

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING – 27.10.2017**

**DATE:** 27 October 2017

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

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner – Katy Bourne (KB)  
Chief Finance Officer – Iain McCulloch (IMcC)  
Chief Constable – Giles York (GY)  
Assistant Chief Constable – Steve Barry (SB)  
Commissioning Officer – Micha Dawes  
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (minutes)

### **PLANNING FOR THE POLICING OF THE BONFIRE CELEBRATIONS**

**The UK's biggest bonfire night celebrations will again take place in Lewes on Saturday, 4 November 2017. Operation Peel is the Sussex Police response to supporting the bonfire societies to ensure public safety.**

- A. How is the planning progressing for this event?**
- B. Have any additional precautionary measures been taken as a result of terrorist attacks earlier this year?**
- C. Was the Force involved in the decision to limit rail travel to Lewes for the bonfire celebrations and what was the rationale for the decision to be taken?**

*SB explained that plans for the policing of next month's bonfire night celebrations started shortly after last year's celebrations concluded and are continuing to progress well. Minor revisions have been made to well-rehearsed plans to ensure that public safety is prioritised at the event.*

*It was emphasised that the planning process is made more complicated because there is no single event organiser. Sussex Police is part of a multi-agency group working closely with the seven bonfire societies, Lewes District Council, East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance Service, British Transport Police and Southern Rail.*

*Detailed safety advice was commissioned and received from experts in respect of crowd density, routing of processions, naked flames and risk of crushing. Sussex Police has also taken a number of additional precautionary measures ahead of the bonfire celebrations this year in response to the terrorist attacks earlier this year. These plans will remain under constant review both up to and including the day of the event.*

*SB confirmed that the Force was involved in the decision to reduce rail travel to Lewes for the bonfire celebrations. This decision was taken by the multi-agency group in the interests of public safety and was one of a number of tactical measures (including road closures and parking suspensions) put in place to limit the number of individuals entering Lewes in an attempt to try and ensure that the celebration remains a local event. Further information is available through the following link:*

**[www.lewes.gov.uk/tourism/22423.asp](http://www.lewes.gov.uk/tourism/22423.asp)**

## **OPERATION MAGPIE – BURGLARY CRIME PREVENTION CAMPAIGN**

**Operation Magpie is the Sussex Police response to burglary and the 'Keep a light on' winter campaign was launched this week.**

**A. For the benefit of the viewers, what is the 'Keep a light on' campaign?**

**B. The clocks go back on Saturday evening and this is a time of the year when traditionally there is an increase in this particular crime type. How will this campaign be used to raise awareness of the steps members of the public can take to keep their homes secure in the darker evenings?**

**C. How are you monitoring Force performance in respect of burglary following the change to the definition on 1 April 2017 and the absence of direct year-on-year comparisons?**

*SB explained that the 'Keep a light on' campaign is part of Operation Magpie, the Force's co-ordinated response to burglary. The aim of the campaign is to highlight the impact that a burglary can have on a victim and encourage members of the public to take additional caution to protect their homes from the threat of intruders through the provision of practical crime prevention advice.*

*The purpose of the campaign was also to raise awareness of burglaries throughout Sussex at a time of the year when traditionally there is an increase in this particular crime type. The campaign has been separated into two distinct phases: social media campaign and awareness raising.*

**Social media campaign** – the Force has proactively promoted the campaign through all available social media channels in an attempt to maximise crime prevention opportunities;

**Awareness raising** – Sussex Police are using Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to target vulnerable areas and locations based on previous intelligence received and increased reporting. Leaflets are also being handed out to residents face-to-face to ensure that the campaign is as far-reaching as possible.

*It was explained that the Police Efficiency Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) Board has refined the approach for the 'Keep a light on' campaign this year. This campaign has now been introduced and replicated across each of the three policing divisions.*

*SB reassured KB that burglary continues to remain a priority for Sussex Police. The Force response is driven by the victim and continues to use the **Investigations Framework** (a decision-making model) to investigate the crimes that cause the most harm. This approach involves assessing each case individually and prioritising the crimes that cause the greatest harm to victims and communities, bringing the most prolific offenders to justice and assessing the viability of success for all lines of enquiry. It was also emphasised that Sussex Police will attend the scene of burglary crimes on the vast majority of occasions.*

*The definition of burglary changed on 1 April 2017 and 'burglary dwelling' and 'burglary other than a dwelling' have now been combined within a 'residential burglary' category. A separate 'commercial burglary' category has also been created for all burglaries relating to businesses. The changes to these definitions mean that the Force is unable to present burglary statistics broken down to the new subgroups until April 2018. The Force continues to monitor performance in this area at their Daily Management Meetings.*

