

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 20 November 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)
Assistant Chief Constable Robin Smith (RS)
Performance & Information Manager Graham Kane – minutes
Communications & Engagement Assistant Sammi Hide
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 emphasised that it had been another busy month for Sussex Police since the last PAM and provided a summary of operational challenges as follows:.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Heidi Hay and Richard Boston were praised for their bravery and courageousness after they rescued an elderly couple from their vehicle which plunged into Benbow Pond near Midhurst, on 20 October 2015.

On 29 October 2015, Mr Vickery House, 69, a retired clergyman was jailed for six and a half years for carrying out sex offences against a boy and three men in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr House was convicted of five counts of indecent assault at the Old Bailey.

Mr Oliver John Parsons, 31, pleaded guilty to the murder of Mr Joe Lewis, 24, and was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment at Lewes Crown Court on 3 November 2015.

The Lewes bonfire celebrations took place on 5 November 2015 and were attended by between 20,000 – 25,000 people. This was a reduction from the attendance recorded in previous years because of the inclement weather. It was reported that five arrests were made over the course of the evening and that 82 people were treated for injuries, of which six required hospital treatment.

The North Terminal at Gatwick Airport was evacuated on 14 November 2015 after a man disposed of a firearm in a rubbish bin and fled following a disagreement with check-in staff. Firearms officers quickly detained Mr Jerome Charuris, 41, from France, who was charged with possessing a dangerous article (an air rifle weapon) in any part of an aerodrome and possessing a pointed article (a lock knife) in a public place. Mr Charuris is due to appear at Lewes Crown Court on 14 December 2015. The Airport was closed for approximately six hours before reopening as bomb disposal experts carried out a small controlled explosion. It was emphasised that this incident was not related to terrorism.

A noteworthy success included recompensing 16 victims with £254,513.65 after 12 defendants pleaded guilty and a further two were found guilty for carrying out a cold-calling scam. The defendants, convicted in November 2014, were ordered to repay 99.4% of the money fraudulently taken from elderly residents in Sussex, Surrey and London. GY praised the persistence of the Sussex Police Economic Crime Unit in this case.

REASSURANCE TO SUSSEX COMMUNITIES

Further to the terrorist attacks in Paris last week.

A. What additional security measures are being taken in Sussex?

B. How well prepared do you feel Sussex Police and partner agencies are to respond to such an event in Sussex?

GY began by giving his condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris last week. He stated that his thoughts were with the police and other emergency service colleagues affected by this. KB expressed her own commiserations too.

Assurances were provided to the public regarding the capabilities and preparedness of Sussex Police and partner agencies to respond to a similar event in Sussex. The following three areas were emphasised in particular:

- **Prevent Programme** – *A comprehensive Prevent programme has been in existence in Sussex for more than 10 years. Robust relationships are in place between police, health and education partners to tackle radicalisation;*
- **Ability to respond to a similar attack** – *The UK threat from international terrorism was increased to Severe on 29 August 2014 and remains unchanged. Sussex Police plan, coordinate and run scenario tests locally, regionally and nationally to ensure a sufficient capacity and capability exists. These plans are reviewed and revisited periodically, including the provision of military assistance too. Sussex and Surrey also has a joint firearms response which provides enhanced resilience and ensures that resources can be prioritised accordingly. Gatwick Airport has a permanent armed presence; and*
- **Follow up response** – *Sussex Police would be able to draw on local, regional and national partner agencies to respond in a resilient and coordinated manner.*

KB challenged GY regarding the Local Policing Programme (LPP) and whether or not the planned reduction in PCSO numbers would lead to a reduction in the Force's ability to gather intelligence from local neighbourhoods. GY provided assurances that intelligence comes from many different sources and that Sussex Police use the 'National Intelligence Model' to identify the best mechanisms for gathering and prioritising the intelligence it receives.

It was highlighted that the LPP would be aware of these challenges and would remain flexible in its design and approach. It was also confirmed that the Force's firearms capacity and capability remains outside of the scope of the LPP and will be unaffected.

GY emphasised that the residents of Sussex could feel as confident this week as they did before Paris (in terms of public safety) and explained that no increased community tensions have been recorded.

GY concluded by asking members of the public to remain alert to the danger of terrorism and to report any suspicious activity to Sussex Police at the earliest opportunity via 999 or the anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321. If the information does not relate to an imminent threat, this can be reported to the Force via 101 or through the Sussex Police website.

OPERATION MAGPIE – BURGLARY CRIME PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Sussex Police launched a three-week burglary crime prevention campaign, under the banner of Operation Magpie, to tackle burglary dwellings across the county, at a time of the year when traditionally there is an increase in this particular crime type.

A. How have you reflected on this campaign?

B. What was the impact of the campaign in terms of the recorded number of Burglary Dwelling crimes across the three-week period in comparison to the same period in 2014?

