

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 20 July 2018

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

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner – Katy Bourne (KB)  
Chief Executive Officer – Mark Streater (MS)  
Chief Constable – Giles York (GY)  
Deputy Chief Constable – Bernie O'Reilly (BO'R)  
Digital Content Officer – Natalie McFall  
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (minutes)

### **OPERATION DRAGONFLY – SUMMER DRINK-AND-DRUG DRIVE CAMPAIGN 2018**

**As discussed at last month's PAM, "Operation Dragonfly", the dedicated Sussex Police drink-and-drug-drive campaign, took place between 14 June and 15 July 2018.**

**A. How have you reflected on this latest campaign?**

**B. Can you provide me with an update regarding the total number of drivers breathalysed or tested for substances and subsequently arrested for drink-or-drug-driving offences?**

**C. What other initiatives does the Force have planned to tackle drink-and-drug driving throughout the rest of the calendar year prior to the commencement of the Christmas drink-and-drug-drive campaign?**

*GY confirmed that Operation Dragonfly, the Sussex Police summer drink-and-drug drive campaign, took place between 14 June and 15 July 2018. The campaign was run alongside the 2018 World Cup to draw extra attention and to highlight the dangers of drink-and-drug driving.*

*The Force used a combination of high-visibility policing through the Road Policing Unit (RPU) to carry out vehicle stops and checks, together with a more targeted approach to vehicle stops based on intelligence received from reports submitted to Operation Crackdown, in an attempt to stop drink-and-drug-driving in Sussex.*

*Early indications have highlighted that a total of 165 arrests were made throughout the campaign after individuals provided positive samples at the roadside. Of these arrests, 150 were made on suspicion of drink-driving offences and 15 were made on suspicion of drug-driving offences. It is anticipated that the total number of arrests may increase further still as other individuals are progressed through the criminal justice system.*

*It was acknowledged that the existing process for recording the number of individuals either breathalysed or drug-wipe tested at the roadside can be inaccurate and bureaucratic. Sussex Police is currently in the process of introducing a new Dräger breath-alcohol tester throughout the Force that records significantly more information than the existing equipment. As a result, it will be possible to download accurately a greater amount of information from the devices in respect of the number of individuals tested and those who provide positive samples.*

*The Chief Constable also stated that evidential roadside breath testing devices could become available to all police force areas in England and Wales by 2020. This would provide the Force with more than just an initial 'screening test' result at the roadside and would remove the necessity to arrest individuals on this basis in order to take them into police custody to be evidentially tested and charged, as appropriate.*

*Members of the public with specific concerns about individuals they suspect of drink-or-drug-driving were again reminded to report these to Sussex Police by text to 65999 or through Operation Crackdown ([www.operationcrackdown.co.uk](http://www.operationcrackdown.co.uk)). Individuals can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. If it is known that someone is drink-or-drug-driving, members of the public should call 999 immediately.*

*GY confirmed that road safety remains business as usual for Sussex Police and explained that the Force will routinely carry out similar numbers of roadside testing each month. The purpose of the summer and winter drink-and-drug-drive campaigns is to highlight this on a themed basis to improve the awareness of members of public in this respect.*

*Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is one particular area of risk that comprises what is known as the "fatal four". The other three areas of risk for Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership include: excessive or inappropriate speed; driver distractions (such as using mobile devices); and not wearing a seat belt. It was emphasised that the Force collectively carries out more than 60,000 enforcements across these four areas each year.*

*Other initiatives planned by the Force ahead of the winter drink-and-drug-drive campaign commencing include: Operation Tramline – using unmarked lorries to catch drivers who text and phone whilst at the wheel; and Operation Safe Pass – encouraging motorists to leave a safe distance between them and cyclists when they pass them on the road.*

## **OPERATION RIBBON – WORLD CUP 2018**

**Operation Ribbon, the dedicated Sussex Police response to domestic abuse at times of heightened risk to victims, was run by the Force during the World Cup on the days that England played.**

- A. What was the overall impact of the World Cup on Sussex Police resources?**
- B. Historically, statistical evidence has demonstrated that there is a causal link between high-tension sporting events and increases in reported incidents of domestic abuse. Did the Force notice an increase in the number of domestic abuse crimes and incidents attended and reported over this period?**
- C. How did Sussex Police use Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) to support them in this work?**
- D. How was technology, including body worn video, used to support this Operation?**
- E. I'm pleased to note that the domestic abuse arrest rate of 43.7% in June 2018 was the highest it has been since the Effectiveness strand of the Police, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection in 2016. What has the Force been doing to improve performance in this area so positively?**
- F. Over three-quarters (76%) of domestic abuse-related prosecutions were successful in securing a conviction in England and Wales for the year ending March 2017. What does the conviction rate look like for Sussex?**

*GY confirmed that Sussex Police were "incredibly busy" between June and July 2018 and stated that the World Cup had a significant impact on policing resources, both locally and nationally. The unanticipated success of the England national football team, together with supporting the policing operation in place for the visit of President Trump and the continued good weather, resulted in a combination of both expected and unexpected increases in demand.*

