

## **Report of The West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Report Review of the draft West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2025-29**

Date: 20 January 2025

### **Introduction**

In accordance with section 28 (3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review and make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the Police and Crime Plan prior to publication at the end of the financial year.

On Monday 20 January 2025, the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel reviewed the Police and Crime Commissioner's Draft Police and Crime Plan 2025-29. Comments and recommendations arising from the meeting are set out below.

### **Members Present:**

Councillors Jasbir Jaspal – Chair (Wolverhampton),  
Kristina Murphy (Independent Panel Member – Vice Chair)  
Cllr Rashad Mahmood (Birmingham City Council)  
Cllr Gareth Moore (Birmingham City Council)  
Cllr Izzy Knowles (Birmingham City Council)  
Cllr Abdul S Khan (Coventry City Council)  
Cllr Pervez Akhtar (Coventry City Council)  
Cllr Ed Lawrence (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)  
Cllr Bill Gavan MBE (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council)  
Cllr Waheed Rasab (Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)

### **Development of the Plan**

The Police and Crime Plan is an important document that sets the objectives by which the Panel will hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account and challenge and scrutinise his work.

We recognise the research that has gone into the development of the Police and Crime Plan 2025-29, drawing on a wide range of information from the police, community safety and criminal justice partners and also local data and national priorities. The Panel acknowledge the work to conduct the public consultation exercise and the efforts to reflect the key themes that emerged into the final draft.

The Panel thank the Commissioner for inviting its Use of Information subgroup to participate in the development of the key performance metrics associated with the Plan and is grateful for the Commissioner's reflections on the subgroup's comments.

## Panel Recommendations

The Panel is satisfied that many important issues have been included in the draft Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 and below are some areas which the Panel would like the Commissioner to consider when finalising the document.

### a. Measuring progress towards achieving objectives

We felt the Plan could have included more details within the 'I will' statements about how aspirations would be achieved so to aid public understanding of progress made. We recognise that including specific targets may not be appropriate for all but suggest as a minimum there should be a better explanation within the Plan on how statistically significant changes in performance will be monitored.

**It is recommended that the Commissioner review his 'I will' statements to include more clarity on ambitions, whether that be including specific targets (where appropriate) or how statistically significant changes will be measured. This additional information would aid the public and Panel's understanding of progress.**

### b. Measuring the performance of the Live Chat function

The Panel note that Live Chat is not subject to a service level agreement in the same way as 101/999 calls, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police are seeking to capture and measure the sufficiency of service of Live Chat communication. The Panel felt that if certain crimes or certain groups of victims are using the Live Chat facility it is important the Plan includes a commitment to monitor the performance of this service to ensure these groups are not being disadvantaged and needs are being met.

**It is recommended that the Commissioner consider including within the Plan a commitment to establish a mechanism to monitor the performance of Live Chat.**

### c. Tackling graffiti, vandalism and low-level criminal damage

The Panel was pleased with priority given to community policing within the Plan and note that further detail was expected in due course on how the new Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee would be delivered. It was noted that graffiti, vandalism and low-level criminal damage has a significant impact on local neighbourhoods and should be referenced in the Plan.

**It is recommended that community policing section of the Plan be expanded to include specific reference to tackling graffiti, vandalism and low-level criminal damage.**

## Wider comments from the Panel

### d. Tackling online fraud and cyber crime

The Panel noted the pioneering public health approach to tackle online fraud and look forward to receiving a copy of the academic research by Cardiff University on this approach.

#### **e. Tackling Child Sexual Abuse and Expolitation**

The Panel was reassured that preventing and tackling child sexual abuse and exploitation and supporting victims was embedded throughout the Plan with inclusion in the Strategic Policing Requirement, tackling violence, prevention, online crime, working in partnership, supporting victims and building trust and confidence in police objectives. The Panel agreed to write to the Commissioner separately for further information about the resources to implement the recent Government announcement on historic CSE cases and reassurances on the approach to police investigations.

#### **f. Culture and morale of the workforce**

The Panel sought reassurance that the Plan contained sufficient emphasis on holding the Chief Constable to account in relation to the culture and morale within West Midlands Police. We acknowledge the Commissioner's focus on these issues in the Fairness and Belonging and Building Trust and Confidence sections of the Plan that lay the expectations for the highest standards of conduct, ethics, integrity and professionalism within West Midlands Police.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Panel is satisfied that the Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 is reflective of the current priorities across the West Midlands and that it will support the continuation of the existing work being undertaken by West Midlands Police and partner organisations to reduce crime and improve community safety.

The Panel invites the Police and Crime Commissioner to consider its recommendations. A copy of this report, alongside the Commissioner's response will be published on the Panel website.