

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 15 January 2016

**LOCATION:** Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Sackville House, Lewes

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne (KB)  
Chief Executive Mark Streater (MS)  
Chief Constable Giles York (GY)  
Assistant Chief Constable Steve Barry (SB)  
Performance & Information Manager Graham Kane – minutes  
Correspondence & Administration Officer Micha Dawes

## **OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES**

**A. What have been the recent operational challenges for Sussex Police?**

**B. How have you reflected on these?**

GY confirmed that there had not been any significant challenges for Sussex Police over the Christmas and New Year period, which was in contrast to previous years.

On 22 December 2015, Mr Ilir Hasa and Mr Saimir Nezaj, both 24, were found guilty of conspiracy to kidnap in Brighton following a week long trial at Lewes Crown Court. Mr Nezaj was also found guilty of threatening or intimidating a witness. Both men were remanded in custody to be sentenced at a date to be set by the court.

On 8 January 2016, 10 people pleaded to, or were found guilty of, a variety of fraud and money laundering offences as part of Operation Knock following an investigation by the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit. The network of organised criminals committed fraud offences in excess of £310,000 which involved a total of 34 victims. The men were sentenced to over 18 years collectively at Lewes Crown Court.

On 9 January, two male officers needed hospital treatment after being injured while arresting a man who was causing a disturbance at The George Hotel, Hailsham. Both officers were taken to hospital and treated for facial injuries. A 20-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and assault and bailed until January 24 while investigations continue.

**OPERATION DRAGONFLY – CHRISTMAS DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGN 2015 – RESULTS**

**As discussed at last month's PAM, "Operation Dragonfly", the dedicated Sussex Police drink and drug drive campaign in the lead up to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, took place in December 2015.**

**A. Can you provide me with the total number of drivers who were breathalysed or tested for substances and subsequently arrested for drink or drug driving offences?**

**B. How have you reflected on this latest campaign?**

**C. What other initiatives does the Force have planned to tackle drink and drug driving throughout the rest of the calendar year?**

SB confirmed that between 1 December and 31 December 2015 Sussex Police stopped 5,356 motorists, of which, 177 of these individuals were arrested and 92 were charged with drink-driving. It was explained that these figures represented a slight increase from last year and the disappointment that people continue to drink-drive was expressed as a concern to KB.

In addition, 74 individuals were tested for substances using the drug-wipe test, of which 39 people provided a positive reading and were arrested for drug-driving. This equated to a failure rate of 53% and confirmed that officers are targeting the right people. KB was informed that the drug-wipe tests are able to identify the majority of illegal substances, including cocaine, ecstasy, ketamine and cannabis.

All Road Policing Unit, Automatic Number Plate Recognition and local Neighbourhood Policing Team vehicles carry breath-test kits and have access to drug-wipe tests, if required. KB was reassured to note that individuals can still be arrested for the offence of "driving whilst unfit" even if they have not failed a breath or drug-wipe test.

It was also emphasised that whilst Operation Dragonfly focusses specifically on drink and drug driving in the lead up to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, proactive campaigns and activities are run throughout the calendar year by Sussex Police.

In particular, a dedicated drug-drive campaign will take place in Sussex in the spring to mark the anniversary of when the offence was introduced in March 2015. Sussex Police has been given a £20,000 grant from the Department for Transport to purchase additional drug-wipe tests to assist them in this work. Another dedicated drink-drive campaign will take place across the summer to coincide with the UEFA Euro 2016 football tournament in France.

Sussex Police align their programme with the events in the National Police Chief's Council calendar. The Force lead on the enforcement element of these campaigns and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership lead on the educational element and in terms of coordinating the communications messages around this.

