

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 18 March 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  
Senior Corporate & Digital Communications Manager Rosie Gooch  
Executive Assistant Gina Wheatley

## **OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

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

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

*GY explained that a murder enquiry, led by the joint Surrey and Sussex Major Crime Team, was launched following the discovery of a woman's body in a burning car in Rusper Road, Ifield, near Crawley on Friday 13 March 2015.*

*It was highlighted that the investigation is progressing rapidly and that the woman has now been identified. A man and a woman have both been arrested in connection with the crime.*

*Another ongoing operational challenge for Sussex Police relates to a banking fraud targeting vulnerable and elderly people across Sussex and the wider south east region. Fraudulent telephone calls are being made on behalf of various banks which are resulting in victims withdrawing large amounts of cash and passing this on to a third-party couriers. It was highlighted that around 700 attempts have been reported to Sussex Police from January 2015 to date.*

*It was confirmed that Sussex Police is working closely with the banks and local taxi companies to challenge the modus operandi that these criminals are using, via Operation Adisto. GY concluded by providing some crime prevention advice.*

**MISSING SEX OFFENDERS IN SUSSEX**

**It was reported last week that 11 registered sex offenders had gone missing in Sussex and are still unaccounted for.**

- A. What proactive measures is Sussex Police taking to locate these 11 individuals?**
- B. How many registered sex offenders does Sussex Police currently jointly manage with partners?**
- C. How effective are the current Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in terms of reviewing and assessing sex offenders who reside in Sussex?**
- D. What assurances can you provide that the registration processes and management of sex offenders in Sussex is effective?**

*GY confirmed that whenever a registered sex offender is reported missing, a risk assessment is carried out, to ascertain what level of threat is posed. The subsequent level of risk identified dictates the scale and timeliness of the Sussex Police response.*

*It was highlighted that proactive measures available to Sussex Police to locate these missing individuals range from financial checks, contact with the Department for Work & Pensions, media circulation (including consideration for press releases and inclusion on Crimewatch), border control markers and international information sharing.*

*GY explained that the number of registered sex offenders still missing in Sussex remains at 11. One individual, missing since 2013, was arrested on his return to the UK at Heathrow Airport, on 10 March 2015, after failing to comply with the "notification requirement" but another individual has been added to the list after failing to register within time limits on release from Winchester Prison.*

*It was highlighted that well-established national Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are in place to manage sex offenders through three different levels of risk. There were 1,261 registered sex offenders in Sussex (March 2015) which is an annual increase of 6% in comparison to 2014. Sussex Police jointly manages 298 individuals (January 2015) with the National Probation Service, through MAPPA meetings, which are also attended by HM Prison Service and local authority representatives (including housing).*

*GY provided KB with assurances that the registration processes and management of sex offenders in Sussex is effective because MAPPA is supported by the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR). This is a national IT system for the management of people who pose a serious risk of harm to the public, and is used by Sussex Police, the National Probation Service and HM Prison Service, to enable the seamless transfer of data between these agencies. It was also emphasised that the ViSOR system in Sussex is led and managed by a dedicated Detective Chief Inspector.*

## **POLICING OF HUNTS**

**The policing of artificially laid trails remains a difficult balancing act for the police between managing the rights of the hunting community to hunt within the confines of the legislation with the rights of those against hunting to protest.**

**A. Can you outline the key challenges for Sussex Police in terms of maintaining this balance?**

**B. I have received much correspondence from local residents outlining their concerns regarding anti-hunt protestors wearing intimidating face coverings. Can you explain what the law looks like with regards to the wearing of face coverings and what specific powers Sussex Police has to enforce the removal of such coverings?**

**C. What work is Sussex Police doing with both sides in terms of proactive engagement? D. How do you ensure that a consistent policing response exists across Sussex and Surrey given that the hunts regularly cross in and out of the geographical borders?**

*OP explained that many challenges exist for Sussex Police in terms of balancing the rights of the hunting community to hunt, within the confines of The Hunting Act 2004, with the rights of those against hunting to protest. These challenges include gaining the trust of both communities (hunts and protestors) in accepting the role of the police in the planning phases, the varying location of the hunts across public and private land and obtaining credible evidence to support any criminal justice processes.*

*It was highlighted that Sussex Police has improved its overall response through increased engagement with hunting communities and hunt monitors, including more widespread use of Police Liaison Officer tactics. This relationship is less-developed with the hunt saboteurs and further work is required to develop an enhanced mutual understanding, including clarification as to the extent, proportionality and limitations of the powers available to the police.*

*KB explained that much correspondence has been received by the OSPCC from residents outlining their concerns regarding anti-hunt protestors wearing intimidating face coverings. OP clarified the law with regards to face coverings and the specific powers Sussex Police has to enforce their removal, as follows:*

