

Sussex Police & Crime Plan 2021/24

Smarter Policing – Safer Sussex



Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner



21/24



“With the help of local taxpayers, Sussex Police has been building back numbers of police officers, PCSOs and specialist police staff since 2018. By 31 March 2023, Sussex Police will have 3,094 full time equivalent (FTE) police officers, in comparison to the 2,959 FTE officers in March 2012 – this equates to an overall increase of 135 FTE police officers since I first took office in November 2012.”

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1

Foreword

from the Police & Crime Commissioner



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I have a statutory duty to publish a Police & Crime Plan which sets out the strategic direction for policing our county with objectives for how policing will be delivered in Sussex up to 2024.



With the help of local taxpayers, Sussex Police has been building back numbers of police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and specialist police staff since 2018.

By 31 March 2023, Sussex Police will have 3,094 full time equivalent (FTE) police officers, in comparison to the 2,959 FTE officers in March 2012 - this equates to an overall increase of 135 FTE police officers since I first took office in November 2012. Operation Uplift - the Government campaign to recruit 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales by March 2023 - has added 429 police officers, with additional precept funding having added an extra 250 officers and 100 more PCSOs.

Sussex residents said they wanted neighbourhood policing restored and they have consistently backed my proposals to make small rises

in the precept to drive forward a big difference to visible policing. With trust in policing undermined by news of the dreadful behaviour and attitudes of a small number of police officers, it is particularly important to ensure that the Force is recruiting the right people and rooting out the wrong ones.

Sussex Police now has the numbers of police officers I promised; the challenge is to deploy these extra officers to meet changing demand and rising crime whilst maintaining a reassuring presence in our communities. It is an exponentially increasing challenge.

On an average day, the Force is contacted 2,312 times, with 789 calls to 999 and 831 calls to 101, as well as 692 digital contacts. Sussex Police record 360 new crimes each day, including 88 assaults, 16 sexual offences and 65 incidents of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Force send units to 481 incidents,

with 217 of these requiring an emergency response, make 60 arrests and 16 stop and searches, and conduct 493 risk assessments, with 297 of these for vulnerable children or adults.

All year round, police officers and staff also deal with sexual and domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, cyber-crime, online fraud and missing persons.

Much of that huge range of activity goes unseen and unappreciated by the public so we need to ensure communities feel that their local concerns are being addressed. For most people, anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving are the issues they face nearly every day and for our high street shops, shoplifting, abuse and assaults on staff are a daily occurrence. That is why I will be fully supporting the Government's drive to target the issues that affect the quality of life for Sussex residents.

My office is currently co-ordinating 26 projects across the county that will tackle anti-social behaviour and make our streets safer, working alongside businesses and local authorities. My office will also monitor and scrutinise how the police deal with VAWG and I will continue to fund initiatives to make public spaces and the night-time economy safer. We will invest in more sessions with schools to help students recognise and challenge misogyny and will continue to support programmes to deter young and vulnerable people away from being drawn into county lines drug gangs.

With both the Chief Constable and I holding national roads policing responsibilities, I am expecting to see more targeted action taken against drink-and-drug and dangerous driving as well as denying travelling crime gangs access to our roads.

As a largely rural county, Sussex needed a dedicated rural policing response so on behalf of farmers and rural communities, I will be closely monitoring the efforts of our expanded Rural Crime Team to tackle agricultural equipment theft, crop damage, fly tipping and wildlife crime.

I would like to thank all the members of the public and partners in Sussex who have helped me develop and refresh this Police & Crime Plan to ensure that it accurately reflects the policing, crime and community safety issues important to you.

This plan is being refreshed for the coming year, during which time I will continue to secure more funding for community crime prevention initiatives and quality assured services for victims of crime.

Your ideas and concerns will continue to be addressed within these three priorities:

Public Priority 1 – Strengthen policing, tackle crime, prevent harm and anti-social behaviour.

Public Priority 2 – Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime

Public Priority 3 – Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls.

As your voice on policing and community safety, I will hold a mirror up to Sussex Police to ensure that the policing service the Force provides is as effective and efficient as possible to keep us all safer in Sussex.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime
Commissioner

“We will get the basics right, building a visible, proactive service that protects our communities by taking the fight back to the criminal.”



