



**Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire**

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

Thursday 18th March 2021.

Report of the

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

Section1 - Introduction.

The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with an update on my key activities as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) since the PCP's last meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2020. This period excludes the meeting of the PCP on the 1st February 2021 that was convened specifically to consider the policing precept for 2021/22.

The following actions arose from the November meeting: -

- i. **Action** -Warwickshire Police's position in respect of 20 mph speed limits outside schools.

Response - This was raised with the Chief Constable at our Performance Accountability Meeting on the 24th November 2020, at which he re-stated his commitment to improving road safety and his support for any measures which reduced harm on the county's roads. The challenge in enforcing 20 mph speed limits was also recognised.

- ii. **Action** - A brief financial summary to be prepared and included in each PCP report.

Response - Finance summary included at **Appendix A.**

- iii. **Action** - The subject of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers to be included in the work schedule of the PCP.

Response - A proposal from Democratic Services to schedule this subject for discussion in the PCP work programme at a time after the elections.

- iv. **Action** - To examine the impact of local government reorganisation on the PCC.

Response - A proposal from Democratic Services for inclusion in the PCP work programme once the white paper is published and / or the subject is back on the local agenda.

Section 2 - PCC Elections.

On Thursday 6th May 2021 the election for the Warwickshire PCC will take place. My term of office as the current PCC will consequently terminate on Wednesday 12th May 2021.

The pre-election period for the election will commence on Friday 19th March 2021, during which time restrictions are placed on PCC's by the 'Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.' The convention anticipates that continuing business should be restricted to a bare minimum, whilst recognising that PCC's are executive office holders and must be able to continue to make some decisions, if necessary, to ensure the public is properly protected.

The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has therefore produced a protocol between the OPCC and

Warwickshire Police, which sets out the various responsibilities and restriction imposed during the pre-election period. This protocol is appended for the information of the PCP given their important role in providing a 'check and balance' to the authority my position holds.

- **Appendix B** - Warwickshire PCC Election Protocol 2021.

Section 3 - Warwickshire Police.

3.1. Chief Constable Recruitment.

Martin Jelley QPM, the Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police, has recently announced his retirement and has a leaving date of the 30th June 2021. In doing so, he remarked that *“It has been my absolute privilege and pleasure to lead Warwickshire Police these last six years. Our force feels like a family because of the people in it, there is great talent at all levels within our organisation and I look forward to seeing both individuals and Warwickshire Police more generally flourish into the future long after I have retired.”*

The Chief Constable, at his own volition, has previously attended a number of meetings of the PCP to deliver presentations on the challenges facing Warwickshire Police, particularly in respect of the termination of the strategic alliance with West Mercia Police, and to discuss the force's many achievements and the opportunities that exist post-alliance. I know that the value of these informative and candid presentations have been appreciated by the PCP and provided timely and much needed reassurance.

I sincerely thank Martin for his outstanding leadership of Warwickshire Police during his period of office and wish him much peace and happiness in his retirement.

