

Report of: The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel
Date: 6 October 2020

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2019-2020

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel is required by Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to review Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report and make a report or recommendations.
- 1.2 On 25th September 2020, the Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's 2019-2020 Annual Report.

2 Members Present

- 2.1 The members in attendance were Cllrs Narinder Kaur Kooner (Chair), Pervez Akhtar, Paul Bradley, James Butler, Jasbir Jaspal, Richard Jones, Abdul Khan, Suky Samra, Shafique Shah and independent members Kristina Murphy and Lionel Walker.

3 Panel Comments

- 3.1 The Panel invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to consider the following points when finalising the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

(a) Performance Data

- 3.2 We believe that sections of the report would benefit from more detail to give the public a fuller picture. We suggest information on the number of actions that divert young people from entering the criminal justice system, such as out of court disposals and restorative justice, be included in your report to complement the data provided on the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.
- 3.3 We suggest the report should also include the number of prosecutions as a result of the public reporting crimes. Whilst we note that not all police work is visible to the public, including efforts to tackle hidden crimes or counter terrorism work, we believe more information on the number of offences brought to justice would be of interest to the public.

(b) Confidence in Policing

- 3.4 The Panel was concerned at the reported decline in overall confidence in West Midlands Police recorded in the Crime Survey for England and Wales and note your explanations for this. We believe the reported decrease in the number of arrests and the fall in charges and summons rates may also impact on confidence in policing. In addition, elected members are still hearing cases of long waits for a response to calls to 101.
- 3.5 We welcome the Police and Crime Commissioner's and Force commitment to address the public fear and perception of crime.

3.6 We look forward to you sharing with the Panel what steps will be undertaken to improve confidence in the police.

(c) Victim Services

3.7 We note the robust systems in place to monitor effectiveness of victim support services and gauge satisfaction of services.

3.8 We suggest additional publicity to promote the services offered, including services available for indirect victims and the ability to self-refer.

3.9 We look forward to you sharing with the Panel the recommendations from the 2020 Victims Summit.

(d) PCC Funded Projects

3.10 We welcome the range of programmes funded through your office and the empowerment to communities to resolve local issues that this provides.

3.11 We suggest you consider adding some project case studies to your annual report to illustrate the impact of this funding.

(e) Officer Recruitment

3.12 We commend the efforts on recruiting more police officers and the focus to establish a force that reflects the community it serves. We are encouraged to learn that 30% of new police officer applications are from black and minority ethnic communities.

(f) Stop and Search

3.13 The Panel note the positive outcome rates as a result of better targeting of stop and search powers. We welcome the scrutiny through local Stop and Search Panels.

(g) Final Comments

3.14 Thank you for presenting your annual report to the Panel and for answering Members' questions. Your report highlighted a number of positive areas of work undertaken over the last year. Members ask that thanks are passed on to your officers who helped prepare the report, and to frontline officers and staff for the work that they do to serve the West Midlands.

3.15 The Panel hope that you consider this feedback helpful and look forward to your response.

Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner
Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

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