

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 31 July 2020

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 – Jo Shiner (JS)
Temporary Deputy Chief Constable – Julia Chapman (JC)
Digital Content Officer – Sammi Carwardine (webcasting)
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (minutes)

ROAD SAFETY

In recent months, my office has received 92 individual pieces of correspondence from communities throughout Sussex regarding inappropriate speeding and vehicle noise on the roads in Sussex.

KB began by highlighting the importance that the residents of Sussex place on road safety and shared some examples of the correspondence received from local communities where individuals are being adversely impacted by anti-social behaviour on the roads, including inappropriate and dangerous driving and illegally fitted and noisy exhaust systems. The eight areas that were referred to within the correspondence included: Bury Hill (Arun); Aldsworth, Tillington and Wisborough Green (Chichester); St. Leonards (Hastings); Lewes; Bolney (Mid Sussex) and Beckley (Rother).

JS acknowledged the detrimental impact that anti-social driving can have on the residents of Sussex, both in terms of road safety and the quality of life in local communities. It was recognised that anti-social driving can range from careless and inconsiderate driver behaviour to reckless, irresponsible and deliberate activity.

The Chief Constable agreed to meet personally with the individuals and communities affected to understand better their perceptions and experiences of road safety before determining what can be done to improve this position throughout Sussex. This approach was welcomed by KB and was something that the Commissioner wanted to be involved with too.

Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) are responsible for tackling and preventing the main causes of serious injuries and deaths on the county's roads. JS recognised that safer roads and communities can be created by working together and sharing the roads responsibly and made a renewed commitment to improve the road safety in Sussex. The viewers were also reminded that it remains an individual responsibility for everyone to drive safely and sensibly on the roads in Sussex.

Operation Downsway and Operation Ride are the two Forcewide operations established to target those using the roads irresponsibly in Sussex, through speeding and anti-social driving and motorbike riding. This includes the deployment of police officers from the Road Policing Unit (RPU) in marked and unmarked cars and motorbikes, equipped with recording capabilities, to patrol roads and to carry out roadside speed enforcement at specific geographical locations identified as 'hotspots' from the intelligence gathered and received, both covertly and overtly. Any offending drivers/riders identified are stopped, with their vehicles and motorbikes examined for illegally fitted equipment, including exhaust systems. Any offences discovered are subject to prosecution through the courts.

This approach has resulted in a significant amount of proactive enforcement activity during lockdown. For example, the number of roadside speed enforcement notices issued within Eastbourne district increased from 238 to 802 between March and June 2020, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. Similarly, a targeted day of action on Rother district (19 July 2020) resulted in 60 enforcement notices issued for motoring offences.

The importance of reporting specific incidents of anti-social driving through Operation Crackdown was highlighted because this enables Sussex Police and the SSRP to develop intelligence regarding repeat offenders, vehicles, times and locations which can then be used to plan, target and deploy police resources. Members of the public with any specific information about anti-social driving in their areas were asked to report this through the Operation Crackdown website (www.operationcrackdown.org) or by telephone to 01243 642222, during office hours.

It was emphasised that influencing and changing driver attitudes and behaviours through a combination of education and enforcement is essential to ensure long-term improvements to road safety. This is because enforcement alone does not provide a sustainable solution.

Sussex Police also work with partners to review regularly the road infrastructure, including the suitability of existing road surfaces and potential improvements to the engineering of the roads. Part of this work involves looking at the volume and different routes taken by vehicles to understand better the reasons for any increases in the frequencies that some roads are used. This has been particularly noticeable in some areas following the easing of lockdown restrictions.

It was emphasised that speed limits are determined and set by local authorities as part of a range of measures to manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety. Speed limits should be evidence-led and encourage self-compliance – taking all local considerations into account. Sussex Police is consulted by the local authorities when any new speed limits are determined or when amendments to existing speed limits are proposed, as part of a partnership-based approach to road safety.

JS confirmed that Sussex Police will continue to hold informal street surgeries and briefings with local communities to listen to those affected, understand the challenges from a different perspective and to include residents in the problem-solving process. This will include providing individuals with an explanation regarding the powers and tactics that can and cannot be used by the police, in any given circumstances. The importance of delivering a consistent response to engagement, education and enforcement throughout Sussex was recognised and acknowledged.

