



## **WEST MIDLANDS** COMBINED AUTHORITY

# **Board Meeting**

<b>Date</b>	7 April 2017
<b>Report title</b>	Gangs and Violence Commission Update
<b>Presented by</b>	David Jamieson, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Jonathan Jardine, Chief Executive Email: <a href="mailto:wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a> Tel: 0121 626 6060
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Jonathan Jardine, Chief Executive Email: <a href="mailto:wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a> Tel: 0121 626 6060
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Strategic Policing and Crime Board WMCA Programme Board

### **Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

#### **The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:**

1. To note the work of the Gangs and Violence Commission.
2. To include the final report of the Gangs and Violence Commission in the WMCA Board Forward Plan.

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 To detail the work of the Gangs and Violence Commission.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Gangs and Violence Commission was developed as a response to the persistent problem in Birmingham around gangs and violence, particularly as it relates to young people.
- 2.2 While focused on the parliamentary constituencies of Ladywood and Perry Barr in north Birmingham, the consultation has included representation from across Birmingham and the Commission's findings will aim to inform responses to gangs and violence across the West Midlands.
- 2.3 There are a number of crucial links between gangs and violence and the core business of the WMCA, particularly around the need to get young people developing positive opportunities for themselves (skills) and entering legitimate work (jobs). The link to economic development is cyclical: gangs and violence deter inward investment while the lack of investment and opportunity fuels gangs and violence.
- 2.4 Young people are more likely to be victims of crime and, unfortunately, become involved in criminal activity. Given that the West Midlands metropolitan area has a higher proportion of people aged under 25 compared with the rest of the country, the future success of the West Midlands will be dependent upon harnessing and cultivating the potential of our young people.
- 2.5 The impetus for more efficient allocation of resources and more effective interventions is profound.
- 2.6 Partnering the strategic direction of policing with the work of the WMCA presents opportunities to improve pathways into employment for young people.
- 2.7 A core aim of the Gangs and Violence Commission is to not only develop a better understanding of the root causes of youth criminality, but in the process, engender effective multi agency and partnership working to achieve our shared mutual objectives of preventing crime, and building stronger and more prosperous communities.

## **3.0 Wider WMCA Implications**

3.1 Gang activity, particularly related to the illicit drugs market, continues to expand across the region. This means that the LEPs and non-constituent WMCA members based in rural locations will have an increasing interest in tackling gangs and violence, an issue that has traditionally been given greater prominence in urban areas.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated £450,000 towards the Gangs and Violence initiative in 2017/18.

## **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 Not applicable at this time.

**6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 Not applicable at this time.

**9.0 Appendices**

A Gangs and Violence Commission Update.

*This is a report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. It is submitted for consideration by the West Midlands Combined Authority.*

