

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2009

Planning for the Future

1. A detailed examination of the force's activities has been undertaken and outline proposals presented to the Police Authority. The proposals map out a series of important changes which would reshape the internal organisation of West Mercia Police.

2. The proposals include the establishment of six new service areas which will focus on the needs of citizens and the delivery of outcomes by a single end to end process. The six suggested key areas of service are:

1. Territorial Policing
2. Customer Services
3. Protective Services
4. People Management
5. Resources Management
6. Information Management

3. The changes are anticipated to facilitate the freeing up of more time to focus on frontline policing, the integration of complementary policing activities, provide efficiency savings and establish a more streamlined organisation that retains sufficient resilience and flexibility to address changes in future funding arrangements. Nothing has been finalised and the Authority will be discussing the outline proposals before Chief Officers present their final recommendations.

Setting Priorities for the Policing Plan 2010/11

4. As part of the consultation process on the policing priorities for 2010/11 a consultation document has been produced and 3000 copies circulated to local authorities, parish and town councils, partnerships and community organisations. The document can also be viewed on the Police Authority's website. Attached at Appendix 1 is a summary of the draft strategic priorities.

5. Consultation evenings for partners, business and community representatives on the Policing Plan and Budget have been arranged as follows:

12 January 2010	Hindlip Hall, Worcester
13 January 2010	Shirehall, Shrewsbury
14 January 2010	Council Offices, Brockington, Hereford
18 January 2010	Civic Offices, Telford

Partnership Consultation Day

6. A Partnership Consultation Day was held in November 2009 and this helped to develop the work on producing the draft policing priorities for 2010/2011. Partners expressed an interest in developing more joint working and the Police Authority has also agreed to publish a Quarterly Partnership Bulletin, the first edition of which was circulated in December 2009.

Local Employment Targets for Under Represented Groups

7. The Police Authority is consulting on employment targets for under-represented groups and details will be provided on the Authority's website and at the Policing Priorities consultation meetings in January 2010.

Force Performance Data

8. The Authority has received reports on the performance of the force for the first six months of the year against the measures set within the 2009/2012 Joint Policing Plan, details of which are shown at Appendix 2.

9. Overall the force continued to perform strongly against the targets and in relation to the total sanction rate for the detection rate for Robbery the actual performance was 44.9% against a target on 27%. In view of this strong performance the Authority has revised the end of year target to 35%.

10. West Mercia has been judged as one of only eight police forces in the country assessed as having good performance in relation to the Policing Pledge. Areas for improvement are User Satisfaction (in particular Road Traffic Collision follow up) and Feelings of Safety (including the percentage of people who feel their neighbourhood has been completely or very safe over the last 3 months and people who have been fearful of house burglary, being mugged/robbed, assaulted in a public place or of Anti Social Behaviour in the past 3 months).

11. During this period a total of 6,207 Stop Searches were recorded and the report considered by the Authority demonstrated a proportionate use of the power. Overall numbers of stop searches had declined in all divisions except in Telford and Wrekin where there had been an increase. This would be examined in order to clarify the reasons and to ensure there was no detrimental impact on community relations. As part of the role Police Authority's monitoring role members also undertake dip sampling of Stop and Search forms and also where complaints are made.

Communications Campaigns

12. Recent West Mercia Police Communications Campaigns have included the following, details of which are available on the West Mercia Police website (www.westmercia.police.uk).

- Safe and Secure - Lighten Up Campaign (Oct. 2009)
- Stay Safe Student Campaign (Nov. 2009)
- Halloween - No Trick or Treat (Oct. 2009)
- Not in my Neighbourhood Week (Nov. 2009)
- Justice Seen Justice Done (Nov. – Dec. 2009)
- National Rape Awareness Week (Nov. 2009)
- 0300 Promotion (Nov – Dec 2009)
- Operation Christmas Presence (Dec. 2009)

13. The 0300 333 3000 non-emergency contact number for the police replaced the 08457 number which will be discontinued in early January 2010. Further publicity material promoting the use of the 0300 has been produced including on local buses

and over 3000 posters were distributed to partners, organisations and councils during December 2009.

