

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 31 July 2015

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

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne (KB)  
Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney (OP)  
Assistant Chief Constable Steve Barry (SB)  
Performance & Information Manager Graham Kane – minutes  
Communications & Engagement Assistant Sammi Hide  
Correspondence & Administration Clerk Kirsty Blight

## **OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES**

- A. What have been the recent operational challenges for Sussex Police?**  
**B. How have you reflected on these?**

*Two operational challenges for Sussex Police in the past month have made national news.*

*These included a fire at St Michael's Hospice, St Leonards, in the early hours of 11 July 2015. It was confirmed that East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service was the lead agency and were supported by Sussex Police. Sadly, two patients suffered smoke inhalation and later died in hospital and another resident, Mr Rodney Smith, 67, was arrested and charged with arson with intent to endanger.*

*A further success for Sussex Police was the arrest of Mr Matthew Daley, 34, following a "frenzied attack" of Mr Donald Lock, 79, on the A24 in West Sussex on 16 July 2015. Mr Daley was charged with murder and possession of a knife in a public place at Hove Crown Court. Sussex Police were delighted with the public response to their appeals for information which contributed to a timely arrest and charge.*

*In addition, the Sussex Police response to disrupt an unlicensed event in Sedlescombe on 26 July 2015 was praised by local residents. Improved intelligence gathering from members of the public ensured that officers were able to intervene early and provide a prompt, firm and proportionate response.*

*It was also reported that plans are in place to ensure that Brighton Pride is again a success this weekend (1-2 August 2015) and this year's celebrations mark 25 years since Pride began. Operation Ingram is the Sussex Police response to the celebratory events to ensure that resources are effectively deployed to detect and prevent crime and make the weekend as safe as possible.*

*OP confirmed that the Force has again worked closely with planning and event organisers and 160,000 individuals are expected to line the route of the march through the city as the parade completes the planned route from Hove to Preston Park. Both the Party in the Park and Pride Village Party (in and around the St James' Street area) will again be ticketed events to provide a controlled and safe environment for everyone attending.*

*It was highlighted that the use of psychoactive substances (manufactured chemical drugs which try to replicate the effects of controlled drugs) at last year's event caught Sussex Police by surprise. Public and media awareness of these substances (and their associated health risks) is now much greater and Sussex Police will ensure that officers are better briefed in respect of the policies and powers available to them to provide a more proactive response.*

## **LOCAL POLICING PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

**Earlier this month, Sussex Police published a "Journey of Local Policing" timeline which provides further clarification around some of the major milestones of the Local Policing Programme. The timeline demonstrates that the Resolution Centre and Investigations Framework will be the first two initiatives to be rolled out as part of this programme.**

- A. For the benefit of the viewers, what are the Resolution Centre and Investigations Framework initiatives?**
- B. How will the implementation of these initiatives influence the policing response provided by Sussex Police?**
- C. How will the introduction of these two initiatives be communicated to the public and other stakeholders?**

*OP reiterated that the Local Policing Programme (LPP) will enable Sussex Police to operate more efficiently and effectively in the future by responding to incidents based on threat, risk and harm.*

*It was confirmed that a "Journey of Local Policing" timeline was published in July 2015 which provided further clarification around some of the major milestones of the LPP. In particular, the timeline set out the impending introduction of the Resolution Centre (RC) and Investigations Framework (IF) initiatives. A copy of the timeline can be viewed [here](#).*

*The RC is a telephone and online based resolution function linked to the Police Contact Centre which will provide transparent, accurate information and early resolution at initial contact. The RC will deal with lower-risk, non-time critical incidents and will reduce the need for officers to attend pre-arranged appointments and should contribute to public expectations being managed better. This will also ensure a greater focus is given to emergency calls.*

*At full-capacity, the RC will consist of 40 dedicated and experienced individuals, consisting of both police officers and staff. However, this will be a phased roll-out to enable changes to be tracked and managed appropriately, before any expansion is made. OP confirmed that no resources will be taken from Neighbourhood Response Teams to staff the RC.*

