

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 16 December 2015

**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)  
Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney (OP)  
Performance & Information Manager Graham Kane – minutes  
Communications Manager Clarissa Hawthorne  
Executive Assistant Gina Wheatley

### **OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES**

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

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

*GY provided a summary of operational challenges for Sussex Police since the last PAM which included the following:*

*On 20 November 2015, the Force recognised the contribution of the Sussex Police Volunteer Cadets Corps at their Annual Parade. The Cadets support the organisation in keeping Sussex safe. The ceremony was attended by senior representatives from Sussex Police and the community including Peter Field, HM Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Robin Smith, Assistant Chief Constable and KB.*

*On 27 November 2015, Mr Andrew Fluke, 47, was jailed for 14 years for raping a seven-year-old girl in 2012 and for sexually assaulting another girl in 2006, as well as multiple accounts of inciting sexual activity. Mr Fluke pleaded guilty to online grooming and having indecent images and was jailed by Judge Charles Kemp at Hove Crown Court. GY singled out the contribution of Detective Constable Stewart Cameron for his part in the investigation.*

*On 14 December, Mr Adam Willis, 33, was found guilty of attempted murder and conspiracy to murder in Brighton in January this year. Mr Willis fired a single shot through the front door of an innocent man who required treatment for his injuries, which were serious but not life threatening. Mr Willis was remanded in custody and will be sentenced on 6 January 2016. GY recognised that this was a successful result after a long and complex investigation.*

*The commitment of three police officers who were each involved in incidents when off-duty was also commended. Police Constable Glyn Knight, Detective Sergeant Mark Taylor and Police Constable Nick Glasscock were each praised for their contributions.*

## **COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW AND AUTUMN STATEMENT**

**The Comprehensive Spending Review and Autumn Statement were announced last month. I was particularly pleased to note that the Government will now protect overall police spending in line with inflation, which represents an increase of £900 million by 2019/2020.**

**A. What does this announcement mean to Sussex Police?**

**B. Will this commitment to protect the police budget have any impact on the delivery of the Local Policing Programme?**

*GY confirmed that whilst the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) highlighted that overall police spending would be protected (in line with inflation) the changes set out in the Local Policing Programme (LPP) are still required.*

*The previous Police Grant Settlement for 2016/2017 highlighted that Sussex Police would be required to make savings of £18.7m to cover pressures (including pay awards and increments, national insurance contributions and pension costs) and the loss of grant funding (which was expected to be £8.3m). However, the revised settlement confirmed that this loss of grant would become £0.9m which reduced the savings target to £11.3m.*

*GY reiterated that the LPP is a robust and assured four-year plan to modernise policing in Sussex. However, in light of the CSR announcement the LPP will be revised. This will include identifying additional areas for investment in January 2016 once the specific detail for Sussex is provided by the Home Office and understood locally. In particular, a series of options and consequential outcomes will be prepared which will be worked through. KB was assured that the LPP would continue to remain flexible in its approach.*

**ACTION: KB requested a copy of the revised LPP plan in January 2016.**

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

**“Operation Dragonfly”, the dedicated Sussex Police drink-drive campaign, began on 1 December 2015 and will run across the month in the lead up to Christmas and New Year celebrations. Officers will also tweet about people stopped on suspicion of drink or drug-driving offences throughout the campaign, giving details such as when and where the motorists were pulled over.**

**A. Can you provide me with an update regarding how the campaign is progressing?**

**B. Sussex Police has, for a number of years, published the names of drivers charged with drink-driving offences, which has drawn criticism from some quarters of the public and media, can you explain what evidence there is to demonstrate that this is an effective tactic?**

*GY explained that Operation Dragonfly is part of rolling programme of campaigns that are implemented by the Force to tackle drink and drug driving in Sussex.*

*It was confirmed that between 1 December and 14 December 2015, Sussex Police had stopped and breathalysed 1,043 motorists, of which 58 individuals were arrested after providing a positive sample or refusing to give a sample. This equated to 5.6% which was slightly higher than the campaign in the summer but not statistically significant.*