*Section 60AA of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 provides powers to require the removal of disguises at public order events. The Inspector must reasonably believe:*

- (a) that activities may take place in any locality in his police area that are likely (if they take place) to involve the commission of offences; and*
- (b) that it is expedient, in order to prevent or control the activities, to give an authorisation.*

*In essence this allows any Police Constable in uniform to:*

- (a) require any person to remove any item which the constable reasonably believes that person is wearing wholly or mainly for the purpose of concealing his identity; and*
- (b) seize any item which the constable reasonably believes any person intends to wear wholly or mainly for that purpose.*

However, OP confirmed that Sussex Police would always ask individuals to remove their face coverings in the first instance before any formal action is taken. It was reiterated that these conditional powers should only be used as part of a considered approach to a situation that is escalating, rather than as part of a "knee-jerk" reaction. In particular, advice from the Crown Prosecution Service has recommended that, when considering the use of Section 60AA, there should also be some other aggravating factor which would link it to violence, fear or intimidation. This ensures that a high threshold exists.

**ACTION: KB agreed to share copies of the recent correspondence (including photographs) received by the OSPCC with Sussex Police. OP confirmed that Sussex Police would make contact with this particular hunt group to continue the ongoing dialogue in this area.**

VICTIM FOCUS

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### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

**The Prime Minister announced new measures to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) earlier this month and confirmed that CSE has now been prioritised as a "national threat".**

**Today (18 March 2015) is National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day which aims to highlight the issues surrounding CSE and encourage everyone to think, identify and speak out against this abuse.**

**A. For the benefit of the viewers, can you clarify what types of offences CSE covers?**

**B. What do you perceive the key areas of risk around CSE to be and how is Sussex Police responding to these?**

**C. How is Sussex Police working with partners in this area to raise awareness, tackle the threat and encourage reporting of CSE in Sussex?**

*OP explained that there is no legal definition for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and emphasised that it is a collective term used for rape, sexual assault and trafficking.*

*The Home Office define CSE as, "the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities". This definition is recognised within all Sussex Police processes, as well as through the National CSE Working Group.*

*OP provided some further context by explaining that 90% of all child sexual abuse takes place in the home where crimes are being perpetrated upon victims by people they already know. Key areas of risk around this particular area in Sussex were highlighted as identifying CSE in the first instance, identifying and tackling offenders (including Organised Crime Groups) and developing efficient and effective responses towards preventing the harm from occurring and managing the risk.*

*It was recognised that today (18 March 2015) was National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day and it was emphasised that Sussex Police, in partnership with Surrey Police, has developed a significant public awareness plan, which has been shared with the National Working Group and partners via the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.*

*Other work in this area to raise awareness, tackle the threat and encourage reporting of CSE in Sussex, includes a Learning Together CSE Practice Evaluation Event and the completion of a Multi-Agency CSE Problem Profile to better understand the extent of vulnerabilities for potential victims and offenders.*

*In addition, action plans have been developed, across each of the three policing divisions in Sussex, which have been benchmarked against the National Action Plan and Sussex Police continues to provide resources to the National College of Policing for CSE Peer Reviews which enables nationally identified lessons to be learnt and best practice to be adopted.*

*It was also highlighted that from 1 April 2015, CSE will be recognised as a national threat in the Strategic Policing Requirement. Sussex Police will be assisted in fulfilling this duty through the introduction of a PAN Sussex CSE Analyst which has been funded by additional money made available, by KB, through the Victims' Grant.*

VALUE FOR MONEY

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## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**I note from the Financial Performance Report, for the period ending January 2015, that there were notable 'under' and 'over' spends in the Revenue Budget Summary. These were particularly noticeable in the areas of Communications, PFI Contract, Scientific Support, Force Level Operations, Joint Insurance Services and Police Pensions Costs.**

**A. What do you see as the key strengths and weaknesses highlighted in the report?**

**B. What do you attribute the aforementioned 'under' and 'over' spends to?**

*GY stated that the Financial Performance Report demonstrated a relatively small under-spend with savings of £3.58m delivered across 2014/2015. It was emphasised that this equated to an under-spend of 1.4% of the total Police Fund Revenue Budget and was mainly the result of a reduction in the Private Finance Initiative costs for police custody following the successful re-negotiation of the contract, which has been backdated to April 2013.*

*The forecasted over-spend in the Communications Department was attributed to the delays experienced in restructuring the Department to a single site Contact and Command Centre in November 2014. This restructure replaced the multiple call-handling centres in Lewes, Brighton, and Haywards Heath with a single site at Sussex Police Headquarters in Lewes. However, the subsequent delays resulted in an over-spend for police staff pay due to increased levels of over-establishment.*