*Learning from other police force areas, where RCs have already been adopted, has provided evidence to suggest that a better service is delivered and greater levels of satisfaction are recorded. Sussex Police will monitor user satisfaction through existing channels of surveying and sampling. The RC is expected to start in October 2015 and KB will arrange a visit once it is established.*

*The IF is an internal change which will support police officers and staff in their decision making. It will provide individuals with the necessary tools to professionally assess threat, risk, harm and vulnerability, and balance this with the public interest to reach clearer and defensible decisions. This proportionate investigative response should mean fewer deployments and reduced investigation times, with clearer expectations for officers, staff, partners and the public, to facilitate confident decision making.*

*OP recognised that messages around the LPP remain important and will continue through established communications networks including local media, the Sussex Police website and internally through the Force intranet.*

KB concluded by stating that she would continue to monitor progress against the LPP timeline at future PAMs, including revisiting the RC at the PAM in October 2015.

**ACTION: KB to visit the Resolution Centre once it is established in October 2015.**

**ACTION: GK to add Resolution Centre to the list of themes at the PAM in October 2015.**

### **SUSSEX SAFER ROADS PARTNERSHIP – NATIONAL RURAL CRIME SURVEY RESULTS**

The results of the National Rural Crime Survey highlighted that 63% of all respondents felt that speeding and dangerous driving through rural towns and villages went largely untackled. A further 31% emphasised that speeding was a really big issue in their area.

- A. What assurances can you provide that Sussex Police is proactively tackling the issue of speeding and dangerous driving through rural locations in Sussex?**
- B. How does the SSRP proactively engage with the public regarding initiatives to improve road safety?**
- C. What has the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership delivered in the last year?**
- D. What impact will the Local Policing Programme have on the CSW schemes in Sussex?**

*SB provided strong assurances that Sussex Police continue to take road safety seriously and that long-term performance in this area demonstrates that the number of individuals killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads of Sussex is reducing. It was emphasised that success in this area would be a continued year-on-year reduction in the number of KSIs but acknowledged that this reducing trend has now increased across consecutive years; 2013/2014 (+17%) and 2014/2015 (+1%).*

*It was recognised that speed is usually the primary causation factor in any collision but that this is only regarded as one of the 'Fatal Four'. The other three include: not wearing seatbelts, drink/drug driving and using mobile telephones at the wheel. The continued importance of deploying resources to locations where they will have the most impact and generate casualty reduction outcomes was highlighted. Sussex Police follow guidance produced by the Department for Transport and KSI statistics indicate that the risk in Sussex is in urban areas as opposed to rural locations.*

*The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) is the primary group which directs activity across Sussex to refine and develop strategies in key areas to make the county's roads safer, build safer communities and engage with members of the public. This is about ensuring the right partner agencies are engaged at the right time. The SSRP is made up of Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, The Highways Agency, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Sussex Police.*

*SB highlighted that the education, engineering and enforcement activity of the SSRP is directed by an evidence base which consists of the concerns reported by members of the public. Individuals and communities with specific road safety concerns in their local areas were encouraged to report these to the SSRP. It was also explained that a governance structure exists to determine the SSRP priorities on an annual basis. The priority groups for 2015/2016 include motorcyclists, pedal cyclists/pedestrians and professional drivers. This is because the available data demonstrates that these groups are more likely to be at risk or involved in a collision.*

*In addition, it was confirmed that the SSRP provide ongoing support for the c.125 Community Speed Watch schemes which exist across Sussex. Funding for Operation Crackdown, which provides communities of Sussex with an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving on the roads, is also provided through the SSRP. Both of these initiatives enable intelligence regarding repeat offenders, vehicles, times and locations to be developed which is used to plan, target and deploy police resources.*

*KB shared her concerns that the SSRP is not working as efficiently and effectively as it potentially could be and welcomed the news of an impending internal audit.*