## Appendix A



# Gangs and Violence Commission Update

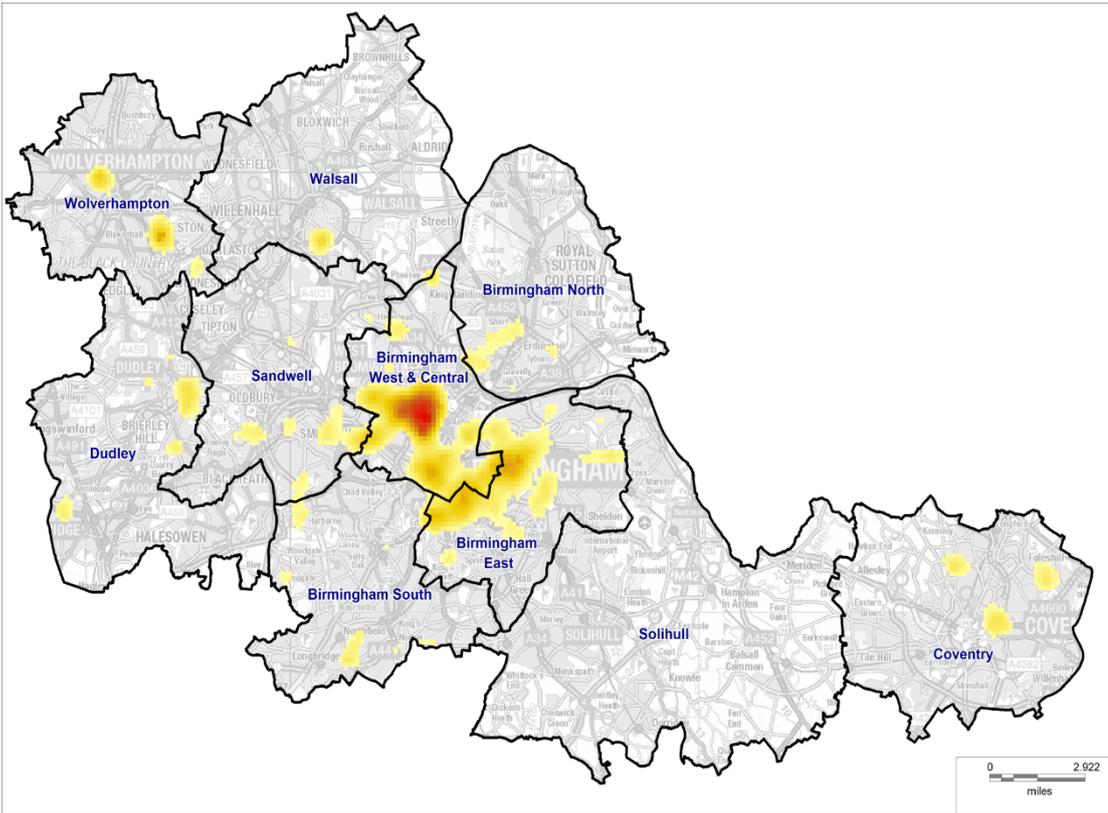
## Background

1. The Gangs and Violence Commission was developed as a response to the persistent problem in Birmingham around gangs and violence. There have been many attempts to deal with the issues, however this time the decision was made to respond in a completely different way. The Commission has led on the coordination of a series of interventions by the community and public sector agencies and will offer detailed responses to gangs and violence and community perceptions that run alongside. This work cuts across all communities and only strong partnership approaches will help us tackle it.
2. The work of the Commission began in April 2016 and the membership consists of representation from across the statutory and community/voluntary sector. Each of the Specialist Providers from the community sector has led on a different strand of consultation to ensure that the voice of the community is central to the research and report that is being produced alongside. Further to this, the following are statutory agency members supporting the work of the Commission:

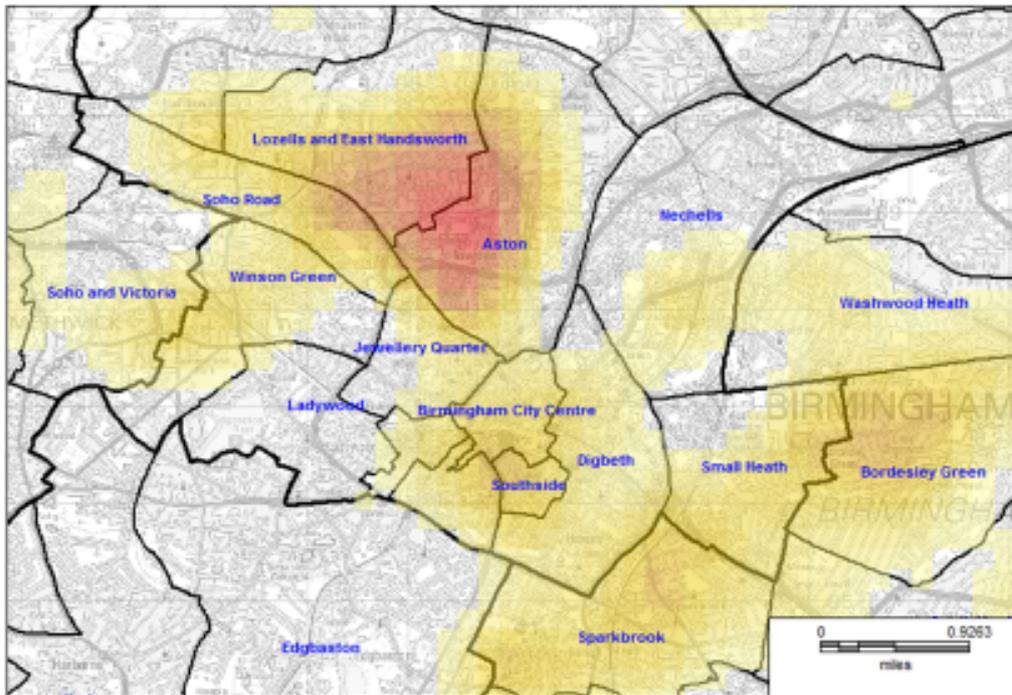
David Jamieson, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands  
Ashley Bertie, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands  
Alex Murray, Assistant Chief Constable, West Midlands Police  
Cllr John Clancy, Leader of the Council, Birmingham City Council  
Adrian Phillips, Director of Public Health, Birmingham City Council

