them in through regional schools commissioner?

In response Claire Dhimi reference the Harvey Redgrave report that noted the importance of early help services and the work she is doing with Chief Inspector Sean Russell on mental health in her role with the Combined Authority. Secure schools and therapeutic units are being looked at as part of the public reform work being carried out by the Combined Authority. She added that there is a different approach in Coventry for adults aged 18-24 at Court where cognitive development is noted rather than chronological age.

It was noted by Mike Galikowski that stability is very important for young people. Sometimes not knowing where they are sleeping or where their next meal is coming from plays a massive part in their behaviour and influences offending behaviour. He stated that the loss of influence in schools through academisation had a role to play in this.

Sally Nash added that Wolverhampton is one of the seven pilot areas. She highlighted that it was important to be careful about putting therapeutic conditions in court orders. It was important that a treatment approach was not enforceable with further punishment.

DCI Morris stated that a pilot had been undertaken by the PCC to look at vulnerable mothers (female offenders aged 18-40) and provide parenting support. Barnados were commissioned to do some work on the effect of on children whose parents were in prison.

Peter Ashplant added that there is a need for a child-centred youth justice system as a child relies on their family. Children can be victims of abuse or come from troubled families. It is also important to look at the lessons learnt/good practice for troubled families especially with reference to joined up services locally and regionally and good third sector work bringing family and child work together. He also highlighted that it was important that the correct strategic partners were around the table in relation to Local Criminal Justice Partnerships. This wasn't the case at the moment. He added that wider representation was needed and that this should be a priority going forward.

Responding to some of the points made the PCC highlighted the work of the West Mercia Police Force and stated that he was happy to look at the model that it had used there although he noted that the Force was a lot smaller than the West Midlands. He agreed that the points made on the importance of education in the lives of young people were crucial and work in schools is vital around mentors and intervention at a very early stage.

In relation to the Local Criminal Justice Partnerships the PCC stated that he would be re-convening a meeting in May with different partners around the table.

He added that it was equally important to put resource and effort in to youth work and supporting victims, a better co-ordination of services and connecting up of some services would result in huge benefits.

There was also a role for the businesses to play in terms of putting in financial and other resources as part of their corporate social responsibility and that would help in prevention work. This is a potentially huge untapped area. Looking forward this is an area that the Mayor may wish to take on working with the PCC and the Combined Authority.

**RESOLVED:-**

- i. Invitation by the various Youth Offending Services representatives to host any Panel Members to meet with staff who work with young offenders.
- ii. Panel to receive an update on the Criminal/Youth Justice reform work being led by the Combined Authority in the Autumn (approximately 6 months time).

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**7. PCC'S UPDATE**

325 The PCC updated the Panel on the following:

- On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March a summit took place with Highways England and West Midlands Police to discuss the lessons learnt from the 5 serious incidents that caused disruption on the M5 and M6. The role of the local authorities and the key route network was also considered. This has been raised with the Combined Authority.
- The formal opening of Lloyd House is likely to take place on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> May.
- A summit on travellers was held. There are a number of recommendations that will be presented to the next meeting of the Combined Authority in April.

- A meeting was held with Brandon Lewis, MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Services on the changes to the funding formula.
- In response to a question on funding the PCC confirmed that a debate is taking place in parliament on West Midlands funding and a PCC working group is involved in this and it requires cross-party support. Chief Constable David Thompson is the lead.

Ashley Bertie, Assistant PCC, reported on the work of the Gangs Commission. Schools have been liaising with businesses including sports and football clubs. On 21<sup>st</sup> April the Gangs Commission will hold an open day on the work done to date. A report of the Commission will be available in early May and this will be circulated to the Panel. In relation to the Cadet scheme he added that significant progress has been made and it is still on track to run in September.

On the issue of Stop and Search, Ashley Bertie reported that the West Midlands Force is the first in piloting recording of Stop and Search incidents. It was stated that mobile recording via mobile handheld device was saving approximately one hour of time per officer.

In relation to recruitment of people into the Force it was stated that a third of applications have come from those of a BME background. Additionally a summit on diversity for PCCs looking at what they can do more collectively is being planned.

Judy Foster, Assistant PCC, updated Panel members on the reduction in Special Officers. She confirmed that 461 Specials had left the Force in the last 5 years. The number of Specials in the Force is now below 200. There is however a renewed commitment and the Force values the contribution they provide. There is a new strategy to recruit, train and retain new officers.

**RESOLVED:-**

- i. The report of the Gangs Commission will be circulated to Panel Members in May.
- ii. Mark Kenyon to provide a briefing note on the funding formula for Panel members.

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**8. WORK PROGRAMME 2016/ 17 AND RECENT DECISIONS BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

(See document No. 3)

326 Noted.

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**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

327 The Chair informed the Panel that the next meeting would take place in the 2017/18 municipal year. Members were asked to note two provisional dates of 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Panel Secretariat will confirm further details in due course once membership of the Panel has been confirmed for 2017/18.

**10. URGENT BUSINESS**

328 None.

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CHAIR

The meeting ended at 1635 hours

DRAFT