

Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Date: 11th September 2017

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2016-2017

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 11th September 2017, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the 2016-2017 Annual Report.

2 Members Present

- 2.1 The members in attendance were Cllrs Sean Coughlan (Chair), Ken Hawkins (Vice Chair), Pervez Akhtar, Cathryn Bayton, Elaine Costigan, Peter DouglasOsborn, George Duggins, John O'Shea and independent member Kristina Murphy.

3 Panel Comments

- 3.1 We welcome the report and want to record our appreciation for the work of the PCC. In particular, the work on improving the diversity of the workforce is commended.

(a) Crime Recording

- 3.2 We note the performance information in the report and that reported crime was lower than the average for the most similar force group. Whilst this is welcomed, we are also aware of the recent HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services report stating that it found over 38,800 crimes a year are not being recorded.
- 3.3 The possible reasons for this were discussed, and the PCC reported that he was still digesting this report and will be discussing with the Strategic Policing and Crime Board and the Chief Constable. It was agreed that a report will be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

(b) Police complaints

- 3.4 The report also reveals that whilst complaints against the police are down (a 25% drop in complaints recorded), the time taken to deal with complaints has increased and is above the England and Wales average. It was acknowledged that this is not where the PCC would like things to be, but also that a number of these complaints are more complex than in comparison with other forces (as some complaints are resolved at first point of contact and not recorded). However, this is something that should be addressed when the new regulations

– which give the PCC new duties with regards to police complaints – come into force in April 2018. The Panel offers its assistance in this work.

(c) Public Sector Pay Cap

- 3.5 We note the possibility of the public sector pay cap in relation to police officers being lifted. If this is not funded from Government, this will have an impact on police numbers. In addition, we raised the issue of the impact of reduced resources on neighbourhood policing, and the need for a seven-day-a-week service. It was noted that this service can be reduced as a result of resources being diverted elsewhere.

(d) Engaging with the public

- 3.6 We welcomed the efforts by WMP to engage with the public on platforms such as Facebook. However it was noted that the information shared was often “after the fact” and it would be useful to engage with people at earlier stages, to help them prevent and avoid crime.

(e) Final Comments

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 The Panel hope that you consider this feedback helpful and look forward to your response to this report.

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Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

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