The Force is also looking to provide communities with "tangible" evidence to demonstrate police activity in this area throughout the county, including killed and seriously injured (KSI) statistics; data about police patrols and enforcement activity undertaken. This approach will complement the approach that is already being undertaken by RPU officers to use social media to promote enforcement activity, including photos of operational policing.

The Chief Constable explained that there are various devices available to the police and partners to measure the levels of noise omitted by illegally fitted equipment, including exhaust systems. The Force is looking at all available options to make the roads safer in Sussex, including research into any practices identified by other police force areas in England and Wales that could be used locally to target and address those vehicles that are creating excessive noise. The Chief Constable also explained that a partnership-based response is required to address this behaviour and that it is not only the responsibility of the police.

JS thanked the frontline policing resources for recognising the increased risk that anti-social driving is having on local communities in Sussex, both in terms of KSIs on the roads and the annoyance that is caused by this inconsiderate driver and rider behaviour. Sussex Police will be supported further in this work by the additional resources that have been made available to improve the capacity and capability of the RPU through increased investment from the police precept.

It was also confirmed that a new Specialist Enforcement Unit (SEU) will be introduced by the Force in January 2021 to deliver proactive and targeted operational activity where the communities of Sussex need it most, to disrupt, enforce and protect. The SEU will concentrate on the Sussex road network to make the county's roads a hostile place for offenders to carry out their criminal activities by denying them the opportunity with visible and robust policing. Further information can be viewed through the following link: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/specialist-enforcement-unit/>

The Chief Constable highlighted that, earlier this month, the Force ran its dedicated summer drink-and-drug-drive campaign in collaboration with Surrey Police. Sussex Police stopped 137 motorists and made 83 arrests for drink-and-drug-driving offences in Sussex as part of the two-week campaign between 29 June and 13 July 2020. The arrests were generated through a combination of proactive police patrols, road traffic collisions and intelligence reports received from members of the public.

JS expressed her "disappointment" at the number of individuals who choose to risk the lives of themselves and others by driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. Individuals were reminded that they remain culpable for anything that might happen whilst they are driving under the influence, including the following implications:

- *killing or seriously injuring yourself or someone else;*
- *a minimum 12-month ban;*
- *an unlimited fine;*
- *a possible prison sentence;*
- *a criminal record – which could affect current and future employment;*
- *an increase in insurance costs; and*
- *difficulties travelling to countries such as the United States of America.*

Members of the public with specific concerns about individuals they suspect of drink-or-drug-driving were encouraged to report these to Sussex Police. If it is non-urgent, this can be done by telephone to 101; by email to 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk; via the Sussex Police website (www.sussex.police.uk); text to 65999 or through Operation Crackdown (www.operationcrackdown.co.uk). If it is urgent and known that someone is drink-or-drug-driving, members of the public were asked to call 999 immediately. Individuals can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 to report any concerns.

The key areas of risk for Sussex Police and the SSRP are the 'fatal five': not wearing a seatbelt; inappropriate or excessive speed; driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; driver distractions (including the use of mobile phones, satellite navigation systems and tablets and careless and inconsiderate driving. The Force and the SSRP have several campaigns and initiatives planned to target each of these and to tackle road safety throughout the rest of the calendar year.

ACTION: KB and JS to meet with the individuals and community groups referred to within the correspondence to understand better their concerns about road safety and to work towards resolving the issues identified.

HMICFRS – ROADS POLICING INSPECTION

Earlier this month, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published the findings from their inspection of roads policing in England and Wales. The inspection looked at the ability of the police service to provide an efficient and effective roads policing capability and made it clear that *"roads policing is not optional."*

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

B. The inspection report made 13 recommendations to the police and other bodies, of which seven of these were relevant to Chief Constables. What plans are in place to ensure that these recommendations are progressed by the Force?

The Chief Constable welcomed the HMICFRS report which provides Sussex Police with a clear framework to review how roads policing is delivered across the county. Sussex Police was not one of the seven police force areas inspected but did take part in a pre-inspection telephone discussion to contribute to the overall findings.

It was recognised that gaps existed previously in respect of the Sussex Police response to roads policing and that this is an area the Force is working hard to address. The positive direction that Sussex Police is now taking in terms of road safety – assisted by increased investment in RPU resources (from the precept) and the planned formulation of the Specialist Enforcement Unit (SEU) in January 2021 – represents a renewed commitment to protect better the communities in Sussex. These improvements to the Force's capacity and capability are anticipated to contribute positively towards reducing the number of KSIs recorded and tackling criminals using the road network.