*SB concluded by stating that the LPP will not impact on Road Policing Unit resources and stated that local Neighbourhood Policing Teams will continue to ensure that community engagement around road safety issues exists.*

## VICTIM FOCUS

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### **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

**The Serious Crime Act came into effect in March 2015 and strengthened the law to tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by introducing a mandatory duty on healthcare professionals, teachers and social care workers, to notify the police of known cases of FGM carried out on girls under 18.**

**A. What do the key issues around FGM look like for Sussex Police?**

**B. How do Sussex Police ensure that they receive this mandated information from healthcare professionals and other partners and how is this information used to inform operational activity?**

**C. Operation Limelight and Operation Wreck are the Sussex Police responses to FGM and forced marriage. How have these plans been enhanced at Gatwick Airport to reflect the start of the school summer holidays?**

*SB reiterated that FGM cannot be tolerated and explained that Sussex Police continue to lead the way nationally. This is largely due to Force's work around FGM at Gatwick Airport. However, it was recognised that a gap currently exists in terms of intelligence building which the introduction of the new legislation should address.*

*Operation Limelight is a proactive airside operation which monitors inbound and outbound flights to 'countries of prevalence' for FGM. This operation was restarted by Sussex Police on 14 July 2015, to coincide with the start of the school summer holidays. The Force is also working closely with the UK Border Agency around this area.*

*Sussex Police is now more selective with regards to those police officers asking difficult questions around FGM and better questioning techniques have been developed, including an indicator list, which are used to identify and interview vulnerable women and girls travelling to high-risk areas. Sussex Police is also giving out deterrent messages to passengers travelling through the airport to these countries by stating that they will be meeting with them again on their return to the UK.*

*Additional interventions have included delaying the journeys of individuals, where appropriate, to allow for further investigation by social services to take place. This has then been followed up by Sussex Police if enforcement activity is required.*

SB stated that he was confident levels of FGM reporting are increasing in Sussex through the three Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASHs). It was understood that the MASHs are collectively receiving approximately two referrals each month and that in the past 18-month period, 26 referrals have been made (23 in Brighton & Hove, 2 in West Sussex and 1 in East Sussex). However, it was also recognised that Sussex Police need to become better at turning intelligence into evidence which can then be used as part of criminal investigations.

**ACTION: KB asked OP to confirm whether or not the number of recorded FGM crimes in Sussex is shared nationally.**

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

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### **OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS – VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON**

The Office for National Statistics recently published crime figures for England and Wales for the year ending March 2015. Total recorded crime increased by 2% nationally and was largely driven by a 23% increase in violence against the person offences. In Sussex, total recorded crime increased by 8% and violence against the person offences increased by 45% across the same period.

**A. What do you attribute the increase in recorded crime to?**

**B. What assurances can you provide that the risk of crime in Sussex has not increased?**

**C. ONS figures also highlighted that crimes involving knives in Sussex had increased by 22% in comparison to 2014. Can this increase also be attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime, rather than an actual increase in offending?**

**D. Other police force areas have trialled schemes such as knife “surrenders”. What is Sussex Police doing to tackle knife crime and educate individuals regarding the possible consequences of carrying knives?**

**E. How can members of the public find out about the levels of crime recorded in their local areas in Sussex?**

*OP attributed the increases in recorded crimes in Sussex to improvements in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police (following HMIC’s work around crime data integrity), rather than an actual increase in offending.*

*KB was reassured to note that the increases in recorded violence against the person offences were in line with national trends and that the risk of crime in Sussex has not increased. Sussex continues to be a low crime area.*

*OP confirmed that a recent report in The Argus prompted Sussex Police to examine data in respect of knife crime. The review determined that, due to an IT problem, reporting mechanisms incorrectly included additional categories of weapons, such as teeth, bottles or bodily force, which inflated the overall figures.*