3. Our community-led approach has seen a significant consultation and engagement exercise take place in Birmingham over the last 8 months. Running alongside the consultation process has been a research project that has included a literature review of the work that has already been done (and what hasn't), interviews with leaders in the city and incorporating national reports that are pertinent to the work taking place.
4. There are a number of issues of which we are aware:
  - There are new guns available as well as guns that have come back into use
  - A new generation of young people are being tempted by or drawn into gang related activities/participation and therefore gangs and gang-related activity are a persistent threat
  - The voices of young people are necessary in developing effective interventions

- Not all recent fire arms offences and violent acts are gang related
  - Community members are concerned about the lack of a sustainable partnership strategy to address the key issues associated with gang related activities and violence
  - There is a significant change in demographics in the area
  - Members of the community have expressed a need to have a genuine and sustainable strategy and action plan that is community owned and driven 'from the bottom up', where the PCC and other partners are held accountable for what is commissioned.
  - Gang and youth violence has a devastating impact on the young people who get caught up in it, as well as their families and communities. It is not an issue that any one agency or government department can tackle alone. It requires a multi-agency approach and sharing information, in order to safeguard vulnerable young people and target the most violent.
5. In order to tackle the complex challenges, we need to be able to define the associated issues, and so the Commission has been gathering evidence to give us an understanding that will subsequently address the issues raised. The key to this piece of work has been that it has been community-led from the outset and throughout the process. This approach will carry on through the development and implementation of the recommendations and will put local people at the heart of making changes to the area in which they live. Community involvement will be an on-going process throughout the lifetime of the project.
6. There are some important facts that need to be addressed through this work, and Appendix 1 highlights some of the key issues that we are responding to:
- Gun crime is an issue across the West Midlands area, however is concentrated in Birmingham
  - White Europeans are the ethnicity most affected by gun crime
  - The age group being affected most significantly is 15-24 year olds.
7. At the last Commission meeting, members of the group discussed the emerging themes from the report and potential recommendations. Emerging themes at this point include:
- More employment and business opportunities are needed by activating and focusing private sector Corporate Social Responsibility
  - There is a lack of employment and business based opportunities
  - Inward investment and sustained efforts to bring in charity funding such as Lottery Fund is needed
  - Opportunities are needed for young people which could include initiatives such as mentoring schemes, Duke of Edinburgh programme, Youth Cadets.
8. The full report will be brought back to the WM Combined Authority for full consideration later in 2017.



### Gun Crime Hotspots (Birmingham)



### Offender General Profile (combining four datasets)

Offender Gender	#
FEMALE	72
MALE	917
UNKNOWN	664

Offender Ethnicity	#
WHITE SKINNED EUROPEAN	407
AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN	230
ASIAN	154
WHITE NORTH EUROPEAN	79
BLACK	32
OTHER	25
DARK EUROPEAN	7
ARAB	5
ORIENTAL	2
MIDDLE EASTERN	1
NOT KNOWN	711
Grand Total	1653

Offender Age	#
10-14	54
15-19	333
20-24	204
25-29	130
30-34	87
35-39	75
40-44	43
45-49	31
50-54	22
55-59	6
60-64	3
65-69	1
70-74	1
Not Known	663
Grand Total	1653



### Offender General Profile (combining four datasets): Ages