*The report also highlighted a further under-spend relating to Scientific Support. The reduced number of forensic and DNA referrals were recognised as contributing factors towards these savings, in particular. This was balanced against the predicted over-spends for Joint Insurance Service, Force Level Operations and Police Pension Costs which were attributed to a higher number of third party motor accident claim costs, the mutual aid provided to support the NATO Summit in September 2014 and an increase in the number of ill-health retirements.*

**ACTION: KB to discuss the feasibility of police forces collaborating nationally for joint insurance services with Mark Baker, Director of Finance at Sussex Police.**

## **COUNTER TERRORISM – PREVENT AND CHANNEL PANELS**

**The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into effect earlier this month which introduced new responsibilities for local authorities and partners to identify those individuals most vulnerable to radicalisation and to put in place measures to better support those individuals who may be tempted to travel abroad to pursue extremist agendas, as has been the case in Sussex on a number of occasions already.**

**A. For the benefit of the viewers, can you clarify what these changes will mean for local communities?**

**B. How is Sussex Police working with local authorities to deliver the Prevent and Channel Panels?**

*OP explained that the new legislation imposed key duties on the local authorities in Sussex to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. It was emphasised that these should cover all forms of extremism (including jihadist, extreme right-wing and others).*

*Guidance has been issued nationally which sets out the expectations for local authorities and other agencies which will become a statutory requirement from 1 July 2015. It is anticipated that these changes will impact on local communities through increased discussions and awareness raising, with a greater focus and emphasis on education.*

*OP explained that Channel is the national Home Office safeguarding project which aims to prevent children and adults from being drawn into violent radicalisation or becoming involved in terrorist related activity. It uses a multi-agency approach to identify individuals who may be drawn into terrorism, assess the nature and extent of the risks and to develop appropriate support plans for the individuals concerned. In practice, each local authority must set up a multi-agency Panel to consider how best to support the vulnerable individuals referred to it.*

*Sussex Police is working with local authorities to deliver the Panels by providing each of them with a local Counter Terrorism Profile which sets out the national and local threats and activity, whilst simultaneously highlighting the threats, risks and vulnerabilities to the area. It was also emphasised that Sussex Police would be adopting a more robust enforcement role as set out in the guidelines.*

*KB was reassured to note that the introduction of the Act further emphasises the proactive work that Sussex Police has already achieved in terms of developing strong relationships with multi-agency partners in this critical area.*

*OP concluded by asking anyone who might have concerns, regarding individuals with extremist tendencies or temptations to travel abroad, to call either the non-emergency telephone number on 101 or the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 78932, to speak to a dedicated individual, trained to recognise the signs. Statutory and non-statutory partners were encouraged to share any concerns via their standard safeguarding procedures.*

## **SUSSEX LOCAL POLICING MODEL**

**The Sussex Local Policing Model was unveiled last week which set out the vision for policing Sussex in 2020.**

**A. For the benefit of the viewers, can you briefly outline the purpose of the new model?**

**B. What assurances can you provide that Sussex Police will still be able to protect the community and provide a timely response to incidents within the new model?**

**C. How will you involve the public and other stakeholders in the rollout of the new model?**

*GY explained that Sussex Police has been running, Serving Sussex 2015, a comprehensive programme of change for the past five years, which was driven by the need to deliver savings. It was emphasised that over £50m of savings were realised without touching the front-line service delivery for policing in Sussex.*

*The next stage of the five-year programme to 2020 will look at transformational change. The current policing model in Sussex was developed in 2004 and is no longer fit for purpose in terms of the need to effectively respond to changing priorities and demands.*

*GY highlighted that policing is about protecting vulnerable people and catching individuals responsible for causing this harm. It was explained that police forces have picked up responsibilities which fall beyond the core policing remit and the need to better prioritise resources and decide what responsibilities should no longer be carried out by the police is now greater than ever.*

*KB was assured to note that GY is confident that the plan is sufficiently robust. The model has been based on comprehensive analysis which looked at how Sussex Police currently manages demand and the capacity required to respond to that demand in the future, taking into account proposed changes to local services. GY concluded by confirming that the number of officers currently responding to emergencies would remain the same moving forward to ensure that Sussex remains a safe place to live.*

## **PLANNING FOR THE POLICING OF THE GENERAL ELECTION**

**The General Election will take place on Thursday 7 May 2015.**

**A. How is the planning progressing for this in terms of a policing response?**

*OP explained that the Surrey and Sussex policing response to the General Election will commence on 23 March 2015 and will continue until 31 May 2015. This will allow some flexibility for any delay in the confirmation of the new Government.*

*It was emphasised that Operation Start will be policed in accordance with the Authorised Professional Practice "Guidance on Policing Elections". This includes plans for supporting armed protection operations from visited protected people, public order contingencies and, ultimately, the policing of the General Election and subsequent counts.*

*OP concluded by stating that Sussex Police is experienced at policing the General Elections and has developed some robust processes and well-established relationships, with Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers, to protect the integrity of the elections.*