

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 15 June 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)
Assistant Chief Constable – Steve Barry (SB)
Executive Support Manager – Gina Wheatley
Correspondence and Project Support Officer – Harry Wickes
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (minutes)

ROAD SAFETY

I remain fully supportive of the work carried out by Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) to tackle and prevent the main causes of death and serious injuries on the county's roads.

- A. What are the key areas of risk around road safety in the summer months for Sussex Police and how is the Force planning to respond to these?**
- B. 'Operation Dragonfly', the Sussex Police drink-and-drug-drive campaign, kicked-off yesterday to coincide with the football World Cup and runs until 15 July 2018. What are the main aims and objectives of this year's Operation?**
- C. 'Operation Ride' is the Sussex Police response to tackling the anti-social use of motorcycles on the road, in respect of inappropriate speed and noise. What is the Force specifically doing to ensure the safety of motorcyclists and deal positively with those who continue to break the law?**

SB confirmed that the key areas of risk for Sussex Police and the SSRP are the "fatal four". These are: excessive or inappropriate speed; driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; driver distractions (such as using mobile devices); and not wearing a seat belt.

Sussex Police and the SSRP continue to focus their efforts and resources on the areas of greatest risk. The four strategic priorities for both organisations include: Powered Two-Wheelers (PTWs); occupational road users; non-motorised road users (pedal bikes and pedestrians); and the 16-24-year-old age group.

It was emphasised that the number of individuals Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on the roads of Sussex is stabilised at approximately 1,000 a year. Sussex Police is also performing well in respect of KSIs in comparison to the other police force areas in England and Wales. SB confirmed that the dedicated collision recording system that has been in place for a number of year's means that the Force can be confident in the integrity of the data.

Operation Dragonfly is the Sussex Police summer and winter drink-and-drug-drive campaign. The summer campaign was launched yesterday to coincide with the World Cup 2018. The aim of the Operation is to reduce the number of KSIs on the roads of Sussex and will include increased police patrols and static stop checks. The Operation will run until 15 July 2018 when the tournament concludes.

Operation Ride is the enforcement operation that targets PTWs who ride in an anti-social manner. It is run by the Force throughout the summer months when the use of PTWs predominantly increases as the weather improves. It was highlighted that Sussex Police uses both marked and unmarked units, including motorcycles equipped with video recording capabilities, to patrol the roads used most frequently by PTWs. Offending riders are stopped and their bikes are examined for illegally fitted equipment, including exhaust systems, and any offences discovered are subject to prosecution through the courts. Sussex Police also provides educational material and seminars to riders throughout the year, in order to positively influence their behaviour and attitudes.

Other ongoing initiatives and activities in Sussex include Operation Tramline (using Heavy Goods Vehicles to identify and record motoring offences from an elevated position) and Sussex Safe Pass (identifying drivers that pass cyclists too closely and put them in danger).

*Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative run by Sussex Police and the SSRP that provides the communities of Sussex with an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving on the roads. SB encouraged members of the public to report these concerns to the Force through **Operation Crackdown** website or by telephone to 01243 642222. This approach enables both organisations to develop intelligence regarding repeat offenders, vehicles, times and locations that can then be used to plan, target and deploy police resources. If it is known that someone is driving whilst over the drink-drive limit or after taking drugs, members of the public should call 999 immediately, send a text to 65999, or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.*

AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology is used to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality at a local, Force, regional and national level.

A. For the benefit of the viewers, how is ANPR used by Sussex Police to support information and intelligence gathering, operational response and investigations?

B. How will the introduction of a National ANPR Service improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ANPR camera usage in Sussex?

SB confirmed that Sussex Police uses a combination of ANPR technology to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality. This comprises of a number of static cameras at fixed locations, redeployable cameras at temporary locations and mobile cameras mounted within Road Policing Unit (RPU) vehicles.

As a vehicle passes one of these ANPR cameras, its number plate is read and instantly checked against database records of vehicles of interest. Police officers can then intercept and stop a vehicle, check it for evidence and, where necessary, make arrests.

