



**NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR POLICING  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER STATEMENT  
(Published January 2022)**

The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021 provides that PCCs must publish a narrative setting out:

- a statement on the contribution of the police force maintained by the elected local policing body to achieving improvements against those priorities;
- an explanation of which of the national priorities are assessed to be applicable and which not applicable in the context of the relevant police area and the reasons for that assessment.

All the national policing priorities are assessed to be applicable as they align to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC) Safer West Mercia Plan and West Mercia Police’s Control Strategy.

Set out below is the PCC’s statement on the contribution of West Mercia Police to achieving improvements against the national priorities for policing.

**National Policing priorities**

<b>Priority area: Reduce murder and other homicide</b>
<b>National Metrics (data source)</b> Homicides (Police recorded data)
<b>Comment</b>  Under Home Office counting rules <i>homicide</i> includes: Murder, Manslaughter, Infanticide, and Corporate Manslaughter.  Between 1 April 2019 and 30 November 2021 42 homicides have been recorded in West Mercia. This represents a 58% increase between 19/20 and 20/21. The year to date (April – November) figure for 21/22 is 11. Homicides with a domestic abuse (DA) flag account for a significant proportion of offences each year. The non-DA homicides represent a mixed profile of threats/ MOs including Mental Health, Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), County Lines, knife use and offences in a care setting.  Homicide data is monitored on a weekly and monthly basis within the Performance Framework, and is used to inform and develop strategies with partners. The force produce ‘Serious Violence Profiles’ and ‘Knife Crime Profiles’ for all Local Policing Areas



(LPAs) in order to inform and drive activity through the Problem-Solving Hubs and Community Safety Partnerships. In addition a detailed homicide profile has been commissioned. The force are tackling issues of serious violence across a number of strategies which impact on the identified drivers of homicide. In addition, organisational learning is captured from reviews including serious case reviews and domestic homicide reviews.

The increase in homicide volumes within West Mercia has led to the Force engaging with the Home Office and College of Policing in a Homicide Prevention Round Table. This is providing the force with the opportunity to share good and innovative practice, information and data, taken forward through the Homicide Prevention Summit with a number of other forces.

As part of the PCC's formal holding to account programme, the focus of the January 2022 meeting on performance will be homicide and how the force is managing its response to homicide and prevention.

#### **Priority area: Reduce serious violence**

##### **National Metrics (data source)**

- 1.Hospital admissions of u25s for assault with a sharp object (NHS)
- 2.Offences involving discharge of a firearm (Police recorded)

##### **Comment**

1.Data on hospital admissions over the last 3 years indicates that there are fewer than 8 admissions each month for assault with a sharp object across West Mercia.

2.Police recorded data shows that there have been 6 offences involving discharge of a firearm in 21/22 to September 2021.

The force monitors a range of indicators linked to serious violence, including offences involving a knife or sharp instrument and serious violence (violence with injury). In the first 2 quarters of 21/22, 2909 violence against the person with injury offences were recorded, a 5% reduction compared to the same time period in 19/20\*.

The force produce 'Serious Violence Profiles' and 'Knife Crime Profiles' for all LPAs in order to inform and drive activity through the Problem-Solving Hubs and Community Safety Partnerships.

**Priority area: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines**

**National Metrics (data source)**

1. Drug-related homicides (Police recorded)
2. Police referrals into drug treatment (Public health England)

**Comment**

1. There were five drug related Homicides during 2021/2022 to 17 November 2021. Three of these are under investigation with a suspected cause of drug overdose. Two offences are thought to be linked to drug activity within force including one gang-related and one stranger drug-related Homicide.

2. The data set listed are not currently available at a force level. West Mercia Police is working with the other 3 forces in the West Midlands region to develop some police held proxy measures, which will be included in this report when finalised.

The focus remains for the force in the disruption of drugs supply and county lines. Within West Mercia 69% of organised crime groups (OCGs) have a primary crime type of drugs supply, including 8 County lines. OCGs are actively managed and operational activity is planned at monthly tasking meetings. A review of the threat, risk and harm associated with CLs is also reviewed in these meetings. In addition the force works with partners across West Mercia to address serious and organised crime.

During the first 2 quarters of 21/22 713 disruptions were recorded as CL activity, predominantly driven by planned activity in Shropshire. A further 88 disruptions were recorded against mapped OCG's.

During a national County Line intensification week in October 21, officers and staff were involved in pursuing serious and organised crime, which forms part of the Force's overarching Protect campaign. This campaign seeks to tackle organised crime and disrupt those causing the most harm. During the intensification period 37 people were arrested, 12 vehicles and weapons including knives and air weapons were seized along with drugs to a street value of around £52k, 104 addresses were visited in relation to cuckooing and more than £20k cash was seized.