*It was emphasised that the number of routine telephone calls to the Contact Command and Control Centre in Sussex increased by 26% at various times throughout the tournament. The difficult balancing act between identifying actual disorder from "high-spirits" was highlighted too.*

*The University of Leicester has produced some evidence-based research in respect of high-tension sporting events and increases in reported incidents of domestic abuse. The research identified that if England played and won there was a 26% increase in domestic abuse, and when England played and lost there was a 38% increase in domestic abuse. However, the Chief Constable confirmed that during this particular World Cup there was no significant change in the reporting of domestic abuse throughout the duration of the tournament, regardless of when England played.*

*It was explained that DVPNs can be issued by the police to provide immediate emergency protection to victims of domestic abuse, including certain prohibitions and restrictions. Within 48 hours of a DVPN being issued, the Force may also apply to the Magistrates' Court for a DVPO, reflecting the DVPN restrictions and lasting up to 28 days. GY confirmed that six months ago Sussex Police was recognised to have been using 26% fewer DVPNs and DVPOs than other police force areas. Additional training in the mechanisms, processes and proportionality for using these powers has resulted in the Force being able to demonstrate a 20% increase in the use of these powers between December 2017 and June 2018. In particular, it was emphasised that there were 99 DVPOs issued by the Force during this period, of which 90% of these were approved.*

*The importance of not using DVPNs and DVPOs to replicate the conditions imposed when individuals are either released on police bail or under investigation to safeguard vulnerable victims was highlighted. KB would like to know how the Force's use of DVPNs and DVPOs compares to the Most Similar Group of forces to Sussex.*

*Technology was used to support Operation Ribbon through three different aspects:*

**Body Worn Video** – *The Force is working hard to emphasise the importance of all first responding officers using personal-issue body worn video to capture real-time evidence in an accessible digital format;*

**Providing safety items to victims** – *The Force distributed a number of items to vulnerable victims to enable them to protect themselves from perpetrators. These items included: door locks, panic alarms and other safety equipment;*

**Use of social media** – *Sussex Police used a number of social media channels to target messages, information, graphics, and contact details to specific groups of individuals.*

*It was emphasised that Sussex Police has been working closely with Safelives to deliver Domestic Abuse Matters training to between 2,500 and 3,000 police officers and staff. This "powerful" and "emotive" training appears to have positively transformed the behaviours and actions of officers and staff in this area to improve Force performance. Sussex Police also currently has 203 Domestic Abuse Mentors to promote best practice, challenge behaviour and to audit existing processes. A further 47 Mentors are scheduled to be in place by September 2018, making a total of 250.*

*GY explained that Sussex is in line with the national average of 76% for domestic abuse-related prosecutions that were successful in England and Wales in 2016/17. In particular, it was highlighted that whilst the conviction rates vary on a month-by-month basis, they have never been below 72% and have been as high as 84%, over the last 12 months.*

*The Chief Constable identified three areas for improvement moving forward in respect of domestic abuse: stronger monitoring of the use of technology (including body worn video); more effective case file preparation; and improved persistence and perseverance for getting victims through the criminal justice system to obtain the most appropriate outcome for them.*

**ACTION: KB would like to know how the Force's use of DVPNs and DVPOs compares to the Most Similar Group of forces to Sussex.**

## **ABUSE OF AUTHORITY**

**Abuse of authority for a sexual purpose is currently seen as one of the biggest corruption threats to policing in England and Wales by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS).**

- A. For the benefit of the viewers, can you describe what abuse of authority is?**  
**B. What preventative measures is the Force taking to tackle this damaging behaviour?**  
**C. In December 2016, HMICFRS published the Legitimacy strand of its PEEL inspection which included a recommendation that all forces should implement a plan to achieve the capability and capacity required to seek intelligence on potential abuse of authority for sexual gain. These plans were assessed by HMICFRS in June 2017 and, whilst there was evidence of the improvements planned, the work had yet to start. Can you provide me with an update regarding these plans?**

*BO'R confirmed that the National Police Chief's Council define abuse of authority for a sexual purpose as "any behaviour by a police officer or police staff member, whether on or off duty, that takes advantage of their position as a member of the police service to misuse their position, authority or powers in order to pursue a sexual or improper emotional relationship with any member of the public."*

*It was emphasised that instances of abuse of authority are "extremely rare" in Sussex and that an Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), within the Professional Standards Department, looks into any potential allegations on a daily basis throughout the Force.*

*It was highlighted that Sussex Police wants to prevent this type of behaviour from occurring in the first instance and attempts to do this through a number of different measures. This includes: ensuring that supervisors are well-trained and equipped to identify the characteristics, traits and behaviours that could be construed as a misuse of position, authority or power; and the appropriate use of vetting procedures – both in terms of initial recruitment to the organisation and again when individuals change roles.*

*The importance of all police officers and staff feeling empowered to report any information and intelligence through 'Break the Silence' – the anonymous in-house reporting system in Sussex Police – was also reiterated by the Deputy Chief Constable too.*