*It was also emphasised that the risk of experiencing a burglary crime in Sussex continues to remain low. The Force is positioned 7 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales in terms of risk per 1,000 population. Sussex Police is also top of their Most Similar Group (MSG) of eight police forces for the risk of burglary. GY concluded by highlighting the importance of taking personal responsibility for preventing burglaries and stated that "the best defence against burglary is prevention".*

## **SCALE OF MULTIPLE ABUSE IN SUSSEX**

**Earlier this year, I commissioned YMCA Downslink Group and the 'What is Sexual Exploitation?' (WiSE) Project to look into the scale of multiple abuse in Sussex. The report revealed a complex picture in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex with the wider public failing to realise that boys may be at risk as well as girls, and that boys and young men risk being overlooked as potential victims of sexual exploitation.**

**A. What specific training have police officers undergone or have access to in terms of recognising the different forms of sexual exploitation, particularly within boys and young men?**

**B. How is the Force ensuring that the public understand what will happen if somebody reports concerns of child sexual exploitation (CSE) so that the 'fear factor' of reporting is minimised for both families and children themselves?**

**C. How will the risk of CSE be considered as part of the forthcoming changes to Force policy in respect of missing and absent children?**

*GY explained that Sussex Police has taken this report very seriously and reiterated that this remains a huge priority for the Force because all types of CSE are under-reported. It was acknowledged that, historically, the Force has been better at recognising CSE when girls and young females have been involved as opposed to boys and young men. Sussex Police has developed good relationships with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) groups but also recognises that CSE exists outside of this community.*

*Operation Kite is the Sussex Police response to improve the focus, recognition and understanding of CSE and other forms throughout Sussex. A detailed plan exists across the Force to raise awareness of this type of crime and to increase the intelligence reports received to enable the Force to target perpetrators and safeguard victims.*

*It was highlighted that 'county lines' involves drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. It is acknowledged that county lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation can have a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities. The response to tackle this involves Sussex Police, National Crime Agency, a wide range of government departments and local government agencies, and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations.*

*Like many other statutory organisations, voluntary agencies and professionals who work with children, Sussex Police has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It was highlighted that the Force has recently relaunched CSE training in partnership with these agencies with a specific focus on boys and young men being at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation.*

*It was emphasised that the Force has a successful track-record of third-party reporting where there is no compulsion to automatically refer any reports received to statutory support services. Sussex Police always endeavour to put the victim at the heart of everything they do, including respecting the wishes of a victim not to report a crime to the police. It was also highlighted that where reports are made to a third-party, instead of the police, it is essential that appropriate mechanisms are in place to capture this important evidence at the time it is reported because of the difficult, protracted and complex nature of these investigations.*

*GY explained that the risk of CSE, particularly in boys and young men, has been considered as part of changes to Force policy in respect of missing and absent children. A missing person team has now been established on each of the three policing divisions to create and develop relationships with these children. It was also recognised that not all of the expertise in this particular area sits with the police and that these teams include representation from housing, social and children's services too. KB concluded by stating that she was pleased that the report was being taken so seriously by Sussex Police.*

## **HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2017**

**I was pleased to be able to support "Hate Crime Awareness Week 2017" last week to raise awareness of hate crime, to remember those we have lost, and support those who need ongoing support.**

**A. How did Sussex Police support this week?**

**B. How is the Force proactively working with partners to raise awareness of hate crime which impact residents in Sussex?**

**C. Earlier this year, the Premier League launched a significant drive to tackle homophobic abuse at football matches by announcing a partnership with the LGBT organisation Stonewall. What do you see are the key challenges for Sussex Police in terms of tackling homophobia in football and how is the Force responding to these?**

*GY confirmed that Sussex Police supported Hate Crime Awareness Week 2017 by raising the awareness amongst officers and staff within the Force and demonstrating that the reporting of hate crime remains important to Sussex Police.*

- **Raising awareness amongst officers and staff within the Force** – this included the Deputy Chief Constable posting a different message about hate crime on the Sussex Police intranet each day throughout the week. These messages reminded staff about what constitutes a hate crime and what should be done if a hate crime is reported;
- **Demonstrating that the reporting of hate crime remains important to Sussex Police** – this included the Force proactively posting about hate crime on all of their social media platforms, including featuring victim commentary about the level of service that can be expected if a report was to be made, either to the police or a third-party.