C. What did some of the operational highlights look like?

D. I am pleased to note that the Force has demonstrated a 20% reduction in the number of recorded burglary dwelling crimes across the period 1 April to 31 October 2015, in comparison to the same period in 2014/2015. However, the solved rate has also reduced by 18% and still appears to be low at 14.9%. Can you provide me with an update regarding Force performance in this area?

RS confirmed that Sussex Police's three-week burglary crime prevention campaign ran between 21 October and 10 November 2015. The purpose of the campaign was to tackle burglary dwellings across the county, at a time of the year when traditionally there is an increase in this particular crime type.

The impact of the campaign was a 15% reduction in the number of burglary dwelling crimes recorded, in comparison to the same three-week period in 2014. This equated to 35 fewer burglaries compared to the 231 recorded in 2014. The number of burglary other than dwelling crimes increased by 8%, across the same period, which equated to an additional 33 crimes recorded.

RS explained that the risk of experiencing a burglary dwelling crime in Sussex continues to reduce and highlighted that in 2005 there were 19 burglary dwelling crimes recorded per day in comparison to 9 recorded per day in 2015. It was also emphasised that the Force is positioned 6 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales in terms of risk per 1,000 population.

KB challenged RS regarding the 18% reduction in the number of burglary dwelling crimes solved across the performance plan year period 1 April to 31 October 2015, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. RS acknowledged that this reduction was in line with national trends and confirmed that the solved rate in Sussex remains above the average. The Force is situated 8 out of 43 and top of their most similar group of police forces in England and Wales.

The reduction in the solved rate was attributed to fewer numbers of recorded crimes which present the Force with reduced opportunities to solve crimes as a result. Changes to offender behaviour in respect of other offences taken into consideration (TICs) were also highlighted. TICs are dependent on individuals admitting to additional offences where no evidence currently exists on the basis that a shorter sentence will be passed. However, whereas Sussex Police used to have dedicated TIC teams to interview offenders in prison this is no longer the case. It is acknowledged that this is not the best use of resources when the potential for other offenders (outside of prison) to commit offences exists.

GY concluded by stating that Sussex Police will continue to hold offenders to account for their actions and would prioritise their resources to where they will have the most impact from a preventative perspective.

ACTION: KB requested the Sussex Police charge and summons figures for burglary dwelling

LOCAL POLICING PROGRAMME – RESOLUTION CENTRE

Phase one of the Resolution Centre was introduced in Sussex on 26 October 2015 as part of the Local Policing Programme. The Resolution Centre will endeavour to resolve incidents and crimes at the earliest opportunity and reduce the number of prearranged appointments.

A. What progress has been made to date?

B. What are the timescales for implementing the remainder of the phases and how will these be managed?

RS confirmed that phase one of the Resolution Centre (RC) was introduced in Sussex on 26 October 2015 as part of the LPP. A cautious approach has been taken towards phasing the RC in which involved putting one small and experienced team consisting of five police officers and four police staff into the RC to work alongside a single section team from the Police Contact and Command Centre.

The RC will deal with non-time critical (grade 3) incidents with no immediate threat, risk or harm. It is anticipated that implementing the RC could potentially reduce demand to the frontline by 49,000 appointments per year which equates to 61% fewer grade 3's.

It was reported that the second phase will go live on 30 November 2015 and the third phase will go live at the beginning of 2016. It was also emphasised that victim satisfaction surveys will begin soon to understand better the impact this change is having on service users.

KB highlighted that she will visit the RC on 26 January 2016 once it is running at full capacity.

LOCAL POLICING PROGRAMME – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

I have been approached by parish councillors and members of the public who have raised concerns as to how effectively the Local Policing Programme, which sets out the vision for policing Sussex in 2020, is being communicated to the public and other stakeholders.

A. How have you involved and engaged with the public and other stakeholders the rollout of the new model so far?

B. What assurances can you provide me that all front-line staff are aware of the importance of the local policing programme and its successful delivery?

RS reiterated that all police officers and staff are kept updated regarding the importance of the LPP by forcewide messages, emails and through the internal intranet.

A new communications plan and strategy has been developed to assist Sussex Police with the delivery of the LPP. This will include visiting town and parish councils and engaging with the Sussex Association of Local Councils.

It was also emphasised that part of this process will involve providing PCSOs with sufficient and consistent communications messages to assist them in responding to any questions raised by members of the public.

GY concluded by reassuring KB that whenever concerns are raised by her or the OSPCC, these are acted upon by Sussex Police and resolved.

INTERNATIONAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WEEK

I was again pleased to be able to support "International Restorative Justice Week" this week to celebrate and raise awareness of restorative justice.

