

**Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**  
**Date: 5 November 2018**

## **West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2017-2018**

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel considered the 2017-2018 Annual Report.

### **2 Members Present**

- 2.1 The members in attendance were Cllrs John O'Shea (Chair), Ken Hawkins (Vice Chair), Pervez Akhtar, Elaine Costigan, Abdul Khan, Narinder Kaur Kooner, Hazel Malcolm, Suky Samra and independent member Kristina Murphy.

### **3 Panel Comments**

#### **(a) The Annual Report**

- 3.1 We welcome the report and that it is more than a two-page summary. Panel members accept that some background information is available elsewhere and also that this relates to the four year Police and Crime Plan (2016-2022). However, we would like to see more detail. This is partly about missing information (for example, the data on recorded crimes is useful, but it would also be helpful to have data on arrests, charges brought and conviction rates).
- 3.2 Sections of the report would also benefit from more detail on impact (for example, the data on public participation shows an encouraging increase in participation, but no information on the impact or any positive outcomes). It is also unclear how the achievements set out on page 29 link back to the targets.
- 3.3 Overall, a clear statement of progress made against each target/measure would be helpful in future years.

#### **(b) Increases in Crime**

- 3.4 The report reveals a worrying increase in crime and clearly some targets are going in the wrong direction. It would have been helpful to have more narrative on why that is.
- 3.5 In the discussion at the meeting, we recognised that the landscape changes – for example modern slavery is now a bigger issue than would have been predicted several years ago.
- 3.6 The impact of cuts to other local public bodies was also recognised, for example local council provision for youth work, and also youth unemployment levels.

- 3.7 However, the report did not give sufficient detail to enable Panel members to put all this into context.

**(c) Confidence in Policing**

- 3.8 The Annual report identifies a very small drop in confidence in the police; this does not reflect the experience of panel members. Many panel members cited examples of crimes where there had been no or limited police follow up. Whilst these are crimes are classed as low level, they are high incidence and affect many more people than the more serious, high impact low incidence crimes. These crimes, including car crime and burglaries, are what shape views of the police. It was acknowledged that funding is an issue, and that it is a matter of prioritisation within the available resources. Nonetheless, the Panel would like you to take this back to the Chief Constable.
- 3.9 It was also noted that, whilst visits from the Police may not always be necessary following a crime, it is critical that information gets back to victims where action has been taken.

**(d) Complaints Against Police**

- 3.10 The Annual Report shows a decrease in the number of complaints but an increase in the time taken to resolve these. When body-worn cameras were introduced, it was explained to Panel Members that these would reduce both. The performance is far worse than other police areas.
- 3.11 The reasons for this were explored at the meeting, including lack of staff and the fact that very straightforward complaints were resolved before recording and therefore those recorded are more difficult and so take longer. It was also noted that the dataset included some longstanding complaints which skewed the figures. More information in the report on this would help set the figures in context.

**(e) Final Comments**

- 3.12 Thank you for your Annual Report. Members asked that thanks are passed on to your officers who helped prepare the report, and to frontline officers for the work that they do.
- 3.13 The Panel hope that you consider this feedback helpful and look forward to your response to this report.

**Councillor John O’Shea**  
**Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**

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