*It was highlighted that Detective Chief Inspector Jon Hull has been leading on the abuse of authority work on behalf of Sussex Police. A comprehensive delivery plan has been developed by the Force in response to the HMICFRS recommendation that all forces should implement a plan to achieve the capability and capacity required to seek intelligence on potential abuse of authority for sexual gain.*

*BO'R confirmed that the Force has increased the capacity of the police officers and staff in ACU and is in a good position ahead of HMICFRS returning to assess the plans during a future inspection.*

## **RECORDED CRIME**

**Sussex Police has experienced a 4% increase in the number of recorded crimes in the latest rolling year period, in comparison to the same period in 2016/17. This equated to an additional 4,372 crimes recorded.**

**A. How are you responding to this increased demand?**

**B. How do you compare performance against each of the divisions and districts?**

*BO'R confirmed that the Force has experienced a 4% increase in the number of recorded crimes in the rolling year period to 30 June 2018. It was highlighted that Sussex Police can be confident that this increase in Sussex is accurate because of the grading of 'good' that the Force has received in previous HMICFRS crime data integrity inspections. It was also recognised that the trend in recorded crime has begun to slow over the past four years.*

*It was acknowledged that the volume of additional recorded crimes, together with the complex nature of some of these, is having an impact on policing. Sussex Police use a Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation opportunities, Vulnerability of the victim and the Engagement level required (THRIVE) model to assess how best to respond to and resolve a report of a crime. This approach ensures that police resources are used where they are likely to have the greatest impact.*

*The Investigations Framework also provides police officers and staff with a consistent set of principles on which decisions about investigations can be made in a robust manner. This approach enables officers and staff to assess each case individually and prioritise 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.*

*Sussex Police scan performance on a daily, weekly and monthly basis through a series of established meetings and an effective governance structure. It was emphasised that if an increase or spike in recorded crime is identified on the divisions or districts that this is managed through the Daily Management Meeting process. This ensures that proactive plans are created in combination with established evidence-based policing processes and procedures.*

## **HOMICIDES IN SUSSEX**

**The number of recorded homicides has increased by 363% in Sussex across the rolling year to date. This equates to an additional 29 homicides recorded in comparison to the same period in 2016/17.**

**A. What do you attribute the increases in recorded homicides to?**

**B. How many of these homicides remain undetected and, from a policing perspective, is it becoming increasingly harder to solve these crimes?**

**C. What does the process look like for reviewing historical 'cold cases'?**

*BO'R explained that murder and manslaughter are the two single offences that homicide consists of.*

*It was acknowledged that the current volume of 37 homicides in Sussex is high at a Force level, compared to the average of 12 homicides a year. The number of homicides consists of four offences in Brighton & Hove, 11 offences in East Sussex, and 22 offences in West Sussex.*

*It was highlighted that 14 of the homicides were recorded in the current rolling year period but occurred some time ago, including 11 from Operation Bowdell (Shoreham Air Show Disaster), two relating to a 32-year-old case, and a further homicide in relation to a disappearance in 1998. In addition, three offences previously recorded as homicide were subsequently reclassified but, owing to Home Office Counting Rules, cannot be changed retrospectively. It was also emphasised that none of these homicides are explicitly connected in any way.*

*The rolling year to date solved rate for homicide in Sussex is 60%. Of the remaining 20 homicides, excluding the 14 offences that took place outside of the rolling year period and those reclassified, 15 of these have been solved by the Force, with a further five offences under 'active investigation'.*

*It was recognised that the potential issues relating to the disclosure of evidence and complications associated with accessing the 'digital footprint' created when individuals use the Internet are making it harder to solve these crimes.*

*It was also explained that whilst 'cold cases' are routinely reviewed every two years, they can be considered again at any time before then if new evidence or information is made available. It was emphasised that there are currently 35 cold cases in Sussex, with the oldest case dating back to 1948.*

## **KNIFE CRIME**

**The Serious Violence Strategy, launched by the Home Secretary in April 2018, states that "homicide, knife crime and gun crime have each increased since 2014 across virtually all police force areas in England and Wales."**

### **A. What is the process for recording knife crime in Sussex?**

*GY reiterated that Sussex Police is really good at crime recording in line with Home Office Counting Rules and again made reference to the previous HMICFRS crime data integrity inspections.*

*It was, however, emphasised that the offences defined by the Home Office do not always distinguish exactly what weapon is used. This means that police forces need to be able to rely on another tier of information to ascertain exactly what weapons were used to commit any offences, and be in a position to extract this data from their systems.*

*The information available in the Serious Violence Strategy confirmed that Sussex appeared to be an anomaly in terms of the levels of knife crime recorded. It was also recognised that the Force is either counting their data in a different way to other police force areas or that the data submitted has been interpreted in a different way to the other forces in England and Wales by the Home Office.*

*GY explained that knife crime remains low in Sussex but recognised that this crime type appears to be increasing in line with other police force areas. This is based on the collective number of offensive weapons that individuals are being found in possession of in Sussex through the use of stop and search.*

*The Chief Constable concluded by acknowledging that Sussex Police need to understand better the reasons for the apparent lower levels of knife crime recording. KB confirmed that this area would be revisited at the Performance & Accountability Meeting in September 2018.*