The Force has increased the capacity of ANPR cameras available in Sussex by tasking the Armed Response Vehicles to proactively use this resource to support the RPU when they are not being deployed or in training. The Force is currently in the process of rolling this technology out to all response vehicles to provide them with this additional capability. Police officers are also able to access the ANPR database using an application on personal-issue Mobile Data Terminals.

This approach has also supported the Force to target individuals driving without insurance through Operation Tutelage. If a vehicle is found to be uninsured, a letter is sent to the registered owner for rectification. This has resulted in compliance rates of more than 80% following police contact. KB requested to be kept updated regarding the ongoing compliance rates for Operation Tutelage.

The Assistant Chief Constable explained that the ANPR databases used by each police force area only contain information that has been recorded locally. The static ANPR cameras in Sussex read approximately two million number plates a day, compared to the 55 million number plates that are read by all the individual static ANPR cameras in England and Wales each day.

The introduction of a National ANPR Service will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ANPR camera usage in Sussex because it will enable the Force to access national information to deliver a faster response. This Service will also link more effectively to existing crime and intelligence systems and contains more advanced search tool options. It is anticipated that the National ANPR Service will be introduced for all police forces by the end of 2018.

ACTION: KB to be provided with an update regarding the ongoing compliance rates for Operation Tutelage.

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

I am very aware of the issues surrounding unauthorised encampments and the disruption that can be caused to local communities at different points throughout the year.

A. How do unauthorised encampments impact on police resources, budgets and planning?

B. How is this responsibility shared with partners and what does the ongoing work with partners look like in this area?

SB confirmed that Sussex Police do not have a specific budget or any dedicated resources to respond to unauthorised encampments. It was explained that this is predominantly a local authority responsibility and that the Force work closely with unauthorised encampments to understand where the tensions lie.

It was highlighted that an officer from Sussex Police will always endeavour to attend any reports of unauthorised encampments in partnership with a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer, the relevant representation from the local authority and the landowner, where this is different to the local authority. Sussex Police use the National Decision Model to make an assessment on a case-by-case basis.

The existing powers for local authorities, landowners and the police to deal with unauthorised encampments can be viewed [here](#). Sussex Police have powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to either direct unauthorised campers to leave land (section 61) or to direct trespassers to an alternative site (section 62). It was emphasised that the Force is now in a better position to provide alternative sites as a result of the availability of fixed transit sites in locations throughout Sussex.

The Force also attends local, regional and national Gypsy and Traveller Forums to understand better best practice in this area.

OPERATION MAGPIE – SUMMER BURGLARY PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Operation Magpie, the Sussex Police summer burglary crime prevention and awareness campaign, was launched at the end of May 2018 to encourage individuals to protect their homes at a time when the number of burglaries recorded tends to be exacerbated.

A. What did some of the operational activity and highlights look like?

B. The solved rate for burglaries still appears to be low in Sussex. Can you provide me with an update regarding Force performance in this area?

C. How is the Force working with other police force areas to reduce the number of burglaries in Sussex?

GY confirmed that the summer burglary prevention campaign ran between 20 and 27 May 2018. The purpose of the campaign was to raise awareness of burglary and to highlight the importance of taking personal responsibility for preventing burglaries at a time of the year when, historically, burglaries are more likely to increase.

The Chief Constable confirmed that the campaign reached 2.4 million individuals through social media and resulted in more than 3,500 personal interactions between Sussex Police and members of the public. Media Relations Officers also supported this campaign by putting out targeted messages locally. Further information about how to protect your home from burglary is available [here](#).

Some of the operational highlights for Sussex Police included the arrests of 7 individuals before the campaign started that result in the detection of 15 burglaries, and a further six individuals arrested during the campaign, for which more detections are anticipated. Operational activity also focussed on searching for people who were wanted on warrant and for those who were named as suspects for burglary offences.

GY explained that an internal practitioners meeting takes place every three months to focus on areas for improvement. This has included refreshing the knowledge of investigators in respect of burglary offences 'taken into consideration' and direct input from Scenes of Crime Officers.