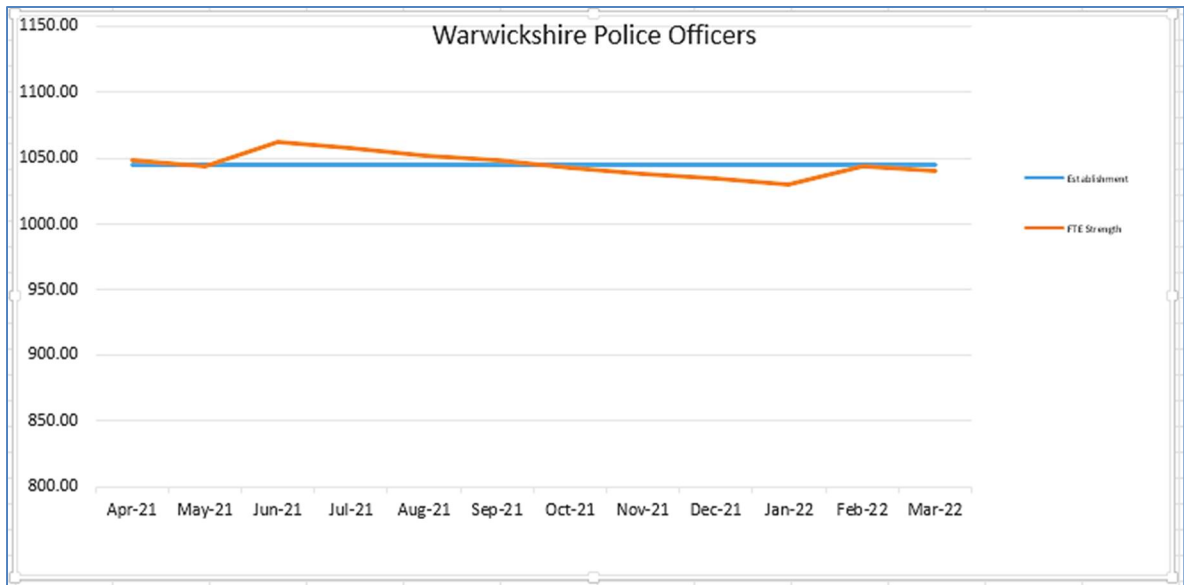
Under the 'Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011', the PCC has responsibility for the appointment of the Chief Constable. Whilst the OPCC are in the process of making arrangements for the recruitment of the successor, the interview panels will not be held until after the result of the PCC elections. The convening of a PCP confirmation hearing for the preferred candidate will be required in due course.

3.2 Establishment.

During my term of office I have given an undertaking that the additional funding that tax payers across Warwickshire have contributed through the police precept over the last two years would be used to increase the number of police officers in the county and ensure that policing numbers would top the 1,000 mark - one of the key priorities of my Police and Crime Plan.

I am pleased to be able to report that this ambition has been achieved and the actual numbers of police offices currently stands at 1027, against an establishment of 1004

officers. This is to further increase to a force establishment of 1045 officers for 2021/22, as the following graph illustrates: -



Graph 1 - Police Officer Establishment and Force Strength

3.3.1 Crime Rates.

The PCP will be interested to note the current Year to Date (YTD) crime rates in certain serious and iconic Home Office crime categories when compared to the levels experienced in 2019/2020, as tabled below: -

Warwickshire YTD	
HO CRIME TYPE	%
Total Recorded Crime	-14
Violence with Injury	-17
Violence without Injury	+10
Rape	-26
Personal Robbery	-26
Business Robbery	-46
Burglary Residential	-46
Vehicle Offences	-34
Drug Offences	+50
Possession Offensive Weapons	-4
Public Order	+26

3.3.2 Holding to Account.

The PCP may also wish to note the appended report 'OPCC Force Performance Scrutiny - Jan 21' that was introduced at the last Performance Accountability Meeting (PAM) on the 23rd February 2021: -

- **Appendix C** - OPCC Force Performance Scrutiny.

A 'deep-dive' subject is also selected for each monthly PAM to enable additional scrutiny on a topic of particular interest or concern. To date these have been: -

2020

- January - Non-emergency 101 performance.
- February - Investigations.
- March - Victim Services.
- April - Covid 19 public FAQs.
- May - Serious and Organised Crime.
- June - Criminal Justice.
- July - Q1 Performance Report.
- August - Learning and Development.
- September - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- October - Roads Policing.
- November - Suspended due to Covid-19.
- December - Suspended due to Covid-19.

2021

- January - Hate Crime.
- February - Cyber Crime.

3.4 Forensic Services.

The PCP will recollect that on termination of the strategic alliance with West Mercia Police in April 2020 a small number of shared services still remained that were unable to be disengaged during the period of notice provided for the termination, this including forensic services.

I am therefore very pleased to announce that on Friday 26th February 2021 an agreement was reached with West Midlands Police under 'Sect 22a of the Police Act 1996' to deliver these services in collaboration.