2

Meet the Chief Constable

I feel immensely proud and privileged to lead Sussex Police, a team of committed and highly dedicated officers, staff, specials and volunteers who serve with pride and professionalism.



It is our duty to support delivery of the public's priorities as set out by the Police & Crime Commissioner in this plan to: strengthen policing, tackle crime, prevent harm and anti-social behaviour; the relentless disruption of serious and organised crime; and to support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls.

As our commitment to you, we will:

- Protect our communities
- Catch criminals
- Deliver an outstanding service to victims, witnesses and the public

To protect our communities, we will continue to actively listen and engage. We will continue to develop and improve the ways in which you can contact us. Whether you are based in a city, town or village, in person, online or travelling through, we will work to understand your issues and concerns. Importantly, we will then take proportionate action.

At the core of our policing service is a clear focus on catching criminals – with prevention and deterrence at the heart. Through our enforcement capability, uplift in officers and investment in smarter approaches, including collaboration with other forces and agencies, we are better equipped to disrupt and tackle serious and organised crime and relentlessly pursue the most dangerous criminals.

We have worked to strengthened local policing, boosting our frontline teams and the diversity of our workforce. More officers, PCSOs and volunteers for neighbourhood teams have enabled us to deliver an ever better, visible and more accessible service to communities, preventing crime, safeguarding the most vulnerable and tackling neighbourhood crimes and anti-social behaviour. We will also continue to prioritise preventative approaches that divert people of all ages away from crime.

The nature and complexity of the crimes that we deal with continues

to change and will continue to do so in the coming years. This is why we must continue to invest in specialist skills to tackle online and serious organised crime. We must balance addressing the impact of visible crimes, such as anti-social behaviour and burglary, with tackling the, often, hidden impact of organised crime or crimes committed behind closed doors, such as domestic abuse and sexual violence, which can lead to great harm and vulnerability.

We will only meet these combined challenges if we continue to build trust and confidence with our communities. We police by consent, and we will continue to focus on providing the most efficient and effective service we can with the resources we have available. We will get the basics right, building a visible, proactive service that respects and protects our communities by taking the fight back to the criminal. I look forward to working with you to keep Sussex safe.

Jo Shiner
Sussex Police Chief Constable



“The police and crime priorities accurately reflect the policing, crime and community safety issues important to them.”

The Public's Priorities

I have developed this Police & Crime Plan in consultation with members of the public and partners in Sussex to ensure that the police and crime priorities contained within accurately reflect the policing, crime and community safety issues important to them.

I will ensure that these ideas and concerns are addressed within the following three public police and crime priorities for 2021/24, as follows:

3.1

Public Priority 1

Strengthen policing, tackle crime, prevent harm and anti-social behaviour

3.2

Public Priority 2

Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime

3.3

Public Priority 3

Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls

Strengthen policing, tackle crime, prevent harm & anti-social behaviour

I will work with the Chief Constable to:

Local, visible and accessible policing

- improve local, visible and accessible policing in Sussex.
- ensure problem-solving partnership activity and early intervention to prevent crime.
- deliver proactive policing to catch more criminals, cut crime and improve public safety.
- increase the confidence of victims to report traditionally under-reported crimes to Sussex Police to bring more offenders to justice.
- provide operational policing that is efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the public.
- invest in innovation, technology and new ways of working to maximise productivity and efficiency gains for policing.

Anti-social behaviour

- tackle anti-social behaviour to protect communities and prevent anti-social behaviour from being a pathway to more serious crime and harm.
- improve police engagement with the public about the impact of anti-social behaviour.
- ensure effective mediation services are available to prevent conflict from escalating further, decrease community tensions and reduce the demand on Sussex Police.
- work with schools and young people to build confidence in policing and promote positive behaviours.

Burglary

- seek to reduce the number of residential and non-residential burglaries in Sussex, including business premises.
- continue to provide support for victims of burglary, particularly those who are vulnerable, and prevent them being re-targeted.

Rural crime

- maintain a dedicated Rural Crime Team and improve their visible policing presence.
- encourage better engagement with the rural communities and the police and develop a greater confidence for these individuals to report crimes.
- provide more effective communication with rural communities through the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils.