*Instead of 660 knife crime incidents for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and 873 for the same period in 2014/2015, actual figures were 272 and 334, respectively. OP apologised for misinforming readers and confirmed that corrected figures had been retrospectively submitted to the Home Office (HO). KB was satisfied that the accuracy of other crime data, which is also reported to the HO, had been checked and verified.*

*In terms of knife surrender schemes in Sussex, it was highlighted that an operation exists at Gatwick Airport to encourage the surrender of knives with blades of any length. It was also emphasised that Sussex Police regularly publicise 'gun surrenders' across the county. SB encouraged any viewers wishing to safely dispose of unwanted or unlicensed knives, guns or other weaponry to telephone Sussex Police on 101 or to take these to a local police station for disposal. Further information regarding the surrender of weaponry can be viewed [here](#).*

*Members of the public were advised that information regarding recorded crime in England and Wales is available to them through the Police.uk website. This website enables users to view street-level crime and outcome data for individual police force areas. It is also possible to download data on police activity, including stop and search, arrests and non-emergency call handling times through this forum. This website can be viewed via the following link: [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).*

## **HMIC REPORT – BUILDING THE PICTURE**

**HMIC recently published their report, "Building the Picture". The report set out the findings from a review of the business processes that police forces in England and Wales use to collect, record, process, evaluate and share information. This report followed a previous HMIC publication in 2013 which concluded that mistakes had been made in the handling of information and allegations into sexual abuse.**

- A. What is your overall reaction to the findings of the report?**
- B. What progress has been made by Sussex Police against the recommendations set out in the report?**
- C. What plans are in place to deliver the recommendations in Sussex within the prescribed timescales?**

OP welcomed HMIC's follow up report in respect of the business processes that police forces in England and Wales use to retain, audit, govern and make risk-based decisions around information. In particular, it was recognised that the information and intelligence held by all police force areas is a precious commodity and that it must be used appropriately. However, the timeliness of the report publication was raised as a concern because opportunities to improve in an efficient and effective manner were not maximised on this occasion owing to the delay in publication from the initial inspection in May 2014.

OP acknowledged that the recommendations are national and not Sussex Police specific but explained that an internal review against the designated recommendations for 'Chief Constables' had been commissioned ahead of the prescribed deadline of 30 November 2015.

It was also highlighted that an action plan for the Force, in respect of this area, was developed following the initial HMIC publication and recommendations in 2013. This plan is in the process of being enhanced and updated to include plans to reconcile the latest recommendations.

OP concluded by confirming that she is responsible for the performance of Sussex Police in this area on behalf of the Chief Constable and recognised that this area is tightly regulated by the Information Commissioner's Office. OP stated that she is chair of the Information Management Security Board, which provides governance, high-level direction and oversight for information management, technical development and business change across the Force. KB also confirmed that the OSPCC is represented on this Board.

**ACTION: KB to discuss the progress made by Sussex Police against the HMIC recommendations at the PAM in October 2015.**

VALUE FOR MONEY

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### **ESTATES STRATEGY – UPDATE**

**Last year, I unveiled a 5-year Estates Strategy, as part of a £20m investment programme for police buildings to improve the accessibility and visibility of neighbourhood policing by looking at how services can be delivered more efficiently.**

#### **A. Can you give me an update on the key progress made to date?**

*OP explained that the Estates Strategy has already delivered savings of over £1m and is on track to deliver further savings of £1.5m in 2015/2016. Sussex Police continue to look at the changing requirements of the Force and the disposal of properties which are no longer fit for purpose.*

*In total, cash receipts worth over £10m have now been recognised, including the recent sale of Slaugham Manor. These receipts are being utilised as part of the £20m capital investment programme to refurbish and repair Sussex Police Headquarters in Lewes, John Street Police Station in Brighton and Crawley, Hastings, Bognor, Haywards Heath and Chichester Police Stations in 2015/2016.*

*The strategy also contains plans to make police services more accessible in Petworth, Ferring, Lancing and East Grinstead through the collaborative sharing of local library premises.*