Once a revised go-live date with West Midlands Police has been confirmed, it will enable the force to terminate the current forensic service arrangements hosted with West Mercia Police. These hosted services will continue during this transition period and exit arrangements will be managed through the Joint Hosted Services Transition Board.

Section 4 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

4.1 Personnel.

As previously reported, Neil Hewison as the OPCC Chief Executive Officer and Monitoring Officer (CEO) retired at the end of January 2021. Mrs Polly Reed is now in post as the successor, having joined the office at the beginning of the year from her previous role as Head of Business Services at the West Midlands OPCC.

4.2 Commissioner's Grants Scheme.

On the 16th December 2020 I launched my 'Commissioner's Grant Scheme', designed to support projects and initiatives that help boost community safety and victim care across Warwickshire, and in doing so contribute to the objectives of my Police and Crime Plan.

This is an annual award and is the fifth year that I have made the funding available, with well over £5 million distributed to community initiatives in that time. This scheme is in addition to the £1.2 million of commissioned services that I also fund each year to provide support services for victims of crime, domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child exploitation, as well as drug and alcohol interventions.

Applications have been received from many private, public and third sector organisations seeking funding from the total of £241,000 I have made available in the following categories: -

- i. Domestic abuse victims' support.
- ii. Reducing reoffending schemes.
- iii. Sports, youth diversion and youth justice.
- iv. Small grants fund.

All applications that were received prior to the closing date are currently undergoing evaluation by the OPCC and decisions will be made prior to the PCC pre-election period as to which projects will be financially supported in 2021/22.

All of this combined helps support the work of Warwickshire Police does, by reducing the pressures on frontline policing, helping to reduce crime, and perhaps most importantly of all assisting the force's ambition protect the most vulnerable from harm.

4.3 NPS Dynamic Framework.

A few months ago the National Probation Service (NPS) embarked on a new style of commissioning for critical probation services across the nation. This NPS Dynamic Framework process is designed to evaluate applicants with a view to retaining their scores for future consideration within a set timescale, so as to prevent the need for further commissioning processes in circumstances where there is only a short time frame available

to do so. In combination with the significant changes that the NPS are currently undergoing, this has been a significant undertaking and the NPS consequently requested support in the evaluation process from OPCCs.

Warwickshire OPCC was able to oblige, despite the additional demand this placed upon two of the Development and Policy Leads (Abby Simkin - Criminal Justice / Precious Williamson - Commissioning), in recognition that partner organisations need to support each other in processes that can have far-reaching implications for all. As such, in January and February 2021, the OPCC supported the evaluations process for the 'Women's Services' tender that involved elements of many different types of service including accommodation, education and training, emotional well-being, and financial awareness amongst others.

Whilst a challenging process, it was rewarding to contribute and pleasing to support a critical criminal justice partner in ensuring the right services are commissioned for the region, and for Warwickshire.

4.4 Drug Testing on Arrest.

In early summer 2020, Warwickshire Police Custody took the decision to cease the Drug Test on Arrest (DTOA) scheme due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and concern for the safety of both detainees and custody staff. The test involves the taking of oral swabs, with the inherent high risk of transmitting the virus whilst doing so.

This scheme is the process by which if an arrest is made for certain offences (e.g. burglary, shoplifting, or some public order breaches) a drug test is triggered to check the detainee for cocaine and heroin use. If the test is positive, the detainee is offered the opportunity to be referred for treatment to the OPCC's adult drug and alcohol commissioned service Change Grow Live (CGL), as opposed to being directed into the criminal justice route. If the person fails to engage with CGL, a series of activities are set in motion that will ultimately lead to their arrest and appearance before court.

This service is a very important method of diverting vulnerable individuals away from the criminal justice system, to reduce demand on courts, and to offer people the opportunity to turn their lives around rather than be further criminalised. Unfortunately, the suspension of the scheme resulted in a significant proportion of CGL's referrals being lost and as a consequence a proportion of a paid-for resource being wasted. More critically, those who may need help and support were not identified and engaged with.