*From 1 April 2015, a new test was made available nationally which enables officers to test individuals for drugs at the roadside. Between the same period, 41 motorists had been stopped and tested, of which 24 were arrested after providing a positive sample, which equated to 58.5%.*

*In total, 82 arrests have been made for drink and drug driving to date, of which 42 individuals have been summoned to court and a further 29 individuals have been bailed pending analysis from laboratory tests.*

*GY explained that whilst there is no evidence to suggest that "naming and shaming" those individuals charged with drink and drug driving offences acts as a deterrent, the information is already in the public domain, involves minimal effort and expense and continues to raise public awareness throughout the campaign period. It was also emphasised that this is the third year that this tactic has been used in Sussex and that this is welcomed by Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State at the Department for Transport.*

*Members of the public with specific concerns about individuals they suspect of drink or drug driving are asked to report these to Sussex Police by text to 65999 or through Operation Crackdown ([www.operationcrackdown.co.uk](http://www.operationcrackdown.co.uk)). Individuals can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. If it is known that someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, members of the public should call 999 immediately.*

## **HMIC – REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNITS**

**HMIC recently published their "Regional Organised Crime Units" inspection report earlier this month which reviewed the capability and effectiveness of the national response to serious and organised crime. The report identified 11 recommendations**

- A. What is your overall reaction to the findings of the report?**
- B. What progress has been made by the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit in terms of implementing the '13 capabilities' identified within the development programme?**
- C. What plans are in place to deliver the other recommendations within the prescribed timescales?**

*GY confirmed that he was pleased with the findings of the HMIC report which reviewed the capability and effectiveness of the national response to serious and organised crime.*

*It was emphasised that there are 10 Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) in England and Wales of which Sussex is part of the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU). The SEROCU is also aligned to the South East Counter Terrorism Unit which is one of only three nationally. Thames Valley Police is the host police force area for both functions with Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Laura Nicholson the regional lead.*

*Of the 11 HMIC recommendations identified in the report, four are national recommendations and 7 are regional recommendations. Of these 7 recommendations, two have already been completed, including having the '13 capabilities' identified within the ROCU development programme in place (Recommendation 1).*

*The following work is ongoing to progress the five outstanding recommendations:*

- *Recommendation 3 – publication of an action plan to maximise ROCU capabilities, minimise duplication at force level and ensure use of ROCU resources are prioritised between regional forces;*

- Recommendation 6 – production of a long-term plan to ensure co-location of Counter Terrorist Units and Counter Terrorist Intelligence Units with the ROCU wherever possible;
- Recommendation 8 – adoption of a common approach to the assessment of serious and organised crime threats;
- Recommendation 10 – routine exchange of information about all organised crime group members serving prison sentences to ensure risks are properly managed; and
- Recommendation 11 – assume responsibility for organised crime group mapping on behalf of their constituent forces to ensure local intelligence informs this process.

ACC Nicholson will be responsible for ensuring that the SEROCU complete each of the outstanding recommendations by 30 June 2016.

## VICTIM FOCUS

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### **OPERATION RIBBON**

**“Operation Ribbon” is the dedicated Sussex Police response to reports of domestic abuse over the Christmas and New Year period.**

**A. How will the effectiveness of Operation Ribbon be measured?**

**B. How will technology, including body worn video and tecSOS mobile telephones, be used to support Operation Ribbon?**

**C. What assurances can you provide that the impact and effectiveness of any technology deployed as part of Operation Ribbon will be monitored and evaluated accordingly?**

*OP confirmed that Operation Ribbon, the dedicated Sussex Police response to reports of domestic abuse over the Christmas and New Year period, started on 14 December 2015.*

*The aim of the awareness campaign is to encourage both women and men to report abuse. Sussex Police will be visiting previous victims, whether they are high-risk or repeat victims or both, with information, support and reassurance. From 21 December, dedicated police patrols will be responding to reports of domestic abuse over the festive period, with officers equipped with body-worn video cameras to help secure vital evidence.*