**ACTION: KB requested to know how many individuals tested positive for 'legal highs' when they were stopped by Sussex Police as part of Operation Dragonfly.**

## **BURGLARY DWELLING AND BURGLARY OTHER THAN A DWELLING**

**I am pleased to note that Sussex Police demonstrated a 9% reduction in the number of recorded burglary dwelling crimes across 2015 (1 January to 31 December 2015), in comparison to 2014. However, the percentage of these crimes solved has also reduced by 10%.**

**A. Can you provide me with an update regarding Force performance in this area?**

GY confirmed that Sussex Police demonstrated an 11% reduction in the number of recorded burglary crimes across 2015, in comparison to 2014. This equated to 290 (and 9%) fewer recorded burglary dwelling crimes and 640 (and 13%) fewer recorded burglary other than a dwelling (OTD) crimes across the year.

The risk of experiencing a burglary in Sussex continues to remain low. The Force is positioned 7 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales in terms of the risk per 1,000 population for burglary dwelling and 4 out of 43 for burglary OTD. Sussex Police is also top of their Most Similar Group (MSG) of eight police forces for risk of crime across both of these crime types.

GY reiterated that prevention in Sussex is working through Operation Magpie which is the Force's coordinated response to burglary offenders. Neighbourhood Watch continue to remain a key partner in this preventative work by disseminating information and intelligence from Sussex Police to their members through an extensive communications network. Reducing reoffending by working with offenders through restorative justice conferences and targeted drug intervention services was also highlighted.

KB challenged GY regarding the 10% reduction in the number of burglary crimes solved across 2015. It was acknowledged that this reduction was in line with national trends and confirmed that the solved rate in Sussex remains above the average at 15.68%. The Force is positioned 10 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales (and top of their MSG) in terms of the solved rate for burglary dwelling and 22 out of 43 for burglary OTD.

The process of investigating burglary crimes was also explained to KB, with particular emphasis placed on the length of time it can take in terms of assessing a scene, identifying any missing property, extracting the forensic evidence required and testing this to prove the crime beyond all reasonable doubt. Even after this investigative process has been completed the suspect then needs to be found, arrested and charged.

## **OPERATION RIBBON – UPDATE**

**“Operation Ribbon”, the dedicated Sussex Police response to reports of domestic abuse over the Christmas and New Year period, was highlighted at last month’s PAM. I was also pleased to be able to provide additional investment to ensure that nearly all officers responding to emergency calls in Sussex will now be wearing body worn video.**

**A. How effective was this Operation?**

**B. How will the learning from the campaign be used to inform the Force’s response to domestic abuse now that the festive period has concluded?**

**C. What impact do you expect the widespread roll-out of these body worn video devices to have on protecting our communities and bringing offenders to justice?**

GY reiterated that the purpose of the Operation Ribbon awareness campaign was to encourage both women and men to report incidents of domestic abuse at a time of the year when the number of these reports has historically peaked.

It was explained that Mr Dave Oakley, Project Manager for Operation Ribbon, is currently in the process of preparing a formal report which will summarise and evaluate the effectiveness of the Operation. This is expected to be completed by 22 January 2016 and KB has already requested a copy of the finished report.

The initial numbers available suggest that the number of reported domestic abuse serials (reports) and crimes in 2015 was broadly similar to last year. In 2014, there were 1,922 domestic abuse serials, of which 766 of these were subsequently recorded as crimes. In 2015, there were 1,928 serials, of which 915 were recorded as crimes. This equated to approximately 62 serials a day across the month of December and a 19% increase in recorded domestic abuse crimes. It was also worth noting that 265 of these domestic abuse crimes were reported by males (which equated to 29% of the total number of crimes). 532 arrests were made by Sussex Police in response to these crimes for which there were approximately 120 individual offenders.

It was highlighted that the Force was more proactive in terms of raising the awareness of the different options available to officers and staff to assist victims of domestic abuse. In particular, 10 Domestic Violence Protection Orders were given out across the period of the campaign, in comparison to three in 2014. KB also requested a breakdown of the number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices issued by Sussex Police in December 2015.