Road safety

- reduce anti-social driving behaviour on the roads in Sussex and recognise the impact that this can have on the communities affected.
- tackle the most serious, organised and persistent criminals by targeting the road networks in Sussex.
- encourage communities, road users and partners to play a full and active part in making the roads of Sussex safer, working in partnership with the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, Operation Crackdown and Community Speed Watch groups to achieve this.

Business and retail crime

- tackle business and retail crime by enabling increased reporting of incidents through technology and smarter police processes.
- ensure a more focused police response to reports of business crime with more specialist officers and staff through a dedicated Business Crime Team.
- generate better intelligence with businesses and partner agencies leading to positive outcomes and increased business confidence in police.
- use the Safer Sussex Business Partnership to develop stronger links between Sussex Police and local businesses in order to make Sussex a safer place in which to shop and work.

Hate crime

- encourage victims and witnesses to report hate crime and ensure that offenders are brought to justice.
- continue to jointly fund and work with the pan-Sussex Hate Incident Support Service to provide support to complex, high-risk and vulnerable

victims of hate crime through the provision of immediate emotional support, advice and coordination with partner agencies.

- use the Safer Sussex Business Partnership to develop stronger links between Sussex Police and local businesses in order to make Sussex a safer place in which to shop and work.

Partnership activity to reduce crime

- continue to provide a case management system to facilitate real-time information sharing between police and local authority partners.
- work with and support the 12 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Sussex to address crime and anti-social behaviour at a district level.
- allocate further funding from the Safer in Sussex Community Fund to support local projects across Sussex to tackle crime and improve community safety.
- continue to support Sussex Police to deliver **REBOOT** - the successful

Early Intervention Youth Programme - to divert young people away from crime and to reduce the risk of them becoming the victim or suspect of future serious violence.

- develop the range of Out of Court Disposal options available in Sussex, in partnership with Sussex Police, to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system by considering alternative approaches to prosecution.
- recognise and address any disproportionality that exists within the criminal justice system towards our diverse communities.
- continue to chair, convene and coordinate the activity of local criminal justice agencies through the Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB) to improve access to justice; reduce offending and expand the use of restorative justice across Sussex.
- reduce crime and reoffending through Integrated Offender Management, including tackling the acute shortage of accommodation for offenders through the SCJB.





Call handling times and contact

- make it easier for members of the public to contact Sussex Police and continue to improve the 999, 101 and non-voice demand response times and encourage greater online reporting.
- provide frontline officers and PCSOs with efficient and effective technology and data access to enable them to police in their communities.



Police officers, staff, PCSOs and special constables

- continue the local recruitment of 250 new police officers funded by the police precept by March 2023.
- support Sussex Police to recruit an additional 414 police officers as part of Operation Uplift – the Government campaign to recruit 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales by March – and a further 15 officers to support the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit.
- improve workforce diversity to better reflect the demographics of Sussex and ensure fair treatment and opportunity for all.
- ensure Sussex Police meets its equality, diversity and inclusivity obligations and promotes a culture that fully embraces this.
- work to eradicate prejudice and discrimination of individuals and/or groups of individuals based on protected characteristics.

- support increased participation by communities in community safety initiatives through the Special Constabulary, Police Cadets, Independent Custody Visitors and other volunteer roles dedicated to preventing crime and safeguarding the individuals detained in police custody in Sussex.

Public engagement

- continue to participate in #TalkSussex – an extensive public engagement programme – to provide the residents of Sussex with the opportunity to inform local policing and budget decisions and to discuss any issues with me and my office directly.



3.2

Public Priority 2

Measuring Progress Against the Police & Crime Plan

Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime

I will work with the Chief Constable to:

Homicide, serious violence & knife crime

- tackle homicide, serious violence and knife crime in Sussex.
- support all available measures by police and partners to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured.
- seek to understand better the root causes of serious violence in Sussex.
- support and enhance the Sussex Police response to serious violence, as part of Operation Safety.
- co-ordinate the work of the Violence Reduction Unit to reduce the risks to individuals and communities throughout Sussex.
- reinforce the local capacity and national capability of Sussex Police to carry out high-profile disruptions and enforcement activities targeting serious and organised criminals.
- tackle the most serious, organised and persistent criminals who are targeting the road networks in Sussex in order to carry out their criminality.

