



**Police and Crime
Commissioner
Warwickshire**

Item 3

Report to the Police and Crime Panel

Report on the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

23rd September 2016

1) Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Panel with an update on the key activities that have taken place since the panel last met on 24th June 2016.

2) Draft Police and Crime Plan and Consultation Results

Firstly I would like to say thank you to everyone who took part in my consultation on the Police and Crime Plan. Making sure that the public's views on policing and community safety were fully taken into account was hugely important to me in writing the Draft Police and Crime Plan.

I have produced a specific report detailing the methodology of the consultation and the consultation findings which can be found at **Appendix A**.

The Draft Police and Crime Plan is a specific agenda in line with the Panel's work programme (**Item 4**).

3) Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

I undertook a competitive recruitment process to find a Deputy to work alongside myself and help deliver the Police and Crime Plan. I was pleased to receive a healthy number of applicants and after shortlisting; a formal interview process took place last month.

Unfortunately, none of the candidates were ultimately suitable to take on the role at this time and I have therefore been unable to make an appointment. While this is clearly disappointing, I have been clear from the outset that I wanted to make the appointment on merit and would not do so if I did not feel I had found the right person for the role.

I will take some time to consider my options and in the meantime will continue to operate without a Deputy.

4) Vehicle Telematics System

I have approved the decision to award the Telematics contract for the installation of the system into 1,068 Alliance vehicles by the end of 2016/17 thus promoting an efficient, effective and safe use of police assets. The telematics system will deliver real time visibility of all force vehicles and information on driving style and driver profile. In addition it will produce records and evidence of all journeys and provide per second incident and accident data which can be replayed and used as supporting evidence in any collision involving a police vehicle.

The savings delivered from the scheme should ensure payback on this investment within two years. The savings are from a reduction in fuel usage and collision damage and have been estimated at the lower end of potential savings when compared to other organisations who have implemented this system so additional savings in this area could occur. This coupled with the ability to establish further savings as the organisation learns more about its fleet usage means that this project could deliver greater savings than those detailed.

5) Best Use of Stop and Search

As part of the Police and Crime Panel work programme the panel requested an update on the progress made by Warwickshire Police on being readmitted into the Best use of Stop and Search scheme.

Following the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary 'Legitimacy' inspection last year Stop and Search was an area where Warwickshire Police had clearly not got its approach completely right. The report found that in 29 out of 100 cases examined, there was insufficient information recorded about the reasonable grounds for suspicion that the officers had had which led to the search. This clearly was not acceptable, although it did not necessarily mean that these searches were in fact unlawful, just that there was insufficient detail recorded to determine this either way.

Subsequent to the report's publication, then Home Secretary Theresa May announced that Warwickshire Police was among 13 forces that had been suspended from the 'Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme' as it did not comply with three of the five requirements of what is, in essence, a national code of conduct. This was clearly disappointing news at the time but an understandable decision by the former Home Secretary, who was rightly determined to ensure that police use of stop and search powers is both effective and proportionate.

It should be noted the features of the scheme that the force were non-compliant with relate primarily to poor communication around stop and search data and processes, including a failure to effectively publicise a scheme giving opportunities for the public to observe stop and search in action. It is not however the case that the force was failing to record or monitor the impact of stop and search.

My office has been scrutinising this area of business and I have been reassured that since February the force has undertaken a significant amount of work to rectify the three areas of non-compliance. At the time of writing this report Warwickshire Police is yet to be notified if they are to be re-admitted to the scheme. A further update will be provided to the Panel at the next meeting on 1st December 2016.

6) Scrutiny, Accountability and Transparency

As Police and Crime Commissioner my role is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Since being elected I have reviewed the mechanisms of holding the force to account and have agreed the following arrangements:

- That the weekly Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable (CC) meetings continue and are minuted with open and closed sessions.
- That these minutes are agreed and signed off by both the PCC and CC on a weekly basis and published on the OPCC website.
- That on a monthly basis in the meeting between the Commissioner and Chief Constable specific force performance and finance briefings 'Money Matters' are delivered by the lead Chief Officers. In addition on a quarterly basis an Enabling Services briefing is provided.

- With agreement from West Mercia, a scheduled programme of assurance is to be developed for the Alliance enabling the two PCCs, via AGG, to scrutinise and challenge Alliance business areas with greater rigour.
- Alliance Governance Group minutes and decisions to be published on the OPCC website.

