



NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR POLICING POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER STATEMENT (Published Sept 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

Priority area: Reduce murder and other homicide
National Metrics (data source) Homicides (Police recorded data)
Comment Under Home Office counting rules <i>homicide</i> includes: Murder, Manslaughter, Infanticide, and Corporate Manslaughter. Four offences were recorded in Q1 2022 – 2023, compared with 6 in Q4 of 2021 – 2022, which represents a slight reduction. The number is in line with that seen in Q3 of 21/22. 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 during 20/21 and 21/22 led to the force engaging with the Home Office and College of Policing in a Homicide Prevention Round Table. This provided the force with the opportunity to share good and innovative practice, information and data, with a number of other forces. All of the 17 key themes from the homicide prevention roundtable meeting now feature as activity within the Force's Homicide Delivery Plan.

As part of the PCC's formal holding to account programme, the focus of the January 2022 meeting on performance was on homicide and how the force is managing its response to homicide and prevention. In August, the PCC's holding to account meeting on the serious violence duty included an update from the Chief Constable on homicide.

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 3 offences involving discharge of a firearm in Q1 2022- 23, compared with 0 offences the previous quarter. One of these offences includes a suicide.

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).

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. One drug related homicide was recorded in Q1 2022 – 2023. Currently there have been fewer drug-related homicides than the same period last year.

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 71% of organised crime groups (OCGs) have a primary crime type of drugs supply, including 9 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 21/22 there were 133 disruptions against mapped OCG's, this is driven by targeted activity across the LPA'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.

Offence	Q1 22/23 (volume)
Personal robbery	155
Business robbery	12
Residential burglary	553
Burglary – business & community	740
Vehicle Offences	1,257
Theft from person	136

Thefts from a person, and residential and business burglaries, have increased in Q1 2022 – 2023 compared with the previous quarter. Thefts from a vehicle and robberies have decreased, albeit by small numbers. All neighbourhood crime offences (robberies, burglaries, thefts) remain approximately 30% below the national baseline period (Jul 2018 to Jun 2019).

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). DA surveying was halted during the pandemic because of concern over victim safety, recommencing in April 21.

The rolling six month satisfaction level (Jan 22 – June 22) for victims who were completely or very satisfied is set out below:

Burglary – 71%

Violent crime – 60%

Hate crime (12 month rolling data) – 63%

RTCs (12 month rolling data) – 79%

DA – 73%

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.

From March 22, new Victim Satisfaction governance arrangements were put into place by the force to drive improvements in satisfaction. Some of the actions being progressed include:

- Victims' voice - victims' first-hand accounts of the service received are being captured through victim videos. These will be used to supplement and structure training, to ensure that learning is informed by the victim's voice. The planned launch date for these is end Quarter 2 / start Quarter 3 22/23. In addition, all victim interviews are now being audio-recorded as a matter of course using call recording software; this will allow powerful soundbites to be used, again, to ensure that victims' accounts inform service improvement activities.
- Disproportionality work - significantly lower satisfaction has been identified involving victims self identifying as having a disability. Further analysis is being undertaken to understand this finding better with a view to some targeted engagement being carried out with this group.

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 21/22 (1 April 21 – 31 March 22) 5,454 offences were flagged as having a cyber element, a 14% 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 21/22, the average number of reports was less than 50 per month, with businesses accounting for approximately 10% of these reports. The most prevalent type of offence reported to Action Fraud by both individuals and businesses is 'hacking – social media and email'.

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.