Drugs & county lines

- tackle and disrupt organised crime groups behind county lines drug gang activity.
- recognise the exploitation of children and young people and continue to identify and safeguard those most at risk.
- allocate further community safety funding to support the drug intervention programmes delivered throughout Sussex to tackle and address the harms caused by substance misuse.

Modern slavery

- understand the local, regional and national response to modern slavery through the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network.
- support law enforcement agencies, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and charities to coordinate activity and respond effectively to modern slavery.

Child sexual exploitation & abuse

- protect children from criminal exploitation by raising awareness and increasing the reporting of these offences against children in partnership with Sussex Police and other agencies.
- ensure that child victims receive the support they need and that offenders are brought to justice.

Fraud and cyber-crime

- identify, understand and tackle emerging fraud crime types.
- provide help, support and advice to individuals and businesses who have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber-crime, in partnership with Action Fraud – the national reporting centre for fraud and cyber-crime in England and Wales.
- ensure that police officers and staff have the capacity, capability, systems and equipment to tackle the volume and complexity of cyber-crime.
- tackle fraud and cyber-crime in the South East by working in partnership with the Regional Organised Crime Unit and each of the police force areas in the region.

3.3

Public Priority 3

Measuring Progress Against the Police & Crime Plan

Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls

I will work with the Chief Constable to:

Domestic abuse

- ensure that Sussex Police and partners offer quality services for victims of domestic abuse through the provision of independent advice and guidance, safeguarding from harm and supporting victims to cope and recover regardless of any criminal justice action.
- train and develop frontline police officers and professionals to recognise the signs and indicators of domestic abuse, how to respond and where to go to for further assistance.
- put in place measures that support partners to prevent offending and reduce reoffending, with an emphasis on reducing domestic abuse, serious sexual offences and violent crime.

Rape & serious sexual offences

- continue to invest in specialist support services to assist victims and survivors with their recoveries from rape, sexual violence and exploitation by co-commissioning a Pan-Sussex service accessible to all.
- encourage victims of rape and serious sexual assaults – both recent and non-current – to report these to the police or through other partners to ensure that all vulnerable victims can be supported, and more offenders are brought to justice.
- highlight the impact of rape, sexual violence and exploitation and how frontline professionals can support disclosures and seek further guidance and support.
- improve conviction rates for rape and serious sexual offences in partnership with criminal justice partners.
- support the re-commission of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre for Sussex in partnership with National Health Service (NHS) England, including a thorough needs assessment and adherence to new forensic regulations.

Stalking and harassment

- continue to embed Sussex Police processes and procedures to ensure that stalking and harassment is identified and managed effectively to reduce harm.
- raise awareness of the dangers and harm of stalking and harassment by improving the identification of these offences and the support available for victims in partnership with other agencies.
- commission specialist advocacy services for victims of stalking and harassment in Sussex, ensuring these are accessible to all.

Prevention and perpetrator programmes

- develop partnership responses to prevent and tackle domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators through interventions to change behaviour and reduce repeat victimisation.
- continue to support the Sussex Perpetrator Intervention Programme to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse and stalking to address and change obsessive and compulsive behaviours.

- invest in Body Worn Video technology to ensure that all frontline police officers and PCSOs continue to be equipped with personal-issue cameras to capture evidence that can be used to improve the successful outcomes in domestic abuse and stalking cases and ensure that more perpetrators are brought to justice. This includes evidence-led prosecutions where the victim does not want to support a prosecution.

Elder abuse

- tackle the financial, physical, psychological and sexual abuse of older people in partnership with Sussex Police.
- continue to support and raise awareness of Operation Signature – the nationally adopted Sussex Police campaign to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud – to recognise victims of all types of fraud as victims of crime and to provide preventative measures to support and protect them from further targeting.

