

Monthly Assurance Meeting August 2017 – Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday 22 August 2017 @ 10:30

Chair: John Campion

Minutes: Jackie Irvin, Policy Officer, OPCC

Venue PCC Conference Room – Hindlip

	Name:	Capacity:
Attendance:	John Campion	Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
	Andy Champness	Chief Executive for the Police and Crime Commissioner (CEX)
	Anthony Bangham	Chief Constable (CC)
	Martin Evans	Assistant Chief Constable Local Policing (ACC)
Apologies:	Tracey Onslow	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
	Amanda Blakeman	Deputy Chief Constable

1	OUTSTANDING MATTERS / ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD	ACTION
1.1	<p>1.1 - Action arising from the June 2017 meeting:</p> <p>Reforming West Mercia – 999 call handling</p> <p><i>If available the ACC for local policing is to attend the July holding to account meeting to provide an update on the current position - deferred to August.</i></p> <p>1.2 - Action arising from the July 2017 meeting:</p> <p>CC & DCC Items – unresourced incidents</p> <p><i>This issue will be addressed as part of August's holding to account item on call handling</i></p> <p>Update</p> <p>Following the July meeting the PCC had received a comprehensive update from the Chief Superintendent and three Operational Control Centre (OCC) business area leads and was reassured by the update provided, whilst acknowledging there were still issues to be resolved. The PCC was satisfied that items 1.1 and 1.2 were discharged and did not need to be brought back to the meeting in any depth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In recent weeks performance had shown improvement, in part because 	

	<p>demand levels had dropped but the improvement needs to be sustained regardless of demand levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and understanding of data is improving. • Performance in Warwickshire has shown a recent decline, whereas West Mercia had started to improve. These differences need to be understood as there will need to be consistently acceptable levels of performance when the two new OCCs are operational across the two force areas. 	
<p>2</p>	<p>OPERATIONAL AND REPUTATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high value ATM burglary had occurred in Shropshire. The CC was to receive a full briefing. • The death of a female which initially had been suspicious had since been confirmed to be as a result of self harm. • The IPCC investigation into the death of Dalian Atkinson is ongoing. A critical incident management meeting (CIMM) is running to ensure all processes are in place. • The publication of a review into the death of an individual in Bristol who had previously been in care home in West Mercia was due. The force approach to vulnerability has changed since that time. • A police dog had been stabbed whilst on duty and required veterinary treatment. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>CHIEF OFFICER MEETING / EXECUTIVE BOARD – UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief officer meeting – no items to update. • Executive Board – The force are receiving enquiries into the sale of the AB1 number plate, which are being passed to the PCC’s office. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>HOLDING TO ACCOUNT</p>	
<p>4a</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p>	
	<p>Building a more secure West Mercia – Telford</p> <p>Comparison data for the West Mercia policing area suggests that Telford is an outlier in terms of crime volumes (totality and specific crime types) per 1000 of population.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Can the CC provide some narrative around the raw data?</i> 2. <i>Do the Force understand the reasons for the seeming disparity?</i> 3. <i>Are there any particular crime types that give the CC cause for concern?</i> 4. <i>Is the CC confident that the current resourcing model meets the demand profile?</i> 5. <i>Can the CC provide reassurance that partners are sufficiently engaged in order to reduce demand?</i> 6. <i>Can the CC provide clarity as to any measures that will be put in place to address the issues identified?</i> 	

- 1.Can the CC provide some narrative around the raw data?**
- 2.Do the Force understand the reasons for the seeming disparity?**

Findings:

- The raw data shows Telford to be performing differently from the other local policing areas by some margin in certain crime types. The CC is confident that the data is providing an accurate picture and that improved ethical recording practices have had an impact.
- There is an acknowledgement that there is a need to understand Telford better. It is a small Unitary with its own demographic and in many ways it is different from other parts of West Mercia.
- Telford stands out on a crime per thousand population basis when compared with the other policing areas in West Mercia, but because of its demographic profile it may be more useful to compare with other more similar areas across England and Wales. Comparison with those areas also show Telford to be an outlier in the same crime types.

3.Are there any particular crime types that give the CC cause for concern?

Findings:

‘Violence against the person with injury’, ‘violence against the person without injury’, ‘rape’, ‘other serious sexual offences’ and to a lesser degree are the crime types impacting on Telford’s total recorded crime figures.

Total recorded crime

Telford has the highest rate of total recorded crime in West Mercia with a more noticeable gap since April 2015. Within its most similar family group of 15 Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) Telford is 8th.