In addition I will be seeking to achieve assurance from:

- Personally undertaking force visits.
- OPCC representation at Quarterly Alliance Performance Management Group meetings
- Attendance at Public Meetings
- Via the additional scrutiny provided by the Trust, Integrity and Ethics Committee, the Joint Audit Committee and the Independent Custody Visitors. (ICVs)

I am confident that via the means detailed above assurance, accountability and transparency for the public can be achieved.

7) Out of Court Disposals

At the Panel meeting held on 24th June 2016 members requested an update in relation to the increased use of Out of Court Disposals.

The use of Out of Court Disposals in Warwickshire are scrutinised on a regular basis by an Out of Court scrutiny panel. The scrutiny panel is a group of representatives from across the criminal justice sector, including magistrates, that come together to look at a sample of cases where an out of court disposal has been issued. An OPCC representative attends these meetings.

The intention of the panel is to provide transparency and accountability and increase public understanding, confidence and trust in how Warwickshire Police use out of court disposals. There is a particular focus on the delivery of appropriate and proportionate justice, ensuring redress for victims of crime as well as addressing the root causes of offending behaviour.

At these panel meetings it is rare to identify cases that the police have dealt with inappropriately, but where cases are identified, feedback is given and at the next meeting the police provide an update with the outcome of any action they have taken. It is important to note that an out of court disposal does not always mean that the matter can't ultimately get to court. If the offender fails to comply with a community resolution or breaches conditions of a caution they may very well end up in court.

As referenced in my draft Police and Crime Plan I have been encouraged by the work of the scrutiny panel and look forward to this developing as we seek to reduce reoffending and remove opportunities for alternative pathways into criminality.

8) Summary of activity since 23rd June 2016

Since the last Police and crime Panel meeting I have continued to actively familiarise myself with Warwickshire Police, the Alliance and the positive work being undertaken in the community.

The list is not exhaustive but I have attended the following meetings / events:

- Continued to meet the Chief Constable in private on a weekly basis to hold him to account as detailed above.
- Received portfolio briefings from Chief Officers (Cyber Crime, Athena, CID, Forensics, Estates and Place Partnership Ltd))
- Attended one of the Chief Constable's Leadership seminar presentations
- Met with Warwickshire Youth Parliament
- Attended the regional meeting of PCCs and Chief Constables
- Visited Rugby police station and Grays Mallory to meet and listen to officers and staff
- Attended my first Trust, Integrity and Ethics Committee meeting
- Presented on my role and highlighted the issue of cyber crime at a number of Federation of Small Business (FSB) events
- Attended the Violence against Women and Girls Board
- Met with the Chairs of Neighbourhood Watch
- Meeting with Grace Ononiwu OBE (Chief Crown Prosecutor) (conference call)
- Visited the Domestic Abuse Counselling Service (DACS) to discuss domestic abuse
- Attended the induction ceremony for the new intake of the Warwickshire Police Cadets

9) Force Performance:

The Quarter 1 Warwickshire force performance report can be found at **Appendix B**. On receipt of the report I asked specific performance questions to the Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent Alex Franklin-Smith. The responses to my questions were shared with the Planning and Performance working group meeting held on 12th August 2016.

10) Professional Standards Department (PSD) online reporting form

At the Panel meeting held on 24th June 2016 members requested that the Head of PSD review the force online complaint reporting form. I can report that the form has been reviewed and a couple of amendments have been made.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission, when looking at the accessibility of the force complaints system have given the website their approval.

10) Decisions of the PCC

I have made the following decisions since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting:

WPCC20001 - Appointment of Chief Finance Officer - June 2016

WPCC20002 - Not for publication - Exempt under S.31(1)(a) (the prevention and detection of crime) of the FOIA.

WPCC20003 - Review of the 2016 - 17 Treasury Management Strategy (Alliance Governance Group) - June 2016

WPCC20004 - Settlement of Contractual Dispute (May 2016) Not for publication - Exempt from disclosure under S.43 (commercial interests) of the FOIA.

WPCC20005 - Request for Settlement - July 2016 - Not for publication - Exempt from disclosure under S.43 (commercial interests) of the FOIA.

WPCC20006 - Reappointment of Trust, Integrity and Ethics Committee Members for two years - Sept 2016.

A copy of the non-exempt completed decision forms will be published on the OPCC website together with any relevant documents in due course.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Police and Crime Plan Consultation Results

Appendix B – Quarter 1 Warwickshire force performance report