*In Sussex, between 50 and 70 reports of domestic abuse are made each day and historically these numbers increase further over Christmas and New Year. The importance of a multi-agency response to tackle domestic abuse was also highlighted.*

*A Project Manager has been appointed to oversee Operation Ribbon this year for the first time. This individual has and will continue to liaise with all agencies and, following the conclusion of the campaign, will write a report which summaries and evaluates the effectiveness of the Operation.*

*The difficulties measuring the impact of Operation Ribbon were emphasised. In particular, reductions in the number of recorded domestic abuse crimes could be regarded as one positive indicator of success but, equally, an increase in the number of recorded domestic abuse crimes could also be attributed to improved public confidence and trust in the police.*

*The Transforming Summary Justice programme is working towards reducing delays in the Magistrates’ Courts by holding fewer hearings per case and increasing the number of trials that go ahead the first time they are listed. The importance of prioritising domestic abuse cases in this process was emphasised.*

**ACTION: KB asked who the Project Manager for Operation Ribbon is and requested a copy of the completed report when it is published in January 2016.**

## **HMIC – PEEL: EFFECTIVENESS (VULNERABILITY) REPORT**

**Yesterday, HMIC published their findings for Sussex Police in the “PEEL: Effectiveness (Vulnerability)” report. I am very pleased that the inspection report judged the Force to be “good” in respect of protecting vulnerable people from harm and supporting victims.**

### **A. Why do you think Sussex Police achieved a ‘good’ rating?**

*OP confirmed that Sussex Police were delighted with the findings in the inspection report and the following quote from the report was highlighted: “Sussex Police provides a good service in identifying vulnerable people and responds well to them. The Force has sound processes in place to ensure that it identifies those who are vulnerable as soon as possible, it consistently assesses the risks posed to vulnerable victims well and responds well to those at high-risk of harm.”*

*Increases to the policing precept in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 have been used to strengthen performance in this incredibly complex area. It was emphasised that committed officers and staff within Sussex Police understand the importance of protecting vulnerable people and that the Force has extended a huge amount of effort into providing training to raise awareness and to give officers and staff the confidence to use the risk assessment tools available.*

*Strong partnership working is also embedded across Sussex. The introduction of three Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs) and means that more dedicated officers and staff are now involved in Specialist Investigation Units. The creation of Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) Operation Groups, in parallel with the MASHs, enables agencies to work together and provide an immediate safeguarding response through the sharing and provision of information.*

*OP explained that Sussex Police was one of only 12 police force areas nationally to receive a rating of “good” from HMIC. It was also encouraging to note that no specific areas for improvement in Sussex were identified in the report. KB commended the progress made by officers, staff and partners in this area.*

*KB challenged OP regarding the domestic abuse arrest and charge rate performance highlighted in the HMIC report. It was emphasised that Sussex Police had 71 domestic abuse arrests per 100 domestic abuse crimes (against an average of 66 for England and Wales). The domestic abuse charge rate for Sussex Police was 21.8% as a percentage of all domestic abuse crimes recorded (against an average of 27.3% for England and Wales).*

*OP responded by stating that whilst these figures are important, they are not as significant as the report emphasised, and expressed her disappointment with the way these statistics had been presented.. In particular, it was highlighted that whilst an arrest can provide an immediate ‘bubble of safety’, by removing the threat of the abuser, it is not the only available route and victims should be empowered to have a say in their preferred route through the criminal justice system. Civil routes can provide victims with another positive outcome and are also discussed based on the individual circumstances of the case.*

**ACTION: KB requested some further information relating to the arrest and charge rate for Sussex Police and the Force performance at each stage.**

## **ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN – BUILDING TRUST REPORT**

**A “Building Trust” report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Children looking at the progress made in improving relationships between children and the police has expressed concerns at young people, including looked after children, being criminalised for ‘low-level crime-related behaviour’ under current crime recording rules which could potentially limit future educational and career options.**

**A. What do you think about the content of the report and the proposal to give police the option of recording cases in a new category which would allow ‘low-level crime-related behaviour’ to be addressed by a welfare agency without forming part of a child’s criminal record?**