Quality victim support services

- directly commission services – either as stand-alone or in partnership – to maximise the use of public funds and provide the best possible response to as many victims as possible.
- develop the Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network of ‘approved’ providers of specialist support services to ensure that they continue to demonstrate the highest levels of quality standards and assurance required.
- continue to provide and promote Safe:Space Sussex – the online directory of victim support services throughout Sussex.
- identify which services work best for victims of crime in Sussex and why, through improved outcome monitoring and close partnership working with other agencies.
- use outcome monitoring to help design future services, ensuring the voice of the victim is placed at the centre of funding and service decisions.
- continue to provide successful outcomes for victims of crime seeking restitution by confronting perpetrators and describing the impact of the crime upon them and

their families – rather than from a criminal justice outcome – through the Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership.

Safeguard the vulnerable

- implement a Victim Hub approach to supporting vulnerable victims in Sussex, ensuring victims receive the right support, safety advice and guidance from the most appropriate service.
- ensure that victims and witnesses are supported to facilitate a positive experience of the criminal justice system.
- identify repeat vulnerable victims to safeguard against further harm in partnership with other agencies.
- seek to reduce the risk of vulnerable victims and witnesses travelling long distances to give evidence at court.
- seek opportunities to reduce the need for vulnerable victims and witnesses to travel long distances to give evidence at court.
- support children and young people attending court – either as victims of crime or witnesses to it – through the Young Witness Service and other dedicated services for children.

Improve access to justice

- ensure that the Sussex Police estate is in the right place, is fit for purpose and is efficient through the delivery of the Estates Strategy 2018/23.
- examine options for sharing with partners and disposal for redevelopment where the police estate is under-used.
- seek to secure additional funding from district and borough councils across Sussex through Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy to support further investment and improvements in the Sussex Police estate and existing policing infrastructure.
- ensure that Sussex Police are developing and implementing plans to reduce building and transport-related carbon emissions.

4

Measuring the Progress Against The Public's Priorities

Achievements against the Police & Crime Plan will be formally reported to the Police & Crime Panel through a published Annual Report.

Each of The Public's Priorities has a series of descriptions of the work that will be drawn upon to measure success and progress.

Evidence will be gathered from a broad range of police, partner and public information sources to determine how effectively each of The Public's Priorities are being delivered.

This will be taken from a range of sources including His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service reports, Sussex Police Performance Dashboard, partnership information, government reports and audit and public satisfaction surveys.

The Police & Crime Plan will be kept under constant review and will be refreshed annually. This will include a review of the public's police and crime priorities and the supporting descriptions.



5

Relationship of the Police & Crime Plan to Local Authority Community Safety Plans



Police & Crime Plan

Sets out the strategic police and crime priorities for how policing services will be delivered in Sussex across 2021/24.



Brighton & Hove City Council

Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2020/23

[Brighton & Hove Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2020-2023.pdf](#)



East Sussex County Council

East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan - 2022/23

[East Sussex Safer Communities Business Plan 2020_.pdf](#)



West Sussex County Council

The Safer West Sussex Partnership - County Community Safety Agreement 2021/25

[The Safer West Sussex Partnership County Community Safety Agreement 2021-25.pdf](#)



Community Safety Plans for Community Safety Partnerships

Sets out how partners will support the priorities of the Police & Crime Plan. These plans can be viewed on the individual websites for each of the local authorities.

6

Strategic Policing Requirement and National Policing Strategies

The Home Secretary has identified the following national threats which all police force areas in England and Wales must demonstrate that they have the plans and capability to respond to, in addition to regular policing requirements.

This is called the [Strategic Policing Requirement](#) (SPR) and these threats are identified as:

- Violence against women and girls
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- National cyber event
- Child sexual abuse
- Public disorder
- Civil emergencies

The threats have been assessed and selected from the National Security Risk Assessment on the basis that they either affect multiple police force areas or may require action from multiple forces, resulting in a national response.

The policing requirement to counter the threats is set out in the SPR and forces are required to evidence preparedness against five areas: capacity; contribution; capability; consistency and connectivity.

The Chief Constable and I must have “due regard” to the SPR and ensure that the police force is in a state of readiness to respond to them, in addition to business as usual.

I must also ensure that sufficient funds are set aside to maintain the Force’s contribution under the SPR. This includes ensuring that sufficient resilience and capacity exists to cover the contribution of Sussex Police.

I will hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of this national element of policing – which the public expects to be of the highest calibre – through an effective accountability framework.