**Priority area: Reduce neighbourhood crime**

**National Metrics (data source)**

Burglary, robbery, theft of and from a vehicle, theft from a person (Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW))

**Comment**

CSEW data at force level has not been updated since March 2020. Police recorded data is set out in the table below. All acquisitive crime types are reducing, when compared to 19/20\* data.

Offence	Q2 21/22 (volume)	Q2 19/20 (volume)	Year to date (YTD) vol	YTD Change
Personal robbery	114	148	226	-23%
Business robbery	14	13	23	-12%
Residential burglary	601	718	1057	-23%
Burglary – business & community	585	984	1705	-43%
Vehicle theft	971	1339	1815	-32%
Theft from person	121	217	218	-44%

The force uses a problem solving approach to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and demand. The force has established a Problem Solving (PS) support team to coordinate all PS activity through 5 locally based PS hubs focused on evidenced based policing and partnership working. The coordinators utilise problem solving plans to monitor activity, progress and effective practice and work with two dedicated PS analysts based within the central team to ensure that analytical work related to problem solving can be undertaken swiftly and effectively.

With funding from the PCC, a ‘We Don’t Buy Crime’ (WDBC) Team operates within the PS hubs. This team works with communities and businesses to implement the use of SmartWater secure areas, to address acquisitive crimes including burglary. This team provides specialist advice to the rural communities of West Mercia.

**Priority area: Improve victim satisfaction with a focus on victims of domestic abuse**

**National Metrics (data source)**

1. Satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse (CSEW)
2. Victim satisfaction with the police (CSEW)

**Comment**

CSEW data at force level has not been updated since March 2020.



The force carry out victim satisfaction surveys with victims of: burglary, violent crime, hate crime, road traffic collisions (road traffic collisions) and domestic abuse (DA). The surveying capability within force has been impacted by covid and DA surveying was halted during the pandemic because of concern over victim safety. The DA survey recommenced in April 21. The rolling six month satisfaction level (Apr – Sept 21) for victims who were completely or very satisfied is set out below:

Burglary – 73%

Violent crime – 67%

Hate crime (12 month rolling data) – 64%

RTCs (12 month rolling data) – 76%

DA - 74%

Victim satisfaction is subject to close scrutiny at the Force Delivery Group performance meetings. Variances across the LPAs are identified and further analysis and work commissioned to understand the reasons for differing satisfaction levels. This is with a view to sharing learning and best practice to achieve better outcomes for victims.

The force provides officers and staff with CPD inputs focused on supporting victims and witnesses. Training covers the victims' code, victims satisfaction and reassurance and local victim support services (VAL).

#### **Priority area: Tackle cyber crime**

##### **National Metrics (Data Source)**

1. Confidence in the law enforcement response to cyber crime (Cyber Aware Tracker)
2. Percentage of businesses experiencing a cyber breach or attack (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport survey)

##### **Comment**

The data sets listed are not currently available at a force level. West Mercia Police is working with the other 3 forces in the West Midlands region to develop some police held proxy measures, which will be included in this report when finalised.

The force's crime recording system does enable officers to 'flag' any offence with a cyber element, however this is dependent on officers applying the cyber marker. During the first 2 quarters of 21/22 (1 April 21 – 30 Sept 21) 2,723 offences were flagged as having a cyber element, an 11% increase on the same time period in the previous year.

The force does receive monthly reports from Action Fraud on the number of cybercrime reports (including phishing) it has received from West Mercia residents and businesses.



During the first 2 quarters of 21/22, the number of reports was less than 50 per month, with businesses accounting for approximately 10% of these reports.

The force's Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) provides specialist cyber-crime investigative capabilities and is responsible for investigating all cyber dependent crime within West Mercia along with driving Protect, Prevent and Prepare activity. The unit also provides specialist Digital Media Investigative support to all serious and major incidents or local investigations where there is an identified high threat. A force wide officer uplift programme has enabled two PC Cyber Protect Officer posts to be created in the CCU. These roles focus on delivering consistent nationally approved cyber security advice to businesses and members of the public as well as providing cyber security advice to victims of cyber dependent crime to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation.

The force also have a specialist Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team (OCSET) whose focus is to promote the safeguarding of children vulnerable to exploitation over the internet.

A Cyber Crime Portal, accessible on all force mobile devices provides advice and guidance to frontline staff on how to investigate a wide range of digital and cyber-enabled crimes along with providing a route into the unit for specialist support or advice and guidance. In addition in the last 3 months all frontline officers have been required to undertake mandatory Digital Awareness Training.

This statement will be reviewed and any variations published in line with the timescales set out in the Statutory Information Order.

\*Due to the impact of COVID-19 on crime in 2020/21, comparisons over time have been made to 19/20 as this will provide a more realistic comparison