



Sussex  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner

# *Safer in Sussex*

*2014/2015 Annual Report*





| Section |                                                          | Page |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1       | Introduction                                             | 3    |
| 2       | Progress made against the Police & Crime Plan objectives | 4    |
| 2a      | Crime & Community Safety                                 | 4    |
| 2b      | Victim Focus                                             | 6    |
| 2c      | Public Confidence                                        | 7    |
| 2d      | Value for Money                                          | 9    |
| 3       | Progress made against the Police & Crime Plan measures   | 11   |
| 4       | Summary of financial performance 2014/2015               | 13   |
| 5       | Emerging priorities 2015/2016                            | 14   |





## *Welcome to my 2014/2015 Annual Report setting out what I have successfully delivered as your Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.*

Nearly three years on I still feel hugely privileged to have been elected as your Police & Crime Commissioner during what has been, and continues to be, a very difficult time for policing.

Every public sector organisation is facing financial challenges and the police service is no exception. Despite this, I am pleased to be able to report that Sussex Police continues to deliver efficient and effective policing across the county, meeting the priorities set out in my Police & Crime Plan.

Over the last year, I have continued to provide residents with the opportunity to inform local policing and budget decisions and to discuss any issues or concerns directly through my #TalkSussex programme of public engagement events. In particular, this has involved a series of "Community Conversations" across the county with the Chief Constable and Divisional Commanders and insightful feedback from the Sussex Youth Commission members. This two-way dialogue ensures that I am made aware of any concerns and can respond accordingly.

I am pleased to note that Sussex remains a low crime area and has seen an overall 55% reduction in recorded crime since 2004/2005. I sought to increase public confidence in the reporting of domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes in 2014/2015, to enable better identification of vulnerable victims in Sussex. As a result, recorded crimes per 1,000 population increased by 7% across the year. These increases were in line with national

trends and can also be attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending.

I have continued to use monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police against the priorities, objectives and measures set out in the Police & Crime Plan. As a result of these PAMs, notable improvements have been made to 101 non-emergency call handling and burglary dwelling performance across 2014/2015.

Further achievements include the development of a Business Crime Strategy, the presentation of the "Big Conversation" report from the Youth Commission, the establishment of a Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership and the successful award of Home Office funding worth over £2.348m as part of the Police Innovation Fund.

I have also made additional investment in areas that pose the greatest risk to the residents of Sussex. This investment is being used to improve Sussex Police's ability to investigate serious sexual offending, including child abuse, and to protect the most vulnerable children and victims.

I look forward to building on these achievements and working with the public and partners in 2015/2016 to keep us all Safer in Sussex.

**Katy Bourne** Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner



## 2. Progress made against the Police & Crime Plan objectives



### 2a Crime & Community Safety

- *Keeping Sussex a low crime area;*
- *Commissioning new and lasting initiatives to reduce re-offending;*
- *Taking account of community priorities and their contributing factors [such as alcohol and drugs].*

The Commissioner's 2014/2015 precept increase was invested in front-line policing, safeguarding and cyber crime. Outcomes and successes included:

**Frontline Policing** – From 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, 154 Police Officers were recruited to maintain current levels of establishment. 40 Police Community Support Officers were also recruited to maintain current levels of establishment and 174 Special Constables were recruited as part of a campaign to increase the number serving in Sussex to 400.

**Safeguarding** – Sussex Police and Surrey Police developed improved safeguarding capabilities to deal with domestic abuse, sexual violence and child sexual exploitation.

**Cyber Crime** – A three-year plan was developed including the introduction of a joint Cyber Crime Unit for Sussex Police and Surrey Police, enhanced cyber crime training for front-line staff and membership of the National Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership.

**Community Remedy and Community Trigger** – The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced two new measures to tackle anti-social behaviour: the Community Remedy and the Community Trigger. The Commissioner played a key role in convening agencies to build these measures locally, and in designing what they included.

**Safer in Sussex Community Fund** – The Commissioner allocated £264,145 from the Safer in Sussex Community Fund (SiSCF) to support 53 local projects which tackle crime and improve community safety. In total, £549,644 has been allocated to support 115 projects since the SiSCF was created. The way this funding is made available will change in 2015/2016 to consist of two separate funds; Community Safety Fund and Victims' Services Fund.



**Improved Information Sharing** – The Commissioner entered into a shared funding arrangement with Sussex Police, for a 24 month period, to provide 50% of the funding for Empowering-Communities Inclusion & Neighbourhood management System (ECINS) on behalf of all local authority areas across Sussex. ECINS facilitates real-time information sharing between signed up partners and has now been adopted across all local authority areas in Sussex and embedded into Sussex Police processes.

**Business Crime** – The Commissioner worked with Sussex Police to develop a Business Crime Strategy which provides a commitment to working with businesses in Sussex to improve confidence, prevent crime and reduce the harm caused to businesses by crime. This strategy strengthens existing local efforts, including the adoption of the new national definition of business crime to improve the accuracy of crime recording. Business crime is now recorded for the first time in Sussex, which will provide the police with an accurate knowledge of the volume of business crime in the county and will enable them to target resources where they are most needed.







## 2b Victim Focus

- *Build trust in the police and the criminal justice system;*
- *Remove proceeds of crime from criminals and reinvest that money in our communities;*
- *Encourage the development of volunteering to make us Safer in Sussex.*

**Domestic Abuse** – The Commissioner has continued to serve on the National Oversight Group for Domestic Abuse, following her appointment by the Home Secretary, to inform, advise and set the direction for national policy.

**Victims' Services** – The Commissioner, in partnership with the Police & Crime Commissioners for Surrey and Thames Valley, developed a framework for victim assessment, referral and non-specialist support services. Victim Support was appointed as the contractor to deliver an enhanced, outcome focussed service.

**Specialist Victims' Services** – The Commissioner invested over £278,333 into the provision of specialist victims' services across Sussex. This funding was specifically aimed at supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and was invested in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council.

**Child Victims** – The Commissioner was also successful in securing £250,000 of additional funding from the Ministry of Justice to provide direct help and to support child victims of domestic abuse and serious sexual assault. This extra funding was used to support the continuation of Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisor and Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisor services.

**Restorative Justice** – A Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) was established and will be managed by the Commissioner through the governance of the Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB). The SRJP follows national best practice and brings together twenty statutory and voluntary sector organisations with a joint commitment "to create and offer a complete victim focussed restorative justice service at different stages in the criminal justice system for all victims of crime".

**Growing the Voluntary Market** – The Commissioner established and launched a competed fund to assist the activities of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in supporting all victims of crime across Sussex.

**Child Sexual Exploitation** – The Commissioner put funding in place for a new post within Sussex Police to help in the fight against Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This new role-holder will be working directly with partners to build a 'rich picture' of intelligence from the police, education, health and social care, to help safeguard vulnerable children.





## 2c Public Confidence

- *Improve the experience that victims and witnesses have of the criminal justice system;*
- *Enhance, develop and commission initiatives to bring justice for victims;*
- *Effective policing, responsive to the needs of victims and the vulnerable.*

**Sussex Youth Commission** – The Sussex Youth Commission (SYC) presented their final report from the “Big Conversation” to the Commissioner in 2014/2015. The report gathered the views of over 2,000 young people across the county on five priority issues including abuse, drug and alcohol crime, bullying, offending and reoffending and the relationship between young people and the police. The conclusions were used to inform, challenge and support the priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan, and shape future youth engagement in Sussex.

**Sussex Elders’ Commission** – The Commissioner will create a Sussex Elders’ Commission (SEC) in 2015/2016 to give older people the same opportunity to have a voice on policing and crime. The SEC members will contribute to their own “Big Conversation” through families, friends and peers.

**Sussex Young Witness Service** – The Commissioner granted £43,000 of funding to the Sussex Young Witness Service in 2014/2015 to help extend and maintain this organisation. The Sussex Young Witness Service specialises in providing one-to-one support for those who are brave enough to come forward. The funding will also enable the service to become more integrated with other children’s services.

**Youth Independent Advisory Group** – In September 2014, the Chief Constable welcomed the challenge from the SYC to implement their recommendations and tasked a team of police officers to work with a Youth Independent Advisory Group (IAG) drawn from SYC members. This was a first for Sussex Police. As part of this process IAG members have contributed to improvements to stop and search procedures, policing of the night-time economy and youth perceptions of the police.



**Community Conversations** – The Commissioner led a series of “Community Conversations” across the county with the Chief Constable and Divisional Commanders. This was part of the #TalkSussex programme of public engagement events, to provide residents with the opportunity to inform local policing and budget decisions and to discuss any issues or concerns directly. A number of short films tracking the Commissioner’s progress and highlighting local initiatives are also available to view on the “PCC TV” channel.

**Performance & Accountability Meetings** – The Commissioner continued to use monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police. As a result of these PAMs, improvements were made to 101 non-emergency call handling and burglary dwelling performance across 2014/2015. The Sussex Police response to domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation was also developed further following challenge at these meetings. The PAMs have been recognised as best practice nationally by both the Home Secretary and the Minister for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims.







## 2d Value for Money

- *Improve efficiency across the criminal justice system;*
- *Further collaboration & partnership working;*
- *Effective and innovative commissioning of services and procurement of assets.*

### **Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner** –

The office remains one of the most cost-efficient Police & Crime Commissioners' offices in England and Wales, according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's "Value for Money Profile", costing just 66p per household per annum compared to the national average £1.02 per annum.

**Policing Together with Surrey** – The Commissioner has worked closely with the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner to oversee the "Policing Together" programme between both police force areas. Further savings of £268,000 were achieved across 2014/2015, which has added to the £3.075m of savings realised since 2011/2012.

**Estates Investment** – The Commissioner oversaw progress against the Estates Strategy in 2014/2015, including the sale of the former police house in Horsham (£351,000), Eastbourne Police Station (£1.090m) and Worthing Police Station (£3.023m). In total, cash receipts worth £4.465m were recognised across the year. These receipts have been utilised as part of the £20m capital investment programme to refurbish the Communications Building at Sussex Police Headquarters in Lewes and Hammonds Drive Divisional Command in Eastbourne. Further improvements and repairs to the John Street (Brighton), Crawley, Hastings, Bognor, Haywards Heath and Chichester Police Stations will be carried out in 2015/2016.

**Blue Light Emergency Services** – The Commissioner remains supportive of the Blue Light Emergency Service programme to explore further opportunities to share services with partners in order to make the most effective use of available and anticipated resources.



**Police Innovation Fund** – Sussex Police was successful in two bids to the Home Office’s Police Innovation Fund. Funding worth £2.348m was received in 2014/2015 to deliver Mobile Policing and Minerva projects. One of the most tangible and beneficial outcomes so far has been the issuing of over 600 smartphone devices as part of the Mobile Policing project to enhance the operational capability of police officers and staff to receive, retrieve, update and process information and intelligence without the constraint of physical location.

Additional funding worth £2.078m from the Police Innovation Fund has been confirmed in 2015/2016 for the following four projects: Minerva, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Retail Crime Partnership and Video Enabled Justice. In her role as Chair of the SCJB, the Commissioner led on the bid to obtain funding of £1.1m over two years to transform the criminal justice system in Sussex.

**PFI Contract Renegotiation** – The Commissioner carried out a Value for Money review of the Custody Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract which resulted in ongoing revenue saving of £1m per year.





### 3. Progress made against the Police & Crime Plan measures

The progress made against the measures set out in the Police & Crime Plan across the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 is summarised below:

| 2014/2015 Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2013/2014 Performance                                       | 2014/2015 Performance                                       | % Difference                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Crime &amp; Community Safety</b><br>Reduce the recorded crimes per 1,000 population                                                                                                                                                       | 51.410                                                      | 54.894                                                      | + 7%                                                  |
| <b>Victim Focus</b><br>Support improvements to victim satisfaction in their overall experience of the criminal justice system                                                                                                                | 82.2%                                                       | 80.4%                                                       | - 2%                                                  |
| <b>Public Confidence</b><br>Increase the reporting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• domestic abuse;</li> <li>• serious sexual offences;</li> <li>• anti-social behaviour; and</li> <li>• hate crimes</li> </ul>                  | <b>Recorded crimes</b><br>6,678<br>1,421<br>17,966<br>1,021 | <b>Recorded crimes</b><br>9,152<br>1,953<br>20,980<br>1,355 | <b>% Increase</b><br>+ 37%<br>+ 37%<br>+ 17%<br>+ 33% |
| <b>Value for Money</b><br>Working with Sussex Police and partners to meet the financial challenges ahead whilst delivering Crime & Community Safety, Victim Focus and Public Confidence objectives and identifying opportunities to improve. | £12.381m<br>against<br>£9.6m                                | £13.340m<br>against<br>£10.968m                             | +22%                                                  |



*The performance headlines for 2014/2015 can be summarised as follows:*



Crime & Community Safety

Recorded crimes per 1,000 population increased by 7% across 2014/2015, in comparison to 2013/2014. This increase was in line with national trends and the additional recorded crimes can be attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending. Sussex remains a low crime area and has seen a 55% reduction in recorded crime since 2004/2005.



Public Confidence

The Commissioner sought to increase the reporting of domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes, to enable better identification of vulnerable victims in Sussex. Increases in the recorded number of crimes were welcomed for domestic abuse [+2,474 and +37%], serious sexual offences [+532 and +37%], anti-social behaviour [+3,014 and +17%] and hate crimes [+334 and +33%] across the Performance Plan Year, in comparison to the same period a year earlier.



Victim Focus

Satisfaction in the overall experience of the criminal justice system reduced by 2% across 2014/2015 to 80.4% against a baseline of 83%. This is currently being addressed through ongoing work with the SCJB and the Video Enabled Justice programme. In addition, user satisfaction with treatment received from Sussex Police was 93% across the same period.



Value for Money

An additional £2.372m of savings from the police budget were identified against the measure of £10.968m. In total, £13.340m of savings were found in 2014/2015.



## 4. Summary of Financial Performance 2014/2015

\* Includes police supplies and services, community safety funding and victims' services

The figures shown in the table are as per the Statement of Accounts 2014/2015. They include all office costs and services commissioned by the Police & Crime Commissioner, and the cost of all activities carried out by Sussex Police.

The 2014/15 net annual underspend of £7.2m equates to 2.8% of the approved net revenue budget of £255.4m, demonstrating effective financial management.

For further information about the summary finances reported above, please visit the PCC website ([www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk)) for a copy of the full Statement of Accounts.

| Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Direct Operating Costs                   |                                           | Cost           | Total Cost      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Direct Operating and Commissioning Costs | Democratic representation                 | 0.1m           |                 |
|                                                                             | Commissioning costs                       | 3.0m           |                 |
|                                                                             | Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner | 1.3m           |                 |
|                                                                             | <i>less Government Grant funding</i>      | <i>(1.4m)</i>  | <b>3.0m</b>     |
| Policing services provided by Sussex Police                                 | Police Officers                           | 145.9m         |                 |
|                                                                             | Police Staff                              | 63.2m          |                 |
|                                                                             | PCSOs                                     | 9.9m           |                 |
|                                                                             | Buildings and Transport                   | 16.0m          |                 |
|                                                                             | IT and Mobile Technology                  | 10.5m          |                 |
|                                                                             | Other spend*                              | 31.8m          |                 |
|                                                                             | <i>less Sussex Police income</i>          | <i>(32.7m)</i> | <b>244.6m</b>   |
| Capital Financing                                                           | Capital financing costs                   | 2.5m           |                 |
|                                                                             | Less interest income on balances          | <i>(0.6m)</i>  | <b>1.9m</b>     |
| <b>Planned transfers to/(from) reserves</b>                                 |                                           |                | <b>(1.3m)</b>   |
| <b>Total Cost of Services</b>                                               |                                           |                | <b>248.2m</b>   |
| Funded by                                                                   | Funding from Government                   | (174.0m)       |                 |
|                                                                             | Council Tax                               | (81.4m)        |                 |
|                                                                             | <b>Total funding</b>                      |                | <b>(255.4m)</b> |
| <b>Net revenue underspend</b>                                               |                                           |                | <b>(7.2m)</b>   |







## 5. Emerging priorities 2015/2016

*The Commissioner has identified the following emerging priorities for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016:*

### **Implementation of the Local Policing Model**

The Commissioner is supportive of the new Local Policing Model proposed by the Chief Constable. The model will ensure that the provision of local policing services in Sussex is fit for the 21st century. The Commissioner's challenge to the Chief Constable has been that the new model must maintain public confidence and reassurance whilst delivering an efficient and effective police service, within reduced budgets. The Commissioner will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for the successful delivery of the model on behalf of local people.

### **Police Innovation Fund**

The Commissioner will oversee the delivery of the four projects: Minerva, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Retail Crime Partnership and Video Enabled Justice; supported through additional funding worth £2.078m from the Police Innovation Fund.

### **Further collaboration**

The Commissioner will be seeking further opportunities for innovative commissioning of services and collaboration where it is in the best interests of Sussex residents.

### **Policing and Criminal Justice Bill**

The Queen's Speech, presented on 27 May 2015, set out a new Policing and Criminal Justice Bill. The Bill contained a number of proposals relating to the remit and activities of Police & Crime Commissioners, including a stronger role in the police complaints system, closer working with the Health Service relating to the detention of people under sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and reform in the criminal justice system.

The Commissioner will monitor the impact of these proposals as the Bill and subsequent changes are implemented.





**Sussex  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner**

## Have Your Say

By sharing your views, you can help make sure that I stay connected with the people and communities I serve and that I understand your priorities.

**Please visit my website and sign up to my email newsletter: [www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk)**

**Or you can contact the office on:**



01273 481561



[spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk)



[@sussexpcc](https://twitter.com/sussexpcc)



[www.facebook.com/SussexPCC](https://www.facebook.com/SussexPCC)

## Get in touch

**The Office of the  
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner**

Sackville House

Brooks Close

Lewes

East Sussex BN7 2FZ

**Tel:** 01273 481561

**Email:** [spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk)

**[www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk)**