JS confirmed that Sussex Police has plans in place to address the seven specific recommendations identified for Chief Constables, many of which had already been progressed prior to the publication of the report. A summary was provided in respect of each of the individual recommendations, as follows:

Recommendation 4 – With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure that roads policing is included in their force's strategic threat and risk assessments, which should identify the areas of highest harm and risk and the appropriate responses.

It was highlighted that whilst road safety is not currently included within the Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) for Sussex Police, KSI reduction is included within the Control Strategy. The STRA is being developed to enhance further the Force's overarching plans and processes in place around casualty reduction and will complement this existing work.

Sussex Police has also introduced a quarterly Strategic Oversight Board to develop bespoke problem-solving plans for each of the policing districts, using the STRA and any associated data to support the work in this area. This approach is anticipated to comprise of the tactical leads from within Operations Command working alongside the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for KSIs identified on each of the three policing divisions.

Recommendation 6 – With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure:

- **their force has enough analytical capability (including that provided by road safety partnerships) to identify risks and threats on the road network within their force area;**
- **that information shared by partners relating to road safety is used effectively to reduce those risks and threats; and**
- **there is evaluation of road safety initiatives to establish their effectiveness.**

The Intelligence, Tasking and Partnership (ITAP) team, together with the Data Team within the SSRP, are the Force's dedicated analytical capability – responsible for assessing the data received and providing an intelligence-led response to roads policing in Sussex.

The ITAP and the Corporate Development Department within Sussex Police, are also in the process of developing a more detailed performance pack, using national data, partnership data and weather indicators. This approach is anticipated to provide policing indicators that will enable the Force to predict demand and to task resources more effectively.

A full evaluation of all road safety initiatives delivered in Sussex is carried out after each campaign has concluded. These post-implementation reviews consider geographical locations and demographics to inform the development of educational materials and to determine targeted police and partner activity.

Recommendation 8 – With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure that their force (or where applicable road safety partnerships of which their force is a member), comply with (the current version of) Department for Transport Circular 1/2007 in relation to the use of speed and red-light cameras.

Sussex Police is fully compliant with the Department for Transport Circular. Minimal work is required to update the mapping locations of the speed and red-light camera sites in Sussex and the data published on the SSRP website.

Recommendation 9 – With immediate effect, in forces where Operation Snap (the provision of digital video footage by the public) has been adopted, chief constables should make sure that it has enough resources and process to support its efficient and effective use.

Sussex Police use Operation Crackdown – a similar provision to Operation Snap – to enable members of the public to share digital video footage. The Force remains committed to improving Operation Crackdown, including simplifying the process for members of the public to share digital content further still.

Recommendation 10 – With immediate effect, chief constables should satisfy themselves that the resources allocated to policing the strategic road network within their force areas are sufficient. As part of that process they should make sure that their force has effective partnership arrangements including appropriate intelligence sharing agreements with relevant highways agencies.

The Force has continued to monitor the resources allocated to police the strategic road network in Sussex to ensure that these remain sufficient and, through increases to the policing precept in Sussex in recent years, additional RPU resources have been secured.

The introduction of the SEU in January 2021 will deliver proactive and targeted operational activity where the communities of Sussex need it most, to disrupt, enforce and protect. The SEU will focus on the road network to make the roads in Sussex a hostile place for offenders to carry out their criminal activities by denying them the opportunity with visible and robust policing.

The Armed Response Officers (AROs) in Sussex are also tasked to proactively support the RPU to target those using the roads illegally when they are not deployed or in training. The AROs can carry out vehicle stops, checks and testing and provide the Force with additional resilience in this area.

Sussex Police and the SSRP work together effectively to tackle and prevent the main causes of serious injuries and deaths on the county's roads.

Recommendation 11 – By 1 August 2021, the College of Policing should include a serious collision investigation module for completion along with the Professionalising Investigation Programme. This should include:

- **minimum national training standards; and**
- **certification for all serious collision investigators.**

Chief constables should make sure that all serious collision investigators in their force are then trained to those standards.

The Serious Collision Investigation Unit (SCIU) in Sussex is currently being reviewed by a newly appointed Detective Inspector – under the direction and guidance of a Detective Chief Inspector – to ensure that the investigation standards set by the College of Policing (CoP) are met fully.