It was again 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.

The Chief Constable confirmed that Sussex Police is working with other police force areas to identify and share best practice in this area. The Force is also introducing new initiatives with partner agencies in order to try and reduce the number of burglaries in Sussex. This includes utilising the 'Community Volunteers' of the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service to visit repeat victims of burglary and those individuals who live in burglary 'hotspots' to provide them with crime and fire prevention advice. Other support is being received from: Neighbourhood Watch; National Farmers' Union of England and Wales; Farm Watch; and Crimestoppers.

HMICFRS – RAPE MONITORING GROUP DIGEST REPORT

Last month, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published their findings for Sussex Police in the 'Rape Monitoring Group Digest' report.

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

B. It is widely recognised that rape is under-reported and I am pleased that the number of recorded rapes in Sussex has more than doubled in the last five years. What are Sussex Police and other partner agencies doing to encourage more victims of rape to come forward?

C. The process from reporting a rape to the conclusion of a trial routinely takes too long to progress and can have a detrimental impact on victims and contribute towards increased attrition rates. What constructive changes can be made to avoid or reduce delays in the time it takes for cases of rape to be progressed through the criminal justice system?

*GY explained that the data in the **Rape Monitoring Group Digest** report demonstrates how cases of rape are dealt with at all stages of the criminal justice process. It was also emphasised that the data relates to 2016/17.*

It was highlighted that there had been significant increases in the number of adult rapes recorded by Sussex Police in the past five years. These offences have increased year-on-year from 311 rapes recorded in 2012/13, to 1,056 rapes recorded in 2016/17 – which represented an increase of 240%. For England and Wales, 10,072 rapes were recorded in 2012/13, compared to 41,159 rapes recorded in 2016/17 – representing a 309% increase. These increases in recorded crimes related to both recent and non-current reports and were attributed to an increase in public confidence to report these crimes to the police. Further information about the support available for victims of sexual offences can be viewed [here](#).

The Chief Constable confirmed that 20 new Sexual Offence Investigation Trained (SOIT) officers have now commenced work with the Force and will act as a single point of contact for victims throughout a criminal investigation, from initial reporting through to court proceedings and beyond. The SOIT officers will be based alongside colleagues in the Safeguarding Investigations Units at locations throughout Sussex.

It was highlighted that there has been a reduction in the number of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) cases presented to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in Sussex because of potential issues relating to the disclosure of evidence. GY provided KB with assurances that Sussex Police has recently reviewed all RASSO cases currently in the court process at the request of the CPS. This equated to approximately 200 cases in Sussex and it was reported that the disclosure of evidence in all of the cases had been carried out to the satisfaction of the CPS.

It was also highlighted that the Force has two Detective Inspectors embedded within the CPS to monitor file quality and compliance with evidential standards and disclosure. This approach ensures that the relevant thresholds are met before these are presented to the CPS for a charging decision.

GY recognised that many different agencies work together within the criminal justice system. The process often starts with Sussex Police who will investigate the allegations and liaise with the CPS, before this is passed to the defence, courts and the judiciary. The important role that the Sussex Criminal Justice Board has in this process was highlighted in terms of convening these agencies and analysing how the system is working as a collective. The Chief Constable acknowledged that the process from reporting a rape to the conclusion of a trial has previously taken too long to progress resulting in a detrimental impact on victims.

The Force continues to proactively look at condensing all of the processes at each stage of the system in order to avoid or reduce delays in the time it takes for cases of rape to be progressed through the criminal justice system. KB was pleased to hear that all rape cases are currently being heard within six months in Sussex.

MENTAL HEALTH PROVISIONS

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 made changes to the mental health provisions to improve the outcomes for people experiencing a mental health crisis by helping to ensure that they get the most appropriate support and care, promptly. These provisions came into force in December 2017.

A. At December's PAM, it was highlighted that monitoring arrangements were in place to look at the impact the changes are having. Now that these changes have embedded, what impact are they having on those individuals detained under section 136, and the Force as a whole?