Violence against the person (VAP) with injury

- Telford has the highest rate per 1000 population within West Mercia with a widening gap since April 2014 that has not reduced.
- Telford’s family group position is 1st with the highest volumes of VAP with injury.
- There are no specific police operations or events in Telford that the variances can be attributed to, nor are there are particular public places causing a problem and stranger related violence is low. This type of crime is highest in certain wards.
- In approximately 40% of these crimes domestic violence is a contributing factor which is in line with West Mercia’s other policing areas.
- When these crimes are looked at in more detail there has not been any increase in the most serious violence and it is considered that improved ethical recording and auditing practises have resulted in more crime being correctly identified and recorded.

Violence against the person without injury

The picture is similar to VAP with injury in that there was a noticeable step change in rates per 1000 population from April 2015 onwards. Telford's family group position is 2nd.

Rape and other serious sexual offences

- On a rape per 1000 population basis, Telford is currently not the highest policing area, but had been for approximately two years.
- There have been 1 – 2 operations impacting on the levels of other serious sexual offences.
- The split between non recent rapes (57%) and current has remained consistent for some time and is in line with other policing areas. The numbers of non recent rapes reflects an improved confidence in people coming forward to report rape offences to the police. The majority of victims are raped by someone known to them, not stranger rapes. Only a small number of rape victims are repeat victims.
- Telford is 1st in its family group for rape (highest number) and excluding London on a national basis is 6th highest for rape and 2nd highest for other serious sexual offences.
- Across West Mercia since 2014 an additional 30 crimes a month have been identified and recorded as rapes which wouldn't previously have been because of changes in recording practises. Since 2015 in particular the Force Crime Registrar has closely scrutinised recording of rape and it is the role of the Deputy Chief Constable to determine whether a rape allegation is recorded as 'no crime'.
- The CC is confident that more is being reported, there is more recording and a more proactive approach is in place. Rape and other sexual offences are monitored by the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Group (RASSO) which has a tactical rape action plan in place detailing on an individual basis with local detective chief inspectors (DCIs) directly involved.
- Child sexual exploitation –There are some examples of good work to identify and prevent vulnerable young people from being exploited.

Burglary dwelling

- Telford has the highest rate of burglary per thousand population across West Mercia's policing areas, but there are signs of steady reduction. Some of this is because of specific operations, but the use of Smartwater is also believed to have had an impact.
- Telford does have a high number of offenders in the integrated offender management (IOM) process. There is a focus on these nominals, so that when they are released from prison they can be monitored and put back in prison if they start offending again, however whilst these individuals may be responsible for some of the burglaries there are no specific patterns occurring in the area. IOMs are managed tightly in Telford around burglary.

4. Is the CC confident that the current resourcing model meets the demand profile?

The PCC suggested that analysis shows that there are high harm activities

	<p>going on and a relatively high level of unresourced jobs and questioned what would be done in Telford to address this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unresourced incidents are reviewed on a daily basis but there is a need for greater flexibility across the policing areas to support demand. The CC made clear that he does not want to dismantle the current local policing area structure but considers there maybe scope for Telford and Shropshire resources to be used across the area differently. • Telford is different in many respects however the CC can't accept that its performance needs to be different and considers it is not the level of available resources, but how they are brigaded. This needs to be looked at more closely. This will form part of a wider piece of work to understand the overall picture across all the policing areas. <p>5. Can the CC provide reassurance that partners are sufficiently engaged in order to reduce demand?</p> <p>There is a need for a problem profile / policing plan for Telford and Shropshire which covers all aspects including partners.</p> <p>6. Can the CC provide clarity as to any measures that will be put in place to address the issues identified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC questioned how he could have confidence things would change. The CC responded that firstly the Force needed to acknowledge that there was a problem in Telford. • In the short term a violence reduction plan was in place and abstractions for the Athena implementation were not being taken from Telford. In the longer term partnership and PCC involvement would be needed to effect change along with proactive engagement with the media. <p>Actions arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ACC to provide the PCC with a briefing note on current activity to address CSE. 2. The CSP family group rankings to be shared with the PCC 3. At the September holding to account meeting the CC is to provide an update on the approach to be taken in seeking to address the issues identified in Telford. 	<p>ACC ACC CC</p>
4b	DELIVERY OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:	
	No items on the agenda.	
4c	<p>HMIC INSPECTION PROGRAMME / MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT BOARD (SIB)</p> <p>The CC referred to feedback on the recent HMIC PEEL Legitimacy and Efficiency inspection.</p>	
5.	<p>AOB:</p> <p>The CC was to meet the following day with the five West Mercia entrants on the Police Now talent programme for graduates run by Westminster University. Participants attend an academy in London followed by 2 year</p>	

	<p>SNT posting in West Mercia focused on challenging communities with specific problems. At the end of the two years there is an opportunity to join the policing fast track promotion programme.</p> <p>The PCC's fire governance consultation ends on the 11th September.</p>	
6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 10:30 on 26 September 2017	ALL