[His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#) will also continue to inspect the police force’s capacity and capability to respond to each of the individual requirements.

National Crime and Policing Measures

The Home Secretary has developed six national crime and policing measures to support the strategic priority for ‘a relentless focus on cutting crime’.

- Reduce murder and other homicides.
- Reduce serious violence.
- Reduce neighbourhood crime.
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines.
- Improve satisfaction among victims – with a focus on victims of domestic abuse.
- Tackle cyber crime.

The PCC will hold the Chief Constable to account for the effectiveness of the policing response delivered against each of these national crime and policing measures in Sussex.



National Policing Strategies

Policing Vision 2025

[The Policing Vision 2025](#) sets out the future for policing and will shape decisions about how police force areas use their resources to keep people safe. The Vision has been developed by the [National Police Chiefs' Council](#) and [Association of Police and Crime Commissioners](#), in consultation with [The College of Policing](#), [National Crime Agency](#), staff associations and other policing and community partners. All Chief Constables and Police & Crime Commissioners in England and Wales have signed up to the Vision.

Beating Crime Plan

[The Beating Crime Plan](#) sets out the strategic approach to cutting crime, exposing and ending hidden harms and building capacity and capability to respond to fraud and online crime. The plan also introduces new measures to drive down crime, tackle the underlying causes of repeat offending and improve the capacity of the criminal justice system.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

[The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#) sets out a whole system approach to tackling violence and preventing crimes against women and girls, supporting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

From Harm to Hope

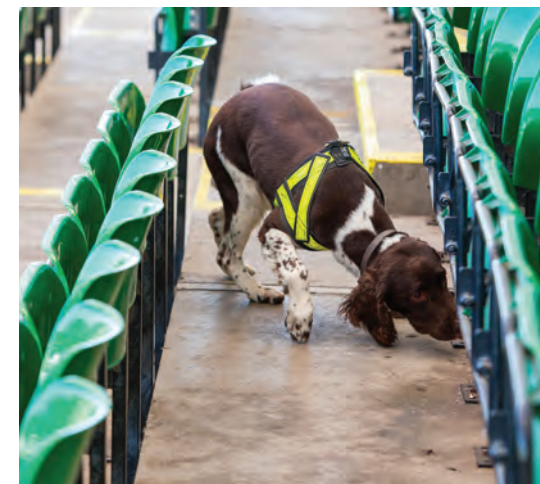
[From Harm to Hope](#) is a 10-year plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. The plan sets out three core priorities: breaking drug supply chains, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system and deterring the use of recreational drugs.

National Policing Digital Strategy 2020/30

[The National Policing Digital Strategy 2020/30](#) sets out the ambition for how digital can transform key dimensions of the police service alongside the priorities that support this. This includes key data and technology enablers that will provide the foundation for digital transformation, with implications on our people, ethics and policing capabilities, and considerations for how policing mobilises and organises effectively to deliver the strategy over the next five years.

National Police Chiefs' Council Strategic Plan 2021/25

[The National Police Chiefs' Council Strategic Plan 2021/25](#) sets out the plans to enable chief officers to deliver the best possible service to members of the public across the three areas of: coordination; collaboration and communication.



7

Collaboration



Sussex Police and Surrey Police

Sussex Police and Surrey Police have successfully collaborated on a number of different areas since 2010, comprising operational disciplines and enabling portfolios.

Collaborated Operations Command include the following service areas: Tactical Firearms; Firearms & Command Training; Operational Dogs & Dog Training; Public Order Training; Road Policing; Serious Collision Investigation; Forensic Collision Investigation; Firearms and Explosive Licensing; Duties & Resourcing; Specialist Search Drones; Emergency Planning and Operations Planning.

The following units are also included within Operations Command, although they are not collaborated and relate to Sussex Police only: Gatwick Airport, Specialist Enforcement Unit, Collision Team and Process & Prosecutions Team.

The operating model for Specialist Crime Command includes a collaborative approach to Homicide and Major Crime Investigations, Serious and Organised Crime, Intelligence, Forensic Investigations (including Digital Forensics), Surveillance, Cyber Crime and Economic Crime.