**B. How does this approach support the Pan-Sussex protocol to reduce the prosecution of looked after children?**

**C. What impact will the Local Policing Programme have on this protocol?**

*OP reiterated that she is the National Police Chiefs’ Council’s lead officer for Children and Young People and that she has been involved in a number of the elements of report including improvements to the relationship between children and the police, looked after children, children in custody and children subject to stop and search processes.*

*The proposal to give police the option of resolving entirely cases involving children and young people through another welfare agency was recognised as the right thing to do. This approach will ensure that a child is not adversely affected by something which was done when they were a child.*

*OP confirmed that all agencies in the South East are signed up to a protocol to reduce the prosecution of looked after children. This protocol involves a more considered and thoughtful approach towards children and low-level crime-related behaviour which does not simply default to an outcome through the criminal justice system.*

*It was highlighted that one of the next stages for the Local Policing Programme will be to design the detail around young people and engagement. This work will involve conversations with young people, schools and other interested partners.*

### **CHILDREN IN CUSTODY**

**The recently published report from the Howard League for Penal Reform confirmed that 15% fewer child arrests were made across England and Wales in 2014, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. In particular, Sussex Police saw a 20% reduction and has seen year on year reductions since 2008.**

**A. What more can Sussex Police do to maintain this trend and reduce these numbers further?**

**B. What proportion of the child arrests in Sussex were for BME children?**

**C. How do you ensure that no disproportionality exists?**

*OP confirmed that Sussex Police were delighted with the 20% reduction in child arrests from 2013 and the continued reducing trend from 2008.*

*It was emphasised that these year-on-year reductions in the number of child arrests can be attributed to the wide range of out-of-court disposals that are available and working in Sussex. It was also highlighted that from 1 April 2015 to date, no children had been taken into police custody under s.136 of the Mental Health Act. Instead, 14 children have been taken to approved ‘places of safety’.*

*OP confirmed that Sussex Police is working hard to keep young people out of the criminal justice system in order to maintain this reducing trend further. This work includes an initiative to raise awareness amongst officers and staff to recognise better vulnerability in young people (Operation Stepping Stone) and a pilot in West Sussex to oversee and scrutinise all decisions to caution young people.*

*It was also stated that Sussex Police will follow up on the work of Greater Manchester Police to reduce child arrests further after they achieved a reduction of 59% in 2014, compared to 2013, which exceeded any other police force area in England and Wales.*

## **HMIC – WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION REPORT**

**HMIC also published their findings for Sussex Police in the “Witness for the prosecution” report. I am pleased that the inspection report established that Sussex Police correctly identified the vulnerability and risk of harm of the victim or witness in 83% (five out of six) of the case files examined. However, I acknowledge that special measures or enhancements should be requested by officers and staff more frequently to ensure that the ability of victims and witnesses to present evidence is maximised.**

- A. What is your overall reaction to the findings of the report?**
- B. What assurances can you provide that sufficient levels of scrutiny exist to monitor the quality of case files in Sussex?**
- C. How do officers and staff identify vulnerability, including requests to provide special measures or enhancements?**
- D. How has the availability of digital technology improved the preparation of case files?**

*GY explained that he welcomed the independent examination of Force performance in this area and acknowledged that improvements to the preparation of case files were required.*

*It was also emphasised that the HMIC inspection pre-dated the introduction of the new digital based case preparation system and was founded solely on paper records. In the last eighteen months Sussex Police has made significant improvements to the standards of case file preparation through the introduction of Niche, a digital based system.*

*Enhanced training around the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime has been provided to officers and staff to assist them in their ability to identify vulnerability.*

*GY provided KB with assurances that he would continue to monitor the progress of the Force against the national recommendations for Chief Constables. This will include focussing on the case file preparation training to improve understanding of the purpose of case files and their role in the criminal justice process.*

*The availability of technology has improved the preparation of case files because these are now shared digitally with the criminal justice system. However, it was emphasised that disks are still required to transfer case files which are larger than 1MB which is both time consuming and expensive.*