*Sussex Police continues to work with communities and partners across Sussex to encourage reporting and raise awareness of hate crime. This includes the use of Independent Advisory Groups to assist with this engagement and dialogue.*

*The Force has demonstrated a 5% increase in the number of hate crimes recorded across the Performance Plan Year period, 1 April to 27 October 2017, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. This equates to an additional 54 hate crimes recorded and is in line with the performance of all police force areas across England and Wales. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) continues to request returns from each police force area relating to recorded hate crime numbers to monitor community tensions following last year's European Union Referendum result.*

*GY explained that the launch of a significant drive to tackle homophobic abuse at football matches by the Premier League, in partnership with the LGBT organisation Stonewall, represents a good news story for the Force.*

*The positive work of Sussex Police and Police Constable Darren Balkham, Football Intelligence and Liaison Officer, to develop a staged response to homophobic chanting at football matches has been noted. This has culminated in the Force being invited to work with the Premier League to disseminate some of this best practice to the other teams within the league. Sussex Police is also engaging with the other police force areas ahead of Brighton & Hove Albion travelling to play their away matches to publicise the positive actions that have been taken locally.*

## **PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES**

**Earlier this summer, the Home Secretary launched the government's new drug strategy, to reduce illicit drug use and increase the rate of individuals recovering from drug dependence. The strategy targets New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), formerly known as legal highs, which mimic the effects of other drugs.**

- A. What does the scale, impact and response to NPS look like for Sussex Police?**
- B. How is the Force working with partners to tackle NPS in Sussex?**
- C. How will Sussex Police support the delivery of the '2017 Drug Strategy'?**
- D. What operational challenges has Sussex Police had tackling the use of NPS at the recent Boundary Festival and the policing of other festivals in Sussex this year?**
- E. How is Sussex Police working with the public to educate them of the harmful affects that these products can have and to attempt to stop the distribution of these products at source?**

*SB explained that a psychoactive substance is a chemical substance that acts primarily upon the central nervous system where it alters brain function, resulting in temporary changes in perception, mood, consciousness and behaviour. NPS has been classified in the '2017 Drug Strategy' and examples of these substances include nitrous oxide (laughing gas) and spice (synthetic cannabis).*

*The continued emergence of NPS – the content and harms of which are not known due to their rapidly changing make up and patterns of use – has created additional dangers to vulnerable groups, including young people, homeless and prisoners. The implementation of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 has intended to restrict the production, sale and supply of NPS. The Act states that anything that can be categorised as a NPS is now illegal.*

*It was explained that a number of head shops (specialising in paraphernalia used for the consumption of tobacco, cannabis and related counter-cultures) have now been removed throughout Sussex. However, it was emphasised that purchases of NPS can still be made online or at festivals.*

*As a direct result, the Force has taken a stronger and more proactive approach towards tackling the use of NPS at the policing of the Pride, Wildlife and Boundary festivals in Sussex this year. This has included a number of confiscations, seizures and a total of 64 arrests made this summer for the possession of NPS with the intent to supply.*

*Operational challenges for Sussex Police in respect of NPS include the legislation stating that possession of these products is not actually an offence and the specific focus for the Force is, understandably, on those individuals who are supplying these products. The scale and volume of NPS was highlighted too. For example, 1,200 cans of nitrous oxide were seized at the Wildlife Festival that took place at Brighton City Airport in June 2017. The importance of remaining focussed on categorised drugs (including heroin and cocaine) was also made because these illegal drugs cause significantly more harm than NPS.*

*Sussex Police is working with the public to educate them of the harmful affects that these products can have and are attempting to stop the distribution of NPS at source through four main areas: pursue and prevent (to reduce the threat) and protect and prepare (to reduce the vulnerability).*

*It was also emphasised that a partnership-based response is required to tackle NPS in Sussex. The Force is working hard with partners, including Trading Standards, local authorities, health, charitable and VCS partners to protect the vulnerable and address the harm that is caused to communities through the use of these substances.*

## **MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Anti-Slavery Day took place on 18 October 2017 to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of modern slavery and human trafficking.**

**A. For the benefit of the viewers, what is modern slavery and human trafficking and what do the key issues around these areas look like for Sussex Police?**

**B. It was recently reported that landlords in the south-east were targeting vulnerable young people with "sex-for-rent" deals. What is Sussex Police doing to help and support those individuals abused and exploited through prostitution, and investigate and prosecute those individuals that continue to abuse and exploit others?**

**C. Earlier this week, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published "Stolen Freedom - The Policing Response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" report which highlighted that the police are failing to recognise and tackle modern slavery and human trafficking crimes, leading to victims being left unprotected or even arrested. The report highlighted 11 recommendations, of which 7 specifically related to Chief Constables. How will the Force address the police related recommendations?**

**D. The National Crime Agency launched the second phase of their modern slavery and human trafficking awareness campaign on 13 October 2017, in partnership with the Modern Slavery Helpline, which focussed on the Maritime and Fisheries sector. Given the number of ports, harbours and marinas along the Sussex coast, how is Project Kraken supporting the Sussex Police response to increase public reporting and strengthen the general maritime industry's ability to respond to local threats?**