B. Are there sufficient alternative places of safety available in Sussex for officers to take persons suffering from mental health to under s.136, avoiding the need to transfer anyone to a police detention facility?

C. How effective are the existing Crisis Care Concordats that have been entered into with partners across Sussex to respond and manage better persons suffering from mental health?

D. How is the success and impact of these Concordats being measured and evaluated?

GY explained that the changes to mental health provisions were designed to treat individuals experiencing a mental health crisis as victims, rather than criminals.

It was confirmed that since the provisions came into force on 1 December 2017, not a single person, detained in a public place under s.136, has been taken to police custody to date. Sussex Police also detain approximately 15 individuals every month under s.136 when they are in police custody and move them to alternative places of safety.

There are five alternative places of safety in Sussex for officers to take persons suffering from mental health to under s.136. It was emphasised that Accident & Emergency can also be used as an additional place of safety, if each of these are full. The Chief Constable recognised that these current arrangements are sufficient. It was, however, emphasised that more needs to be done to ensure that individuals are transported to places of safety in ambulances rather than police cars, which is currently the position in Sussex.

It was highlighted that the existing Crisis Care Concordats in Sussex have proved to be effective and have resulted in significant improvements being made to those suffering from mental health. Arrangements are now in place for police officers to consult mental health practitioners as part of street triage when they are called to incidents involving persons suspected of having mental health issues in six out of the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups in Sussex. Dialogue remains ongoing with Brighton & Hove City Council who currently have a mental Health Team to perform this function.

It was also emphasised that Sussex Police are merely a supporting signatory to the Concordats and that the success and impact of these is measured and evaluated by the Department of Health & Social Care.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Today is 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' and I am pleased to be able to pledge my support to raise awareness of elder abuse and exploitation by highlighting the danger of elder abuse, what can be done to prevent it and what to do if it is spotted.

A. What do the key issues around elder abuse and exploitation look like for Sussex Police?

B. How has Operation Signature continued to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud in Sussex?

C. I was pleased that Sussex Police adopted the 'Herbert Protocol' last month to help speed up the search for missing people living with dementia. For the benefit of the viewers, how does this this Protocol work and how will this improve the Force response?

SB explained that elder abuse and exploitation is part of a new vulnerability demand for Sussex Police. It was emphasised that there is no specific crime type for 'elder abuse and exploitation' but offences include scams and fraud.

*In the 12 month period to 31 March 2018, there were 1,359 reports of fraud across Sussex, with recorded losses of over £10 million. **Operation Signature** is the Force campaign to identify, protect and support vulnerable victims of fraud in Sussex and part of this process involves encouraging individuals to have the confidence to report. It was highlighted that 89% of Operation Signature victims are over 60 years old and 63% of these victims live alone.*

The 'Banking Protocol' is a new initiative that has been introduced in Sussex where bank staff are trained to identify customers who are making unusual withdrawals or money transfers after being pressured by rogue traders or telephone calls from fraudsters impersonating officials. The bank staff ask questions to establish if the customer is potentially the victim of fraud and telephone the Force, quoting the Protocol, if this is the case.

Sussex Police has received more than 300 calls from banks in the past 12 months, with more than 200 crimes recorded and safeguarding concerns raised. This has resulted in the prevention of losses to victims in excess of £1,347,331 and 19 arrests being made. It was highlighted that this initiative has been extremely successful in identifying vulnerable victims, preventing financial losses and locating offenders.

*The Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that the **Herbert Protocol** is a national scheme that has been adopted by a number of police force areas across England and Wales. The Protocol encourages next of kin and carers to compile and keep useful information that could assist the police in the search for vulnerable missing persons. The Protocol is a preventive approach that will help to protect vulnerable individuals and keep them safe in a swift and timely manner, should they go missing.*

SB concluded by encouraging members of the public to report any specific incidents of fraud or concerns about the whereabouts of individuals to Sussex Police either by telephone to 101, by email to 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or by making an online report [here](#). In an emergency, where life might be in immediate danger or a crime is in progress, always call 999 as soon as possible.