The OPCC lead for Criminal Justice identified this gap shortly after commencing the role in October at a contract review meeting with CGL. Since then a significant amount of work

has been undertaken with senior police officers, Noonan (the private employers of detention officers), and CGL in order to find a Covid- Secure method to recommence DTOA.

On the 8th February 2021, DTOA was re-launched following several weeks of goodwill and hard work from our partners. Referrals have already started to be made to CGL and a review meeting is shortly to take place to identify any further opportunities for improvement.

This is a really positive good news story and shows the determination of the OPCC and partners to find our way back to business as usual, despite the ongoing challenges which Covid-19 continues to present.

Section 5 - Engagement.

Whilst the impact of Covid-19 has undoubtedly effected my ability to engage with communities as effectively as before the pandemic, I still continue to actively participate in many different forums and meetings and engage as widely as possible with Warwickshire's communities to hear of their concerns and discuss the action that both the OPCC and myself are undertaking to address the issues that are of most importance to them. The following are some of my most recent and significant engagements: -

5.1 Covid-19.

The challenges presented by the pandemic are extensive and profound. A number of different governance structures, forums and meetings have been established to manage its impact through the sharing of current and reliable information and by co-ordinating the multi-agency activity. The following are some of the arrangements that are in place to ensure that I play a full and active part in these proceedings: -

- In company with my PCC colleagues, I participate in regular meeting with the Policing Minister Kit Malthouse.
- More locally, I also participate in fortnightly meetings held with Warwickshire's Chief Executives and Leaders of the local authorities, together with the county's Members of Parliament and representatives from Public Health England to discuss the latest position in Warwickshire.
- The OPCC are represented at Warwickshire Police's strategic (Gold) meetings that are held weekly to discuss the force's position in meeting the ongoing challenges that Covid-19 presents to policing.

A request has been received from the chair of the PCP asking for the results of Warwickshire Police's public survey of its Covid-19 response to be provided.

- **Appendix D** - Covid-19 survey.

5.2 Joint Audit and Standards Committee (JASC).

On the 13th January 2021, I participated in the force's JASC. This committee provides independent advice and recommendations to both myself as PCC and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and risk management frameworks, the internal control environment, financial reporting and ethics and standards, thereby helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place. I greatly value the work of the committee and thank its members for their professionalism, scrutiny and insight they provide in discharging their responsibilities.

I understand that the chair of the PCP wishes the JASC Annual Report to be introduced into proceedings and as such it is included as an appendix to this report. The chair of the JASC, John Anderson, is participating in this meeting as an observer and the PCP chair may wish to invite him to comment on the report and the work of the JASC.

- **Appendix E** - JASC Annual Report

5.3 BlueLight Commercial Limited.

Since the last meeting of the PCP, in my role as PCC I have participated as a member of the board in a number of meetings of BlueLight Commercial Limited. The purpose of this new company is to act as a national police procurement support company, providing improved efficacy and efficiency and economies of scale in procuring goods and services for the 43 police forces of England and Wales. These vitally important bodies spend around £2.5billion of public money annually and I am grateful to be afforded the opportunity to shape the future in this area of governance and financial prudence.

5.4 Nuneaton and Bedworth External Oversight and Scrutiny Panel (EOSP).

On the 4th February 2021, I participated in the EOSP and took a number of questions from the assembled panel of local elected members regarding matters of concern, including firearms licensing, police staff redundancies, victim satisfaction rates and 101 non-emergency call performance. These meetings also provide me with an opportunity to address some of the misconceptions that occasionally arise.

In addition to these engagements, I have also participated in a diverse range of meeting with elected officers, partner agencies, third sector organisation and members of the public, including: -

- Home Secretary
- Stratford upon Avon Town Council
- National Farmers Union AGM

- Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board
- Leamington Spa Rotary Club
- Rugby Pastors AGM
- Walton and Wellesbourne Parish Council
- Tysoe Parish Council
- Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch.
- Local Criminal Justice Board

Section 6 - Formal Decisions.

A list of my formal decisions made can be found on the OPCC website at: -
<https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/decision-making/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Seccombe'.

Philip Seccombe. TD.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire.