



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

**2013/2014
Annual Report**

Introduction the Annual Report 2013/2014



Welcome to my Annual Report 2013/2014. The report sets out what I have achieved as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Over the last year, I have listened extensively to concerns and priorities of the public of Sussex and will continue to do so. I have really enjoyed meeting local residents, community groups and organisations across Sussex to gain a better understanding of the issues impacting upon lives and how things might be improved. This two-way dialogue ensures that I am more aware of these concerns and can respond accordingly.

I am pleased to confirm that crime has fallen throughout my first year of office and for the eighth successive year in Sussex. Credit must again be given to Sussex Police and partners for their determination and hard work to improve performance in a time of austerity. My ambitions to continue driving down crime and for Sussex to remain a safe place in which to live remain unchanged.

I have been demonstrating one of my statutory functions of holding the Chief Constable of Sussex Police to account on behalf of the public in monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) which are webcast live. The PAMs provide me with an opportunity to question the Chief Constable, in an open and transparent way, about the performance of Sussex Police against the priorities and objectives set out in the Police & Crime Plan.

Further achievements include: additional recruitment, creating a 29-member Youth Commission, unveiling a 5-year estates strategy for Sussex Police, agreeing a joint collaborative vision with Surrey Police and becoming the first police force in England and Wales to gain White Ribbon Award status in recognition of a commitment to reducing domestic abuse & violence against women.

I have sought to make additional investment in areas that pose the greatest risk to the residents of Sussex and have increased the policing precept by 1.95% for 2014/2015 with the support of the Police & Crime Panel. This investment will be used to strengthen and enhance the capacity of Sussex Police in the fight against cyber crime, to tackle serious sexual offences and child exploitation and to increase the visibility of front-line policing.

I look forward to building on last year's achievements and working with partners in 2014/2015 to keep us all Safer in Sussex.

Key Decisions from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

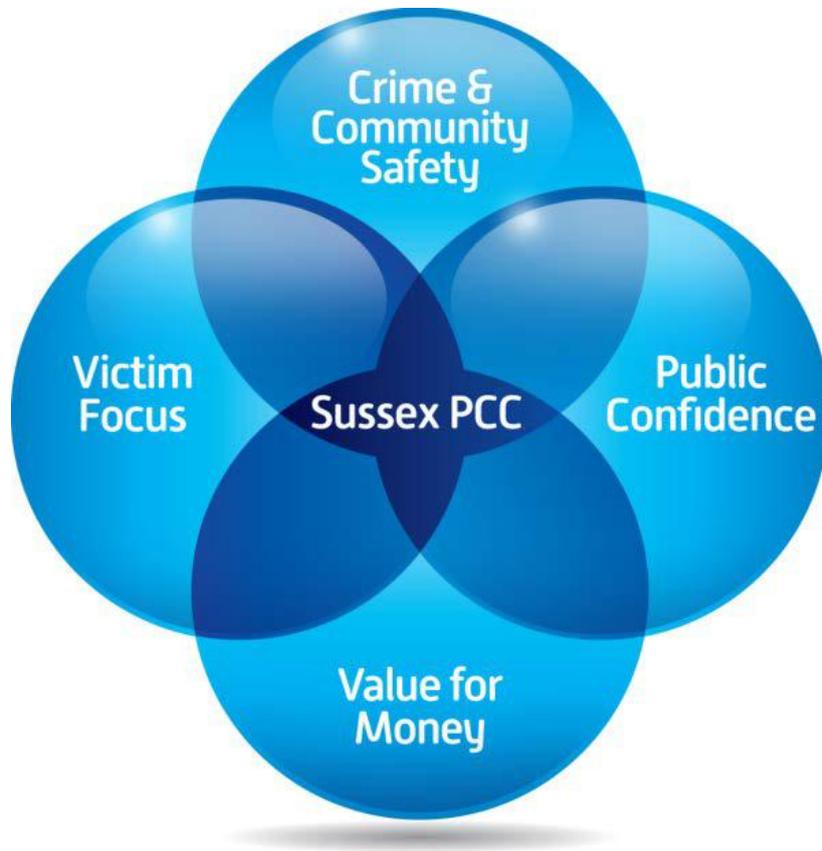
The Commissioner made the following key decisions during the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Full details of all decisions can be found on the Commissioner's website using the following link: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/pcc-decisions/

- Approved a revenue budget of £255.365m for 2014/2015, of which £251.003m is delegated to the Chief Constable to fund his Operational Delivery Plan. The balance of £4.362m is held by the Commissioner to fund the office budget and to commission other services. The Commissioner's office budget has remained consistent with 2013/2014 at £1.184m. The balance is for the commissioning of community safety, victim support and restorative justice services.
- Allocated funding to increase police visibility and opened recruitment processes to ensure that 120 Police Officers, 30 PCSOs, 160 Special Constables and 32 civilian investigators are in post before the end of the financial year 2014/2015.
- Maintained the funding to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in 2014/2015 at the same level as 2012/2013 (£1.225m). This means that, in addition to the protection of the 25% reduction made by the Home Office in 2013/2014, CSP funding in Sussex will be further protected for a second consecutive year from the 4.8% reduction in 2014/2015.
- Proposed a precept increase for 2014/2015 of 1.95%, in line with Council Tax Referendum Limits. This has added £2.70 per year per household for a Band D property in Sussex, in order to fund investment in reducing serious sexual offending and tackling child exploitation, strengthening the fight against cyber crime and increasing the visibility of front-line policing. The precept was supported and confirmed by the Police & Crime Panel in January 2014.
- Approved the Financial Outturn Report, Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for 2012/2013.
- Approved the Estates Strategy for 2013/2018. This is a £20m investment programme for police buildings to improve the accessibility and visibility of neighbourhood policing, looking at how services can be delivered more efficiently and effectively.
- Engaged the SHM Foundation to set up a Youth Commission pilot in Sussex with the aim of creating an effective system for consultation between young people and the Commissioner.
- Approved the Stage 2 Scheme of Transfer for Sussex setting out the arrangements for all police staff to transfer to the employment of the Chief Constable, with the exception of those currently working in the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.
- Launched the Safer in Sussex Community Fund and allocated funding to provide financial assistance to local projects in Sussex that tackle crime and improve community safety.

- Agreed to extend the appointments of the three independent misconduct panel members until May 2016.
- Appointed a Treasury Management Advisor for a three year period which commenced on 1 January 2014. Agreed the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2014/2015.
- Recommended that Sussex joins the South East Police Shared Network Services Agreement which provides Surrey Police, Hampshire Police and Thames Valley Police with a secure regional Public Services Network. The agreement will enable more connected policing and better collaboration between the forces through improved information sharing across a trusted data network throughout the south east region.

Police & Crime Plan 2014/2017

The Commissioner refreshed the Police & Crime Plan on 2 April 2014. The four priority areas that the Plan is structure around remain unchanged:



The measures and objectives within each of these areas have been updated to ensure that they continue to accurately reflect the expectations of the public.

The changes to the Plan reflected the recommendations made by the Police & Crime Panel Working Group.

Crime & Community Safety

The Commissioner is committed to:

- ***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)***
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- ✓ The Commissioner joined Sussex Police in launching Operation Magpie, an initiative formed to tackle burglary across Sussex, by denying the use of roads to burglars and tackling those handling and selling stolen goods. This has included the recent trial to voluntarily tag previous offenders.
 - ✓ The Commissioner worked with the upper-tier authorities to develop a PAN Sussex performance framework to monitor the ability of Community Safety Partnerships to reduce crime and improve community safety against consistent criteria.
 - ✓ The Commissioner launched the Safer in Sussex Community Fund which provides financial support to local projects that tackle crime and improve community safety and set aside £200,000 for 2013/2014.
 - ✓ The Commissioner conducted an extensive round of public engagement throughout Sussex and has developed a new public engagement strategy, #TalkSussex, which will be launched in July 2014. Correspondence to the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner continues to increase.
 - ✓ Recorded crimes per 1,000 population reduced by 7% across 2013/2014, in comparison to 2012/2013.

Public Confidence

The Commissioner is committed to:

- ***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***
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- ✓ As part of the Commissioner's pledge to increase police visibility, further recruitment processes were opened to ensure that 120 Police Officers, 30 PCSOs, 160 Special Constables and 32 civilian investigators are in post before the end of the financial year 2014/2015.
 - ✓ The Commissioner created a Youth Commission to engage with, talk to and gather the views of young people from across the county. Their findings and conclusions are to be presented to the Commissioner with the aim of informing, supporting and challenging the priorities set out in the Plan.

- ✓ The Commissioner has established monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) with the Chief Constable which are webcast live. These PAMs were recognised by the Home Affairs Select Committee as national good practice.
- ✓ 2% increase in the reporting of domestic abuse & violence crimes, 15% increase in the number of serious sexual offences reported and a 32% increase in recorded number of hate crimes across 2013/2014, in comparison to 2012/2013. Sussex Police was one of only three forces in England and Wales to increase the reporting of hate crimes across all five strands.

Victim Focus

The Commissioner is committed to:

- ***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***
- ✓ The Commissioner contributed towards Sussex Police becoming the first police force in England and Wales to gain White Ribbon Award status in recognition of their commitment to White Ribbon Campaign, a global campaign to ensure men take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women.
 - ✓ The Commissioner has led a partnership with Surrey Police and Thames Valley Police to commission a victim's assessment referral and first-tier response model. This will be live in April 2015.
 - ✓ The Commissioner took chairmanship of the Sussex Criminal Justice Board. This ensures that a coordinated and joined up approach exists between all partners in the criminal justice system and contributes towards improving the wider engagement between the membership
 - ✓ Satisfaction in the overall experience of the criminal justice system for 2013/2014 was 82%.

Value for Money

The Commissioner is committed to:

- ***Improve efficiency across the criminal justice system;***
 - ***Further collaboration & partnership working;***
 - ***Effective and innovative commissioning of services and procurement of assets***
- ✓ The Commissioner approved the Estates Strategy for 2013/2018. This is a £20m investment programme in police buildings to improve the accessibility and visibility of neighbourhood policing, looking at how services can be delivered more efficiently and effectively.

- ✓ The Commissioner proposed a precept increase for 2014/15 of 1.95 which was supported and confirmed by the Police & Crime Panel in January 2014. This will fund future investment in areas such as reducing serious sexual offending and tackling child exploitation, strengthening the fight against cyber crime and increasing the visibility of frontline policing.
- ✓ The Commissioner has implemented a review of the organisational structure within the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure that it is fit for purpose in terms of supporting the Commissioner in delivering the priorities, objectives and measures set out in the Police & Crime Plan and discharging responsibilities under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The new structure will be implemented in July 2014. Further savings of £66,000 have also been realised from the office budget in 2013/2014.
- ✓ The Sussex OPCC is the most cost-effective Police & Crime Commissioners office in the UK according to the HMIC's Value for Money Profile, costing just 66p per household per annum compared to the national average £1.27.
- ✓ An additional £2.781m of savings were identified against the measure of £9.6m. In total, £12.381m of savings were found in 2013/2014.

Sussex & Surrey Collaboration

Sussex Police and Surrey Police have collaborated in a number of areas since 2010.



Both forces already successfully collaborate on Major Crime, Forensics, Firearms, Fleet, Procurement and Insurance.

In October 2013, the Commissioner and Chief Constable agreed a joint collaborative vision with the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of Surrey Police for how the two forces will work together. The vision commits to a future of:

“Surrey and Sussex Police working as one, operationally and organisationally, to enhance and improve services for the public whilst reducing costs and responding to local needs”.

In addition to the vision, joint commands for Operations and Specialist Crime were also formed and collaborative change programmes implemented.

The Operations Command includes the following service areas; Tactical Firearms Unit, Gatwick Operations, Dog Unit, Specialist Search Unit, Public Order, Road Policing Unit and Emergency and Operations Planning.

The concept of Operations Command was tested and proven during the Surrey floods earlier in 2014. A joint response provided consistency and resilience in command, together with the ability to flex operational resources at times of need in support of the public.

The operating model for Specialist Crime Command focusses on the following service areas; Specialist Reactive Investigation, Specialist Proactive Investigation, Public Protection, Forensic Investigations, Intelligence and Tasking, Criminal Justice and Custody and Crime Support.

Considerable progress has been made in relation to both change programmes and the services being delivered across Sussex and Surrey. Both programmes are well placed to meet savings whilst maintaining service delivery in support of both forces and the public.

Consultative services have also been used by both forces to develop how support services (Human Resources, Finance and Information Technology) should be delivered in the future and support the delivery of operational policing options.

With budget reductions facing both forces this approach will help to protect and even enhance front-line policing by reducing duplication, rationalising processes and streamlining management and support services. As a result the public of Sussex and Surrey, wherever they live, will receive the best possible service from the police.

The Commissioner will continue to work closely with the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner to oversee collaborative work to ensure an effective service to the public. The Commissioner will be seeking opportunities in 2014/2015 to commission in an innovative way and collaborate where it is in the best interest of Sussex residents to do so.

This will involve further collaborative work with Surrey Police and other partners within the police service but also with partners from other sectors in Sussex and beyond, including the further exploration of shared premises with partners and seeking the most effective use of the limited resources available to us all.

Emergency Services Collaboration Partnership

Sussex Police and Surrey Police are also working in partnership with the other Blue Light Emergency Services to improve the service provided to the public, reduce costs and increase resilience, reduce overlap in service provision and to increase the ability to align resources to meet demand.

The key areas of collaboration include:

- ✓ joint contact, control and dispatch function
- ✓ joint operational response and tasking
- ✓ joint operational support
- ✓ joint prevention programme

Estates Strategy

The Estates Strategy for 2013/2018 sets out the £20m investment programme for police buildings to improve the accessibility and visibility of neighbourhood policing.

The Commissioner is committed to making the best use of resources and ensuring that buildings maximise the use of technology and are easily accessible for the public. This may include investment in certain parts of the estate to ensure that the needs of the public are fulfilled. It is about putting policing back at the heart of the community.

Sussex Police have already delivered significant change which supports the estates strategy and achieves both revenue savings and capital receipts. This has included the implementation of Community Hubs in Crawley and Barnham, the Public Contact Point at Hove Town Hall, together with the sale of Hove Police Station, Hickstead, Hurstpierpoint and Southbourne units. The sites at Slaugham Manor and Grove Road, Eastbourne are also both in the process of being sold.

More recently the Sussex Police has moved the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and Public Contact Point out of Grove Road Police Station in Eastbourne into 1a Grove Road, alongside Eastbourne Borough Council.

Sussex Police are also in the process of redeveloping the Hammonds Drive Operational Policing Base in Eastbourne. The work will be completed in July and includes an extensive site refurbishment. This will also be the first operational site to incorporate Future Workplace principles.

Other initiatives set out in the Estates Strategy include:

- ✓ working with Chichester District Council to explore whether a dedicated police facility and shared Public Contact Point could be included within the new Midhurst Community Leisure Centre and Library Development;
- ✓ refurbishing Portslade Town Hall, to include the local NPT (similar to the Community Hubs in Crawley and Barnham);
- ✓ submitting a planning request for Peacehaven Police Station to develop the site, whilst retaining space for the local NPT. Sussex Police is also exploring the potential opportunities to make use of space within the town council too.
- ✓ delivering a range of public services to residents in the Newhaven area through the provision of an integrated new-build community facility in partnership with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Lewes District Council
- ✓ completing more detailed plans for refurbishing Sussex Police Headquarters in Lewes and John Street, Brighton Police Station. Both refurbishments will provide better working environments, together with increasing capacities, and will enable Sussex Police to exit Sussex House, Hollingbury.

Sussex Police anticipate further future sharing of premises with partners to deliver better customer service. This also builds on the achievements already realised at both the Hove and Eastbourne Public Contact Points. Sussex Police will also attempt to make more efficient use of buildings, reducing cellular offices and providing the appropriate technology to allow individuals to carry out their roles effectively.

All of this work will be completed alongside changing the existing culture and established working practices.

Safer in Sussex Community Fund

The Safer in Sussex Community Fund provides financial support to local projects that tackle crime and improve community safety.

These are grants awarded which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Sussex. Grants were also awarded using money recovered from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

A total of 94 applications were received from areas across Sussex ahead of the first quarterly deadline of 31 March 2014.

Each application was assessed against the Fund criteria and the ability of the project to actively address the priorities and objectives set out in the Commissioner's Police & Crime Plan.

Views were also gathered from the Community Safety Partnerships during the assessment process to identify any areas of strong support, concern or duplication that potentially existed.

A total of 62 of the applications were approved in the first quarter with funds allocated totalling £281,999. This included 40 applications through the Safer in Sussex Community Fund totalling £196,486 and 22 applications through the Proceeds of Crime Act funding totalling £89,013.

In addition, 7 applications from road safety initiatives (including Community Speed Watch schemes) were received totalling £24,090. However, instead of approving each of these applications individually, the Commissioner has transferred this money directly to the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership for them to disseminate according to priority and need and monitor progress.

A breakdown of each of the successful projects and the grant amounts awarded can be viewed on the Commissioner's website using the following link:
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/safer-in-sussex-community-fund/

The next deadline for applications is Monday 30 June 2014.



Policing Precept

The Commissioner consulted with Sussex taxpayers regarding a potential increase to the precept for 2014/2015. The majority (67%) of the respondents supported a precept increase of 3.6% in order to fund future investment in areas such as reducing serious sexual offending and tackling child exploitation, strengthening the fight against cyber crime and increasing the visibility of front-line policing. This was supported and confirmed by the Police & Crime Panel in January 2014.

However, following the government announcement about Council Tax Referendum Limits, the Commissioner had to revise the precept increase for 2014/2015 to 1.95%. This has added £2.70 per year per household for a Band D property in Sussex.



The timescales for the delivery of the above investments were re-evaluated by the Commissioner following the reduced investment that has been generated from a lower precept increase and the investment should be maintained over a longer period of time.

In particular, the commitment to increase the numbers of front-line policing will be achieved by implementing mobile capabilities which will free-up more police officer time.

The safe guarding funding is an area that Sussex Police will phase delivery of over three years and further consideration will be made regarding the potential to use existing savings from reserves.

The investment to strengthen the capacity of Sussex Police to tackle cyber crime will be achieved by sharing resources with Surrey Police.

Conclusion

The Commissioner has used 2013/2014 to develop the foundations and work started in 2012/2013. The Commissioner will look to build further on last year's achievements in 2014/2015.

This will include the following, some of which is already work in progress:

- Taking responsibility for the commissioning and delivery of victims' services to ensure that the best services are commissioned for victims, witnesses and their families across Sussex and Surrey. From 2014/2015 the Commissioner will receive the central government funding for all victim services to locally commission services.
- Implementing a new organisational structure within the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to ensure that it is fit for purpose in terms of supporting the Commissioner in delivering the priorities, objectives and measures set out in the Police & Crime Plan and discharging responsibilities under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- Working with the Sussex Criminal Justice Board to deliver new restorative justice services across Sussex to better support victims and contribute towards reduced reoffending.

Recommended – that the Police & Crime Panel note and comment on the content of the report.

Appendix – Financial Outturn Report for the year ended 31 March 2014