GY confirmed that feedback from officers and staff had been positive and that the learning from the campaign will be used to inform the Force’s response to domestic abuse across the remainder of the calendar year. This will be particularly pertinent in terms of the policing of other bank holidays to ensure that resources are sufficient to provide a resilient and robust response to domestic abuse throughout Sussex.

KB also enquired as to whether or not coercive or controlling domestic abuse could be considered as part of the Operation Ribbon response in December 2016 after a change to the legislation which made this type of behaviour a crime.

**ACTION: KB requested a breakdown of the number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices issued by Sussex Police in December 2015.**

## **HMIC – HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES**

**Last month, HMIC published “The depths of dishonour: Hidden voices and shameful crimes” inspection report into the police response to honour-based violence (HBV), forced marriage (FM) and female genital mutilation (FGM). The report recommended that every police force must improve its understanding of these crimes in order to provide victims with the best possible service and encourage those affected to come forward.**

**A. What is your overall reaction to the findings of this report?**

**B. What plans are in place to deliver the three recommendations for Chief Constables within the prescribed timescales?**

**C. I note that 16 officers have now received specialist honour-based violence, forced marriage and FGM training. How have these skills been cascaded to other officers and staff?**

SB explained that Sussex Police had welcomed the HMIC report and provided KB with strong assurances that the Force had developed robust policies and practices around this area. Awareness has also been raised amongst all frontline officers and staff to encourage better those affected to come forward.

The three recommendations for Chief Constables included:

- understanding better the nature and scale of these harmful traditional practices;
- ensuring efficient, effective and systematic information management practices are in place to record and flag these; and
- developing clear policies and joint working structures to ensure an integrated approach between police forces and other agencies.

SB confirmed that the introduction of Niche, a new crime recording system in May 2013, has ensured that Sussex Police has been able to record and flag individuals and addresses by way of a marker. In particular, it was emphasised that 131 occurrences of HBV, four occurrences of FM (since October 2015) and 11 occurrences of FGM (since October 2015) had all been recorded on the system.

It was also emphasised that a Harmful Practices Management Board has been created which is jointly chaired by Sussex Police and James Rowlands, Violence against Women and Girls Strategy Manager and Commissioner. This Board sets the priorities, strategies and targeted activities around these areas to ensure that a cohesive approach between police forces and other agencies exists.

KB was reassured to note that effective governance arrangements are in place to deliver the three recommendations for Chief Constables within the prescribed timescales. In addition, it was highlighted that all HMIC recommendations are added to the Sussex Police Risk Register until they are discharged. This remains an ongoing agenda item at the Organisation Reassurance Board.

The 16 officers who received the specialist HBV, FM and FGM training have each become the Single Point of Contact within the Specialist Investigation Units and are trained to undertake secondary risk assessments.

**ACTION: KB requested a copy of the Sussex Police Risk Register which demonstrates progress made against the recommendations made in all HMIC reports.**

## **OPERATION LIMELIGHT**

**Operation Limelight, the proactive airside operation at Gatwick Airport looking at inbound and outbound flights to 'countries of prevalence' for FGM, was run in partnership with the UK Border Force over the festive period and ran until 12 January 2016.**

**A. How effective was the Operation?**

**B. How did Sussex Police raise awareness of FGM amongst those passengers travelling to countries where there is a history of FGM?**

SB confirmed that Operation Limelight is run on a regular basis by Sussex Police at Gatwick Airport in partnership with the UK Border Force. The purpose of this proactive airside operation is to raise awareness of harmful traditional practices amongst passengers through the provision of initial and informal interventions which target the inbound and outbound flights to 'countries of prevalence'.