B. How is Sussex Police supporting this week and what activities have been planned?

C. How has Sussex Police promoted the week to all staff and potential service users?

D. How will Restorative Justice fit into the new Local Policing Programme?

GY explained that the principles of Restorative Justice (RJ) involve a shift from traditional criminal justice outcomes to a practice which brings together those harmed by crime and those responsible for harm into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Sussex Police supported International Restorative Justice Week by highlighting the importance of RJ to police officers and staff through online written briefings and the provision of educational and training videos. RJ has also been promoted to potential service users through the OSPCC RJ Conference in Crawley, an RJ awareness raising event at HMP Ford and the launch of "Our Restorative City" in Brighton & Hove.

It is recognised that RJ is an essential tool to prevent reoffending because offenders are able to understand the impact the offence has on others. This should ultimately reduce the demand placed on policing services and remains at the heart of the LPP.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE CONTINUED

HMIC – PEEL EFFICIENCY REPORT

HMIC recently published their findings for Sussex Police in the "PEEL: Efficiency" report. I am very pleased that the inspection report judged the Force to be "Good" in respect of the three areas examined: Using resources to meet demand; Designing an affordable workforce model; and Delivering financial sustainability for the short and long-term.

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

GY admitted that he was very pleased with the findings published for Sussex Police in the "PEEL: Efficiency" report too. The report demonstrated that the Force has an ability to understand and manage demand and provide an effective policing service, whilst remaining both affordable and sustainable. The independence and expertise of HMIC in this process was also recognised.

Gratitude for the work of all police officers and staff involved in planning for the future was expressed. This is on top of savings of £52m which have already been found as part of the Serving Sussex 2015 programme.

GY concluded by stating that irrespective of savings the Force needs to be able to invest in emerging areas of risk including public protection, digital forensics and any other areas that continue to grow.

HMIC – BUILDING THE PICTURE REPORT – PROGRESS UPDATE

At July's PAM, the findings from the HMIC report into the business processes used by police forces in England and Wales to collect, record, process, evaluate and share information were discussed. It was highlighted that an action plan, in respect of this area, had been developed to reconcile the recommendations from the latest report with those of the 2013 report.

A. What progress has been made by Sussex Police against the national recommendations set out in this report?

B. Are there any recommendations which will not be met ahead of the prescribed deadline of 30 November 2015?

GY confirmed that good progress has been made in respect of the 6 recommendations to chief constables identified in the HMIC report.

Recommendations 1, 5 and 8 have been completed ahead of the prescribed deadline of 30 November 2015. Recommendation 4 will be completed by 30 November 2015 and recommendations 3 and 6 will be completed by 31 December 2015.

HMIC has been updated with regards to this progress.

HMIC – RAPE MONITORING GROUP DIGEST REPORT

HMIC also recently published their findings for Sussex Police in the "Rape Monitoring Group Digest" report. I am pleased that the number of charges for rapes increased in 2014/2015 for the fourth consecutive year and that the charge rate, as authorized by the CPS, continues to remain well above the national average of 59%. I was also encouraged that the report identified increases in the number of prosecutions (+20%) and convictions (+11%) in Sussex last year.

A. How have you reflected on the findings of this report?

B. What impact is the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Solved Rape Plans having on performance in this important area?

C. What plans are in place to improve solved rates for serious sexual offences in Sussex?

RS explained that he was incredibly proud of the performance of Sussex Police in this area and emphasised that the Force is continuing to work hard to improve. The policing element of the council tax was increased in 2014/2015 to provide additional funding to protect vulnerable people.

The sustained increases in the number of charges for rapes and the charge rate, as authorized by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), were reiterated and continue to remain well above the national average. Sussex Police is positioned 8 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales in terms of the solved rate for serious sexual offences and top of their most similar group of police forces.

It was acknowledged that more needs to be done to improve the Force's response in this important area. This includes the introduction of Specialist Investigation Units and the ability to better integrate with specialist CPS lawyers through early advice and direction.

POLICE KNOWLEDGE FUND 2015

I was encouraged to note that the University of Sussex and Sussex Police were successful in their bid to the Police Knowledge Fund 2015 to support closer working between the police and academia. Funding worth £761,136 was secured to develop policing initiatives relating to hate crime and technology.

A. Can you provide me with an update regarding how the objectives are progressing?

B. Are Sussex Police involved in any new bids for the next allocation of funding?

GY confirmed that the Police Knowledge Fund is supporting 13 projects nationally to provide opportunities for police officers and staff to get involved in innovative approaches to policing and crime reduction.

Sussex Police is involved in four of these projects: Policy Studies Institute University (to facilitate innovative use of social media and emerging technologies), Sussex University (to unlock and combine police and social media data in order to understand hate crime), London City University (to research and develop training materials for best memory retrieval practice) and Nottingham University (to develop Education Business Partnership training programmes).

Each of the four projects has been funded for two years and further progress updates will be provided as they develop. Sussex Police is not aware of any additional funding opportunities at this moment in time but will consider these as and when they become available.