The key portfolios from an organisational enabling perspective are: People Services (which includes Learning & Professional Development and Occupational Health), Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT), Commercial and Financial Services (which includes Finance, Estates, Fleet, Procurement and Insurance).

The Chief Officers responsible for DDaT, Finance and People Services work across both police force areas to identify and deliver further efficiencies and savings. This collaborative approach will help to enhance frontline policing by reducing duplication, streamlining management and rationalising processes and support services.

Emergency Services Collaboration

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory duty on police, fire and ambulance services to work together.

I will actively seek opportunities to collaborate with other emergency services across our region where it is in the best interests of Sussex residents to do so. For example, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Command are co-located on site at Sussex Police Headquarters in Lewes, East Sussex.



Sussex Police and the South East Region

Sussex Police is one of five police force areas in the South East region. The other four forces are: Hampshire, Kent, Surrey & Thames Valley.

South East Regional Organised Crime Unit

The South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU) has responsibility to protect four of the police forces within the South East from serious organised crime. Kent Police is covered by the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit.

SEROUCU works with partners locally, regionally and nationally to safeguard local communities from serious and organised crime. This is delivered through relentless prevention, disruption and enforcement action against serious and organised crime.

Counter Terrorism Policing South East

The Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) is a collaboration between the five forces in the South East, employing officers and staff from each police force area. CTPSE is part of the National Counter Terrorism Policing Network – a broader collaboration working to prevent and disrupt the threat from all forms of international terrorism, domestic extremism and threats from hostile states.

The aim of CTPSE is ‘to keep the communities of the South East and beyond safe from terrorism’ and does this by working with the regional forces to deliver on the four elements (protect, prepare, prevent and pursue) of CONTEST – the Government’s Counter Terrorism Strategy.

CTPSE provides a specialist, integrated and coordinated policing response to counter terrorism to each of the forces across the region, sharing support functions with the SEROUCU.

South East Regional Integration Partnership

In 2018, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley Police formed the South East Regional Integration Partnership (SERIP) to identify and deliver business, process and technical change across the four police force areas.

The strength of the regional collaborative intent has been underpinned by each of the Police & Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables updating and recommitting to a Section 22 agreement which allows the forces to continue to collaborate on areas where public service is enhanced and policing can become more effective.

The delivery of regional business and technical change across all four forces is recognised to be challenging given the volume and complexity of local change within individual police forces. In recognition of this complexity and the resources required to successfully deliver change across individual forces, SERIP will

continue to remain a forum for discussion and shared best practice, although it will not progress any new initiatives at the present time. Cost savings and further efficiencies will, instead, be realised through reductions in the number of individuals working within SERIP.

Emergency Services Collaboration Programme

The Emergency Services Collaboration Programme (ESCP) aims to support further collaboration between emergency services in Sussex and Surrey, with partners from each of the six emergency services within both areas working together to design the way services are delivered locally.

The aim of ESCP is to ensure that each of the emergency services is in the best position to respond to emergencies across the region – saving more lives, improving the quality of life for residents and helping to deliver the efficiencies required.

8

Policing Budget and Precept



Budget

I have approved a gross budget of £406.536m for 2023/24. After specific grants, income, savings and use of reserves the net revenue budget is £362.670m.

Here is how the money will be spent:

- Of the net revenue budget £361.795m is delegated to the Chief Constable to fund the operational delivery budget. Of the remaining balance, £4.006m is held by me to fund the office budget, audit and governance, treasury costs, community safety, victim services and restorative justice programme.
- My office budget has increased by £0.164m to meet the budget pressures arising from pay and price increases, including an assumption of a 2% pay award, contractual increases and the additional costs of national insurance for employers.
- Although funding for Community Safety Partnerships comes from a

grant, the £1.215m set aside to fund them has been maintained at the same level it was in 2012/13. This funding has now been protected for 11 consecutive years.

- A further £3.536m is made available for capital financing requirements, offset by the use of £6.695m in reserves to support the overall budget.

Precept

The Government expectation that local taxpayers contribute more to local policing has continued in 2023/24 with the below inflation increase of the grant sum.

Sussex had the 7th lowest council tax precept in England and Wales in 2022/23 at £224.91 per annum for a Band D property.