*GY stated that modern slavery is a complex crime that takes a number of different forms. It encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. It was also highlighted that human trafficking is an element of modern slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to move individuals within and across borders in order to obtain some type of labour or commercial sex act.*

*It was explained that traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. Victims may be sexually exploited, forced to work for little or no pay or forced to commit criminal activities against their will. Victims are often pressured into debt-bondage and are likely to be fearful of those who exploit them, who will often threaten and abuse victims and their families. All of these factors make it very difficult for victims to escape.*

*GY explained that landlords who have "sex-for-rent" deals with their tenants are not against the law, providing that the sex is consensual. Sussex Police is obliged to act within the law and will always investigate and support victims once a report is received. It was also emphasised that these 'hidden' crimes are often extremely complex, time-consuming and difficult to investigate.*

*It was highlighted that the National Referral Mechanism is the framework for potential victims of modern slavery to be identified and referred for appropriate support. However, the system needs improvement in many areas and Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, is pushing for complete reform in this area.*

*GY confirmed that 85% of all frontline police officers and staff within Sussex Police have completed the National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) training package on modern slavery. There are also a number of Subject Matter Experts located throughout the Force who have received additional training to support colleagues in the workplace in respect of modern slavery.*

*It was again recognised that whilst Sussex Police has a role to play in respect of modern slavery, this remains a collective responsibility for all partners to tackle. A Pan-Sussex Modern Slavery Network has been established and brings together all of the organisations that are committed to tackling modern slavery, prosecuting perpetrators and assisting victims. East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Gang Masters, Labour Abuse Authority, Immigration Enforcement, Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and Sussex Police are each represented within the Network.*

*SB explained that Project Kraken is mostly focussed on small ports and marinas and aims to increase public reporting and strengthen the general maritime industry's ability to respond to local threats. Good contacts and relationships have been built and established in Sussex through positive, local engagement. The National Crime Agency provides national and regional tasking in respect of Project Kraken but this is delivered locally. KB enquired as to when the Project was last reviewed.*

*GY explained that he has reviewed all 11 of the recommendations from the report and confirmed that five of the recommendations that specifically relate to Chief Constables have already been completed, as follows: recommendations 5 and 6 in respect of victim identification and initial response, recommendation 7 (crime recording), recommendation 8 (investigation) and recommendation 9 (prevention). It was also explained that plans are in place to address recommendation 2 (leadership) and recommendation 4 (intelligence) within their twelve and six month timescales, respectively. All of the recommendations received by HMICFRS and the progress made against each are recorded in an Action Log that is tracked through the Force's Organisational Reassurance Board.*

**ACTION: KB would like to know whether Sussex Police has recorded an increase in the number of intelligence submissions received, offences reported and investigations carried out into modern slavery in the past twelve months.**

**ACTION: When was Project Kraken last reviewed?**

## **UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES – DRONES**

**Last month, a report into 'Drones in Policing' was published in the Policing Insight magazine.**

**A. Following several reported incidents at Gatwick Airport where unidentified drones have resulted in disruption and potential threat to aviation safety, what risk assessment has the Force carried out to assess the wider threat of drones being used for criminal purposes, terrorism or other illegal activities?**

**B. For the benefit of the viewers, what is an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), otherwise referred to as a drone, and how are these currently used by Sussex Police?**

*SB explained that he is the NPCC lead for drones and confirmed that Sussex Police has carried out a risk assessment to assess the wider threat of drones being used for criminal purposes, terrorism or other illegal activities, in line with national processes and procedures.*

*The Department for Transport has provided reassurance that the threat from drones to aviation remains low. SB confirmed that a robust response plan is in place at Gatwick Airport. Sussex Police and air traffic control will respond, as appropriate, in accordance with NPCC guidance. A separate threat of drones being used to fly illicit and illegal substances into prisons also exists.*

*SB confirmed that Sussex Police and Surrey Police have access to six "top-of-the-range" drones that are used to support policing operations in and around Gatwick Airport and to support specific tasks and pre-planned events in the combined police force area.*

*It was emphasised that there are clear "benefits" in respect of the use of drones but the difficulties identifying tangible cost savings as a direct result of their use were highlighted. It was, however, acknowledged that these drones are now starting to demonstrate efficiencies in respect of time, effort and resources. This has resulted in a reduced number of deployments of the National Police Air Service (NPAS). For example, there have been a third fewer requests made for NPAS this year in Sussex, and 50% fewer deployments requested by Surrey Police.*

*Sussex Police also has the largest number of trained drone pilots in the UK, with around 30 operators available to fly the six drones. Each of these individuals has completed a Civil Aviation Authority endorsed drone pilot training course.*

*SB concluded by stating that the drone operations in Sussex and Surrey will be "overt, open and transparent" and that all available outlets will be used to ensure the public are informed of drone usage.*