Recommendation 12 – With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure that appropriate welfare support is provided to specialist investigators and family liaison officers involved in the investigation of fatal road traffic collisions.

The welfare support that is provided to the officers within the SCIU is currently being monitored through existing line management arrangements and referrals to Occupational Health. The 'Defuse' process – used to respond to the welfare needs of officers and staff who have experienced or been involved in traumatic incidents – is also used to provide a 'fast-time' response, as required.

The Family Liaison Officers (FLO) are managed by the Major Crime Team (MCT) in Surrey and are split between the crime and RPU functions in Sussex. The same welfare support that is provided to the SCIU officers is also made available to the FLOs.

The importance of ensuring that appropriate welfare support is provided to SCIU and FLO officers was recognised. It was acknowledged that more could be done to assess better the trauma experienced by these individuals and to provide them with the offer of support and assistance to improve their emotional welfare.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

With the lockdown restrictions' easing further, my office is starting to receive correspondence from residents, communities and businesses expressing concerns about the potential for increased anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the summer months, with a focus on offending by children and young people.

- A. How has Sussex Police responded to reports of ASB during lockdown?**
- B. What specific powers are available to the Force to tackle ASB?**
- C. I understand that Sussex Police has used dispersal orders to prevent a small minority of children and young people from committing ASB during lockdown in response to increased tensions within local communities. How effective has the use of this power been?**
- D. How has the Force adapted its approach to policing children and young people and ASB during the pandemic?**
- E. How is Sussex Police proactively working with partners to tackle ASB?**

JC acknowledged that COVID-19 has had an impact on the reports of ASB received by Sussex Police. The challenges that the lockdown restrictions have presented to society with individuals spending long periods at home, coupled with really good weather, has had an impact on public perceptions and tolerance levels. The detrimental impact that ASB can have on the quality of life for individuals and communities was recognised and highlights the importance of tackling ASB proactively.

KB was informed that reports of anti-social behaviour increased by 217% (at their peak) in Sussex over the period of lockdown (23 March to 30 June 2020), in comparison to the same period in 2019. These reports have reduced as the restrictions have been eased further throughout England but were still 166% higher in the month of June 2020, than they were in the same month a year earlier.

The additional reports of ASB reduced to an increase of 135% for the lockdown period in 2020, compared to the same period in 2019, when the reports specifically relating to breaches of the COVID-19 restrictions are removed from the figures. It was also emphasised that only 5% of the reports of ASB received by the Force specifically related to children and young people.

The formal powers to tackle ASB are set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014. These powers include dispersal powers; community protection warnings and notices; criminal behaviour orders; closure orders and injunctions. It was emphasised that police officers will always seek to use these powers in a proportionate manner, based on the circumstances they are presented with. Further information about the individual powers set out within the Act can be viewed through the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-police-bill>

The Deputy Chief Constable explained that dispersal orders provide the police with the power to break up groups of two or more people, for a period of up to 48 hours, where their behaviour is understood to be causing a nuisance, harassment or distress. The use of these powers enables officers to disperse those in the locality and are effective in preventing further gatherings. This approach also ensures that community concerns and tensions are reduced quickly and that residents can use these areas without fear of confrontation or intimidation.

Sussex Police authorised the use of dispersal orders 57 times during the months of March, April and May 2020. However, it was highlighted that only a small number of the dispersal orders issued in Sussex were in response to the behaviour of children and young people. Examples of these instances included Gildredge Park in Eastbourne and Shoreham town centre.

JC confirmed that police officers and staff have been reminded of the importance of interacting positively with children and young people throughout the pandemic and to remain vigilant for any signs of vulnerability or harm during any interactions. It is recognised that a number of these children and young people would usually have been seen by different professionals within schools, educational establishments and by other service providers who have been unable to deliver these services because of the COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Each of the Prevention teams across Sussex also contains Prevention Youth Officers (PYOs) who specialise in working with children and young people. The PYOs have supported the policing of children and young people engaged in ASB during the pandemic. This has involved amending their primary focus from schools and other educational establishments towards identifying those most at risk during the pandemic, working with partners to reduce the risk of these individuals becoming involved in ASB.

It was highlighted that through a combination of several factors, including improved preventative policing and proactive early engagement with children and young people, there have been 186 fewer instances where children and young people have been involved in criminality activity during the lockdown period, either as a suspect or offender. The same trend is also apparent for the number of children and young people recorded as being the victims of crime with 312 fewer instances recorded, compared to the same period in 2019.

The Chief Constable confirmed that the vast majority of children and young people have demonstrated "phenomenally good" behaviour and have acted responsibly during lockdown, despite responding to personal turmoil and uncertainty with regards to schools being closed, exams being cancelled and social events being postponed. JS thanked the children and young people and their parents for their continued support during this challenging time.

JS confirmed that the positive public support police officers and staff have received during their many interactions with local communities throughout the pandemic has been welcomed, with members of the public appearing to appreciate the complexities involved. This approach has been supported by the proportionate policing response that Sussex Police has taken to any reported breaches of the lockdown restrictions through the process of '4Es': engagement, explanation, encouragement and enforcement (as a last resort, if required).

KB concluded by reminding all viewers that the Brighton Pride 2020 celebrations, due to take place on the weekend of 1 and 2 August 2020, have been postponed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The Chief Constable asked individuals not to travel to Brighton & Hove or to take part in any unofficial 'splinter' gatherings in the city, explaining that a multi-agency partnership response would be in place to for any response that is required. Individuals were, instead, asked to join in and celebrate through the Virtual Pride 2020 event.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Sussex Police is one of three forces, alongside Surrey Police and Cheshire Constabulary, that has been influential in the development of a new stalking screening tool which aims to assess better the level of harm posed to victims.

A. When will the pilot of this screening tool go 'live' and what will victims of stalking be able to expect when they make a report?

B. Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) have been available for six months now and provide the police service with an earlier formal intervention to improve the safety of all stalking victims. How many SPOs have been issued in Sussex to date and how are these being used to support better victims?

C. What training has been provided to officers in respect of SPOs?

JS confirmed that the new stalking screening tool is set to be launched on 14 September 2020, subject to any final design amendments to ensure compatibility. The tool will provide a consistent approach for police officers to identify, capture and respond to offences of stalking. This will include prompts and reminders to ensure that any risks are understood and that appropriate reassurance, safeguarding plans and referrals are provided. The pilot will run for three months within the three police force areas before it is evaluated by the CoP.

It was highlighted that the one-day stalking training for all new and existing police officers will resume from Monday, 10 August 2020 to ensure that frontline officers are confident in the use of all available powers in this area. The training will include a combination of formal instruction and classroom-based scenarios to understand better how the new screening tool works in practice. EDIT: This training provision was temporarily stopped as a result of the lockdown restrictions in place to control the coronavirus. A short National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) introductory training package is also being designed that will be mandated for all users of the new tool.

SPOs were introduced by the Stalking Protection Act 2019 to provide the police service with an earlier formal intervention to improve the safety of all stalking victims. Sussex Police has issued 23 SPOs – made up of interim and full orders – as at 30 June 2020 to protect victims from the danger that perpetrators pose to them whilst evidence is gathered. The Force has several further SPOs currently being progressed through the system too.

The Chief Constable encouraged any individuals who think that they may have been the victim of stalking and harassment to report these offences to Sussex Police. It was emphasised that any reports received would be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly, utilising all available tools (including SPOs) to provide enhanced protection.

It is anticipated that the proactive approach taken by Sussex Police in this area will provide victims of stalking in Sussex with increased confidence in the ability of the Force to safeguard and protect them, including clear arrest processes for officers should any perpetrators breach the conditions of the SPOs.

Safer Streets Fund

KB concluded by confirming that she had successfully secured £892,000 of funding to help tackle anti-social behaviour, theft and burglary in targeted areas of Eastbourne and Hastings deemed to be disproportionately affected by these offences.

The Commissioner worked closely with Sussex Police, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs), local councils and community safety organisations to bid for this funding from the Home Office's 'Safer Streets Fund'.

The money will be used to improve the physical security of residential and business premises by installing CCTV; locks and new street lighting; providing local crime prevention awareness and supporting smaller businesses to become members of BCRPs. Building on the recognised impact of the 'broken windows' theory, this funding will also be made available to remove graffiti and to help to restore a sense of pride for residents in their local areas.

Further information about the award in Sussex and the Safer Streets Fund can be viewed through the following links:

<https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/news/pcc-secures-nearly-900k-for-safer-streets-in-eastbourne-hastings/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safer-streets-fund-application-process>

NEXT UP:

*There is no Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) in August. The next PAM is on Friday, 18 September 2020 at 13:00. Further information can be viewed through the following link: **<https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/watch-live/>***