It was explained that Sussex Police continue to monitor the approaches taken by other UK airports in this area in order to maximise the use of best practice wherever appropriate.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

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## **HOME OFFICE – ARREST FIGURES**

**The Home Office recently published figures which confirmed that the police arrested 75,000 fewer people in England and Wales across 2014/2015, in comparison to the previous year, despite a 5% increase in recorded crime. Sussex recorded the biggest reduction (26%) of all police force areas despite crime increasing by 8% over the same period.**

**A. What do you attribute the 26% reduction in arrests to in Sussex?**

**B. Are there any particular offences that this fall in arrests relate to?**

SB started by providing some context in respect of the published arrest figures and explained that the variances are a consequence of a reporting change which captures this information in a different way. In particular, the variances in the recorded number of arrests across 2013/2014, in comparison to 2014/2015, relate to the differences between 'notifiable arrests' and 'non-notifiable arrests'. It was also emphasised that the reduction in the arrest figures was not a reflection of the number of people detained in Sussex.

Previously, the total number of all arrests in Sussex was provided to the Home Office because the system used to record these could not differentiate between the two types. However, following the introduction of Niche the figures now provided to the Home Office do not include the non-notifiable arrests. This is the reason for the disparity in the figures across the two performance plan years.

It should be noted that there has been a 24% reduction in the number of arrests made in Sussex over the previous five years but this relates to a gradual reduction and the greater availability of other out-of-court disposals. In particular, the number of Community Resolutions increased by 36% across 2014/2015, in comparison to 2013/2014, which is supported by the three Restorative Justice Hubs in Sussex. It is also acknowledged that police custody is not the appropriate place to deal with children and individuals with mental health issues. It is for this reason that a greater number of these individuals are now being dealt with outside of police custody.

## **HMIC – DIGITAL CRIME AND POLICING**

**HMIC published their “Real lives, real crimes: A study of digital crime and policing” in December 2015 which reviewed the effect that digital technology is having on crime and policing. The report identified two recommendations for the police service and four recommendations for each Chief Constable.**

- A. What is your overall reaction to the findings of this report?**
- B. What does the scale, impact and response to digital crime look like in Sussex?**
- C. What governance and leadership arrangements are in place for digital crime within Sussex Police?**
- D. What plans are in place to deliver the four recommendations for Chief Constables within the prescribed timescales?**

GY confirmed that whilst this was not a thematic inspection it is a useful report which seeks to understand the scale, impact and response to digital crime in Sussex.

Under the command of Assistant Chief Constable Stuart Cundy, Surrey Police is the lead force for Specialist Crime. The City of London Police (CoLP) is the national lead for Action Fraud and has recently revised the website which provides “a central point of contact for information about fraud and financially motivated internet crime”. The CoLP has also started to provide individual police force areas with local crime profiles which include specific information relating to the number of cyber crimes and unique IP addresses affecting locations in Sussex.

KB was again reassured to note that effective governance arrangements are in place to deliver the four recommendations for Chief Constables within the prescribed timescales.

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, 6.8 million cyber crimes remain under-reported nationally each year. GY concluded by encouraging anyone who has been a victim of cyber-crime or another fraud related crime to report this online to Action Fraud.

**ACTION: KB to look at the revised Action Fraud website.**

### **POLICE GRANT SETTLEMENT**

**The police grant settlement and council tax referendum limits for 2016/2017 were announced at the end of December. Sussex Police is set to receive total direct resource funding of £252.1m for 2016/2017 which equates to an increase of £2.5m and 1%, if the precept is increased to the maximum referendum limit.**

**A. Now that you have had time to digest this settlement, what does this mean to Sussex Police?**

**B. How has the planned delivery of the Local Policing Programme been revised as a result of this settlement?**

The previously published draft settlement for 2016/2017 highlighted that Sussex Police would be required to make savings of approximately £60m over 4 years. The final settlement confirmed that these savings have been revised to £35m, which still takes into account the planned pension and national insurance contribution increases.

GY again asked KB to consider increasing the precept to the maximum referendum limit in 2016/2017. This would equate to an additional £5 for each Band D household in Sussex. It was reiterated that the following two priorities still require greater investment to help better protect our communities: public protection and digital forensics.

KB confirmed that she will be making a recommendation regarding the precept in Sussex at the Police & Crime Panel meeting on 22 January 2016.