Neighbourhood Watch Pledge

14. West Mercia Police agreed at the Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting in March 2009 to develop a Pledge to provide Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and police officers and staff with a clear minimum standard of service, to ensure that West Mercia puts the citizen at the heart of everything it does. Nationally, Service Level Agreements are being developed between police forces and NWH and the development of this pledge provides a localised level specific to the needs of West Mercia Police and its Neighbourhood Watch needs.

15. The Pledge will assist West Mercia Police and NHW in endeavouring to engage with each other to help communities protect themselves and their property and encourage development of NHW. It will be launched to all West Mercia NHW coordinators via the Ringmaster systems and the national NHW website.

Commendations and Honours

16. Chief Constable Commendations have recently been awarded to officers involved in a variety of cases including rape, murder, fraud, better safeguarding vulnerable people, drugs trafficking and the Help for Heroes charity where events, which helped to promote West Mercia Police within the community, raised over £50,000 in 2008 and 2009.

Significant Cases and Court Results

17. The Police Authority has been updated on significant cases and court results in each of the five Policing Divisions, where successful convictions were secured for a variety of offences including murder, attempted robbery, people trafficking and drugs.

Government White Paper on Policing

18. The White Paper, 'Protecting the public: supporting the police to succeed', has been published and sets out a programme that includes:

- Supporting the public and meeting their expectations
- Protecting the public
- Strengthening accountability
- Continuing to cut bureaucracy
- Boosting police productivity through working smarter

19. The White Paper proposes the responsibilities of police authorities in community safety and criminal justice and in addition to reducing bureaucracy it also advises police authorities on improvements in the way for people to make complaints and get feedback.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

20. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published the Value for Money Profile 2008/09 for West Mercia. The profiles were welcomed but direct

comparisons with similar forces remained hard to draw due to the questionable data quality provided by some other forces. It was agreed to respond to both the HMIC and Association of Police Authorities that the profiles were a useful tool but that data quality issues would need to be addressed to maximize use and the clarity of statistics.

21. In conjunction with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons an inspection of all custody units in West Mercia was undertaken in December 2010 and a report is due to be published in the Spring of 2010. These inspections form a key part of the joint work programme of the criminal justice inspectorates, agreed by Government Ministers. They also contribute to the United Kingdom's response to its international obligation to ensure regular and independent inspection of all places of detention. The inspections look at force-wide strategies, treatment and conditions, individual rights and healthcare. As part of the process the Police Authority and Independent Custody Visitors were interviewed.

22. HMIC together with the Audit Commission are also inspecting all police authorities in England and Wales. West Mercia Police Authority's inspection will take place in June 2010 with a pre-inspection visit anticipated in March 2010.

Signed on behalf of the
West Mercia Police Authority

Sheila Blagg
Chairman

Further Information

Any person wishing to seek further information on the subject matter of this report should contact David Brierley or Ian Payne on Shrewsbury (01743) 264690.

Further information on the West Mercia Police Authority can also be found on the Internet at www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk.

Questions on the functions of the Police Authority

The Authority has nominated the following members to answer questions on the discharge of the functions of the Police Authority at meetings of the relevant councils:

<i>Herefordshire Council</i>	<i>Mr B Hunt</i>
<i>Shropshire Council</i>	<i>Mr M Kenny</i>
<i>Telford and Wrekin Council</i>	<i>Mr K Sahota</i>
<i>Worcestershire County Council</i>	<i>Mrs S Blagg</i>

List of Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Executive of the Police Authority) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: Agenda papers for the meeting of the West Mercia Police Authority held on 15 December 2009.

