

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 19 December 2014

**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)  
Director of Finance Mark Baker (MB)  
Performance & Information Manager Graham Kane – minutes  
Communications Manager Rosie Gooch  
Correspondence & Administration Clerk Sarah Tibbott

## **OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**What have been the recent operational highlights for the Force?**

**A. Have there been any key Operations or challenges?**

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

*GY explained that a recent operational highlight for Sussex Police had included the sentencing of an organised crime group in Brighton & Hove. The drugs gang of seven (including men and women) were found guilty of supplying class A drugs between Liverpool and Brighton and were sentenced to spend 53 years and two months in prison.*

*In addition, it was emphasised that the Judge gave Crown Court commendations to DS Julian Deans, DC Mark Pinder and Mr Andy Boyd, Drugs Development Support Officer, for their work on the case.*

*The Manhunt Team on Brighton & Hove Division were also praised for their recent successes, including the arrests of over 70 individuals since 1 November 2014. The Manhunt Team are supported by Special Constables, who have worked an additional 271 hours as part of this targeted activity, using both uniform, plain clothes and social media to maximise opportunities.*

*GY concluded by stating that strong coordination and effective collaborative work between Sussex and Surrey Police resulted in the swift arrest of the suspect wanted for the tragic double murder in Fetcham, near Leatherhead, in November 2014.*

**OPERATION DRAGONFLY – CHRISTMAS DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGN 2014**

**“Operation Dragonfly” is the dedicated Sussex Police drink-drive campaign which takes place across December in the lead up to Christmas and New Year celebrations. I also note that the Force, along with others, will again be publishing the names and addresses of those drivers charged with drink-driving offences, which has been labelled “naming and shaming” by the media.**

**A. What evidence is there to suggest that this tactic will successfully act as a deterrent?**

**B. Are potential human rights and reputational issues caused by “naming and shaming” individuals that should be “innocent until proven guilty”?**

**C. What does the charge against conviction rate look like in Sussex?**

**D. Has the use of this tactic been considered for any other crime types?**

*GY explained that “naming and shaming” those individuals charged with drink-driving offences, as part of Operation Dragonfly, does successfully act as a deterrent. It was emphasised that this is the third time that this tactic has been used in Sussex to highlight dangerous driver activity in an attempt to change long-term driver behaviour. Other forces that have adopted the same approach include Surrey, Lincolnshire and West Midlands police forces. It was also stated that this same tactic has been successfully used for burglary offences.*

*It was confirmed that between 1 December and 18 December 2014 Sussex Police had stopped over 2,000 motorists, of which 85 individuals were arrested and a further 55 charged with drink-driving. GY stated that the public are now reporting more instances of drink-driving, including significant increases in reports received through text, Operation Crackdown and Crimestoppers. The charge against conviction rate in Sussex was 93% for the Christmas drink-drive campaign in 2013, which increased to 100% for the campaign that ran across the summer in 2014.*

*The potential human rights and reputational issues caused by “naming and shaming” were discussed. GY explained that at the point of charge for any criminal activity, the details of the individual are put into the public domain. This approach involves balancing “innocent until proven guilty” with “a right to a fair trial” and “a right to life”. However, it was highlighted that a risk assessment regarding the publication of these details is always carried out by the Force first. Throughout the campaign to date, a decision not to publish these details has been taken on one occasion.*

## **101 – NON-EMERGENCY CALL HANDLING TIMES**

**At September's PAM, you acknowledged that the 46% of non-emergency calls answered within 60 seconds, against a Force target of 75%, was "not an acceptable standard" and reiterated that the Force was continuing to work hard to rectify this situation. I am pleased that performance in this area has improved to 52%, as at 30 November, and note that the single site Contact and Command Centre went live last month.**

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

**B. How has the single site Contact and Command Centre contributed towards this improved performance?**

*GY stated that non-emergency call handling times remain a priority for Sussex Police. It was highlighted that the single site Contact and Command Centre went live on 12 November 2014 which has resulted in increased flexibility for the call handlers in terms of their ability to answer both emergency and non-emergency calls, subject to demand.*