Appendix 1 – see separate attachment

Performance Overview November 2009

Strategic Aims 2009 – 2012	Status/ Direction
Strengthen the Confidence of all our communities and improve public satisfaction levels The % of respondents who agree / tend to agree that the police & local councils are dealing with the anti social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↑ (G)
Delivery of the Policing Pledge (PP) BASED ONLY ON DATA CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND REPRESENTS THE BALANCE OF 'GREEN' V 'AMBER' ASSESSMENTS	(G)
Improve the Service Offered to Victims and Witnesses Overall victim satisfaction with service provided by the police (WM User satisfaction survey) (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↑ (A)
PSA24, Priority Action 3: Victim & Witness Satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System – <i>results are period Apr to Dec 08 compared to the Baseline (Oct 07 to Mar 08)</i>	↑ (G)
Tackle Crime & Anti Social Behaviour Total number of crimes recorded (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↓ (G)
Number of serious violent crimes (Serious violence against the person) (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v previous year performance</i>	↓ (G)
Number of serious violent crimes (Serious sexual offences) (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v previous year performance¹</i>	↑
Total sanction detection rate for serious violent crime (Serious violence against the person)(PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↑ (G)
Total sanction detection rate for serious violent crime (Serious sexual offences)(PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↓ (R)
Number of robberies (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v previous year</i>	↓ (G)
Number of burglaries (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v previous year</i>	↓ (G)
Total SDR robbery (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↑ (G)
Total SDR burglary (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v target</i>	↑ (G)
National Indicator 17 - % of local people who perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area (<i>BCS results based on 2008/09 v 2007/08 year</i>)	↑ (R)
Public perceptions of feelings of safety and fear of crime (PP) : (<i>results from crime and safety survey for the following 3 question sets</i>) <i>Baseline using 1st quarter data</i>	
• Feeling fearful in last 3 months about different types of crime	29%
• How safe or unsafe neighbourhood has been over last 3 months	93%
• Impact crime and anti social behaviour has on quality of life in neighbourhood	45%
Protect Vulnerable People <i>To be developed as part of Strategic Policing Panel work programme</i>	
Address Major / Serious / Organised Crime /CT/ Civil Contingencies PSA 23 (NI 15,16,28,29) - <i>To be developed as part of Strategic Policing Panel work programme</i>	
Asset recovery - <i>To be developed as part of Strategic Policing Panel work programme</i>	
CT – <i>To be developed as part of Strategic Policing Panel work programme</i>	
Protective Services – <i>To be developed as part of Strategic Policing Panel work programme</i>	
Collaboration Diagnostic on: Regional Task Force; Central Motorway Group; Helicopter; Regional Protective Services Group; High Tech crime; Forensics and Procurement - <i>To be developed as part of Strategic Policing Panel work programme</i>	
Reduce Road Casualties Reduction in Road traffic casualties (PP)	↓ (G)
Bring Offenders to Justice PSA23 NI30 – Prolific & other priority offending re-offending rate – direction of travel June 08 to March 09	(G)

1 There has been an increase in reported serious sexual offences, however this is in part be a reflection of increased confidence in victims resulting in an increase in reporting.

PSA24 – Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS in bringing offenders to justice – <i>BASED ON A BALANCED ASSESSMENT OF THE AVAILABLE DATA</i>	(G)
Public confidence in the CJS (crime and safety partnership survey Q E2 – respondents answering ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ confident) <i>Baseline using 1st quarter data</i>	29%

Reduce the harm caused by drugs & alcohol misuse	
Assault with less serious injury rate (PP) <i>Oct 09 data v previous year</i>	↓ (G)
Perceptions of drunken behaviour (crime & safety partnership survey Question C4 K – respondents answering ‘strongly’ or ‘tend’ to agree it’s a problem) <i>Baseline using 1st quarter data</i>	53%
Perceptions of people using drugs (crime and safety survey results Question C4 F - respondents answering ‘strongly’ or ‘tend’ to agree it’s a problem) <i>Baseline using 1st quarter data</i>	48%
Perceptions of people dealing drugs (crime and safety survey results Question C4 G - respondents answering ‘strongly’ or ‘tend’ to agree it’s a problem) <i>Baseline using 1st quarter data</i>	40%
Use our resources efficiently and effectively	
PURE assessment	(G)
Local Area Agreements	
Summary of overall performance <i>Based on indicators where police are lead partner</i>	(G)
Equality Diversity & Human Rights	
Under development as part of the Equality & Human Rights work programme	
People	
Employment target for Women officers	↔ (A)
Employment target for BME officers	↔ (A)
Strategic Leverage Target 2009/10 (£2 million) – achieved	(G)