*GY confirmed that 92% of emergency calls continue to be answered within 10 seconds. In terms of primary call handling times, 91% have been answered within the Force target of 30 seconds, across the 2014/2015 Performance Plan Year to date. In addition, 54% of secondary calls have been answered within 60 seconds, across the same period, including performances of 81% and 86% for the individual months of November and December (to date), against the Force target of 75%. KB welcomed the good progress that the Force has made around these secondary call handling times in particular following scrutiny at previous PAMs. The appropriateness of a target time of 60 seconds for secondary calls was also highlighted.*

*The collective performance of all those individuals involved in the restructure towards the Contact and Command Centre was commended, with particular praise reserved for Chief Superintendent Wayne Jones – Head of the Contact and Command Centre, Jo Ball – Head of Non-Emergency Contact and Temporary Chief Inspector Paul Williams – Force Command and Control.*

*GY concluded by stating that he is confident that performance can be maintained in this area providing that nothing else changes in terms of workload. Any shift in this balance would be likely to have an impact and could potentially compromise this improved performance.*

**OPERATION RIBBON**

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

**A. What are the aims and objectives of Operation Ribbon?**

**B. How will success be measured across this Operation?**

**C. What assurances can you provide that the dedicated patrols attending reports of domestic abuse will have received the enhanced training set out in the Sussex Police Domestic Abuse and Violence Action Plan?**

*OP reiterated that Operation Ribbon is the overarching Sussex Police response to reports of domestic abuse over the Christmas and New Year period. The aims and objectives of the Operation are to support victims, take the power away from perpetrators and to take swift action through the courts (wherever appropriate). The Operation consists of three phases:*

*Phase 1: Preventing domestic abuse – Officers have been visiting known victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse across Sussex in partnership with Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). Approximately five visits per day across each divisional area have been made since the campaign was launched on 25 November 2014.*

*KB was assured that a thorough evidence base existed behind this approach and that each case was risk assessed before any contact was made. This ensured that any interventions made by Sussex Police remained positive and did not place the victims in any unnecessary danger.*

*Phase 2: Between the period 19 December to 31 December 2014 patrols will attend reports of domestic abuse in a dedicated response car on each of the divisions. These patrols have received enhanced and bespoke training from the Adult Protection Team and will provide guidance and assurance, together with the provision of practical equipment, including alarms and door barricades. Additional court time will also be made available to ensure swifter justice for victims of domestic abuse.*

*Phase 3: From the 1 January 2015, Sussex Police will be monitoring and working closely with victims and witnesses of domestic abuse to support them through the criminal justice system process.*

*Success in Operation Ribbon will be measured through a reduction in the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse. Sussex Police will also seek to analyse data that they have collected themselves, data from partners and data obtained from victims via IDVAs. KB explained that she would like to be sighted on the findings of this analysis once it had been completed.*

**ACTION: KB to revisit the success of Operation Ribbon at the PAM in March 2015**

## **HOMOPHOBIC HATE CRIMES**

**I note that the number of recorded homophobic hate crimes in Sussex has increased by 63% across the Performance Plan Year to date, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. I also note that this trend is reflected nationally too.**

**A. Can these additional recorded homophobic hate crimes be attributed to an actual increase in crime or to an increase in reporting as a result of improved public confidence and trust in the police?**

**B. What is the Force doing to tackle homophobic hate crime in Sussex?**

*GY explained that evidence suggests that the additional recorded homophobic hate crimes in Sussex can be attributed to an increase in reporting as a result of improved public confidence and trust in the police rather than an actual increase in recorded crimes. The same trend is also true for all hate crimes.*

*The Force has many proactive initiatives in place to tackle homophobic hate crime in Sussex, including a dedicated Police Sergeant responsible for identifying gaps and monitoring the progress made. Initiatives include multiple web-chats, the creation of Hate Crime Hubs and work with the two universities (Brighton and Sussex), together with Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club. It was emphasised that a number of different media channels have been used to promote the work that Sussex Police has undertaken across this area.*

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

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## **HMIC – PEEL ASSESSMENT**

**The recently published HMIC “PEEL Assessment” findings for Sussex Police in the “Crime Inspection 2014” and “Police Integrity and Corruption” reports highlighted that good progress had been made by the Force in terms of cutting crime and preventing corruption. However, the effectiveness of the Force in terms of investigating offending was identified as an area that required improvement.**

**A. How have you reflected on the findings of these reports?**

**B. What plans are in place to develop a more effective investigative capability and improve detection rates in Sussex?**

*OP explained that Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary’s (HMIC) PEEL Assessment represented a new method of analysing the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of the police service.*

*Sussex Police received findings of “good” for all areas except for one, including specific praise for its victim-focused approach and effective governance and intelligence procedures in place to prevent and detect corruption. The one area that required improvement related to developing a more effective investigative capability. This was quantified as relating to localised and regular day-to-day investigations in particular, as opposed to the more serious criminal investigations.*

*It was highlighted that ACC Robin Smith has commissioned some work around this including the initiation of an internal crime review across the Force. The purpose of this review is to look at simplifying processes and maximising investigations in terms of improving training, handovers and supervision. The importance of adopting and embracing the Code of Ethics throughout this work was also reinforced by OP.*

*This work has identified 27 recommendations for the Force of which action plans are in place to achieve this and are currently being worked through. It is anticipated that the final report will be completed in January 2015.*

**ACTION: KB to be provided with a copy of the final report in January 2015**

### **POLICE USE OF PRE-CHARGE BAIL**

**The Home Secretary, MPs, lawyers and campaigners have asked for the system which allows suspects to remain on police bail for months without charge to be reformed. At present, no restriction exists on the amount of time that the police can hold someone on pre-charge bail which has resulted in more than 70,000 individuals being left in limbo, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, not knowing if they will ever face court.**

**A. What does the use of pre-charge bail look like in Sussex?**

**B. What assurances can you provide that those individuals subject to pre-charge bail are regularly reviewed?**

*GY explained that pre-charge bail is used for three scenarios. These include putting restrictions on individuals whilst the police gather and analyse evidence, waiting for the Crown Prosecution Service to make a decision regarding prosecution and for court bail (after charge but before the case is presented at court). However, it is the first two scenarios that have the potential for individuals to be left in limbo depending on the complexities of their cases.*

*It was confirmed that Sussex Police have arrested just under 33,000 people across 2014 to date, of which 2,264 individuals are currently on police bail, which equates to less than 7%. However, only 104 of these individuals have been on bail for more than 6 months (which equates to 0.3%) which very much represent the minority.*

*It was emphasised that the vast majority of individuals go through the criminal justice system in a timely manner. Those individuals on pre-charge bail for longer period of time are often involved in complex activities that require significant investigation.*

*GY expressed concerns regarding the possibility of bringing in any statutory changes to the way that pre-charge bail is used. In particular, shortening the maximum limit to 28 days, before this is reviewed by a magistrate, could potentially compromise the completion of full and balanced investigations and, ultimately, public safety. It would also be likely to result in an increased cost and workload for the Force, in terms of preparing and producing papers for magistrates to consider. It was explained that these changes could have huge implications at a time when police resources are already stretched.*

*GY concluded by stating that he would be discussing the police use of pre-charge bail with Chief Constable Chris Eyre, of Nottinghamshire Police, who is the national portfolio lead in this area.*

**PROVISIONAL POLICE GRANT SETTLEMENT**

**The provisional police grant settlement and Council Tax referendum limits for 2015/2016 were announced this week.**

**A. What do these look like for Sussex?**

*MB confirmed that the provisional proposals for the aggregate amount of grant to Local Policing Bodies in England and Wales for 2015/2016 was announced this week.*

*It was emphasised that total police funding has reduced by 3.5% and that core revenue grant reductions exist for each individual police force area of 5.1% (which equates to £8.2m). MB stated that these reductions were in line with those expected and anticipated and are attributable to a higher level of top slicing of police funding for national policing issues including the Police Innovation Fund, Independent Police Complaints Commission, Police Special Grant (NEW) and major communications programmes. MB concluded by expressing his concerns regarding the increased shift towards central funding.*

*MB also confirmed that an announcement on Council Tax referendum limits for 2015/2016 has now been made the Department for Communities and Local Government and are set at a maximum of 2%. The potential increase of up to 1.98% that KB is currently consulting on falls within this proposed referendum limit.*

*It was emphasised that both of these announcements remain provisional until they are confirmed in January 2015.*