I proposed a precept increase of £15 (6.7%) for 2023/24. This has increased the precept to £239.91 per household [for a Band D property] in Sussex – equivalent to an extra £1.25 a month – and still ensures that Sussex remains

within the lowest quartile for precepts in England and Wales.

I have scrutinised the Chief Constable's budget and listened carefully to what the residents of Sussex have told me. I want to maintain our investment to strengthen police visibility and accessibility and improvements to systems, capacities and capabilities built up since 2018.

It has been calculated that a £15 precept uplift is essential for Sussex Police to meet the increased costs of pay and inflation, and deliver against the continued investment and improvements to local policing.

The precept was supported and endorsed by the Sussex Police & Crime Panel on 27 January 2023. I formally approved the revenue, capital and precept for 2023/24 on 8 February 2023.



“I have approved a gross budget of £406.536m for 2023/24. After specific grants, income, savings and use of reserves the net revenue budget is £362.670m.”

9

Services for Victims & Grant Funding

I am responsible for commissioning services for victims of crime in Sussex. This means determining how best to allocate this funding and overseeing delivery to ensure that individuals in Sussex have access to the best and most appropriate support services available.

My Commissioning Strategy sets out how I intend to continue to develop a strong community of voluntary services and effective partnerships with statutory agencies in Sussex, building their capacity and growing the market to provide services that respond flexibly to meet the needs of local residents.

Decisions on the most appropriate mechanism for commissioning services are made after assessing the benefits, restrictions and legal requirements. The methods chosen will be informed by these commissioning commitments and what is right for Sussex, with partnership agreements, grants and contracts used to support this.



Community Safety

I provide an annual community safety grant to support community safety initiatives in Sussex. A proportion of this grant is awarded to Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council to deliver youth offending services and drug and alcohol support, with further funding awarded directly to each of the 12 CSPs in Sussex to deliver targeted activity to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in those areas.



Safer in Sussex Community Fund

For the last 10 years, the remainder of this grant has been used for my **Safer in Sussex Community Fund** (SiSCF) and has provided financial support (grant awards up to £5,000) to a diverse range of local organisations and community projects that aim to reduce crime and improve community safety. In total, £2.126m has been allocated to support 486 different community projects since the SiSCF was created. A list of each of the successful applications to the fund can be [viewed here](#).

Victims' Services

From 1 October 2014, Police & Crime Commissioners became responsible for commissioning victims' services locally. To support this, I receive an annual grant from the [Ministry of Justice](#) (MOJ) to commission services for victims and witnesses of crime.

To ensure that victim support services are widely publicised and available to victims of crime, I will continue to promote and develop [Safe:Space Sussex](#) - the online directory of victim support services throughout Sussex. This service is available to all, regardless of whether individuals have reported offences to the police and/or are pursuing these through the criminal justice system.

The MOJ grant also stipulates that the funding should be used to provide quality services to victims. To support this approach, the [Safe:Space Funding Network](#) was created in 2018 to safeguard the

quality of services provided by those in receipt of this funding in Sussex. This process requires the recipients

of any grant funding to undergo a quality assurance process which is tiered dependent on the amount of funding applied for, including checks on safeguarding policies, financial management and the quality of the interventions delivered.

The funding provided by the MOJ must be used to commission services that reflect the needs of victims of crime in Sussex, identified through an annual Needs Assessment. Part of this process involves the co-commissioning of services with a range of partners, including local authorities, National Health Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups and National Probation Service. Through the Funding Network, local services are also able to bid for funding to support projects identified as part of the annual assessment.

In total, £1.4m has been allocated to fund 67 projects supporting victims of domestic abuse; sexual violence; stalking; hate crime; road crime and fraud since the Funding Network was created. A list of each of the successful applications can be [viewed here](#).

Proceeds of Crime Act

[The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002](#)

provides for the confiscation or civil recovery of the proceeds from crime. Linked to this, the [Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme](#) (ARIS) has more than 250 participant agencies seeking to recover these proceeds through confiscation orders which are shared, pro-rata, amongst these participating agencies, including Sussex Police, to tackle and prevent crime.

Confiscation and asset recovery are complex processes conducted separately but in parallel to the judicial process. This process

explores the defendant's criminal benefit as the value of the property obtained as a result of or in connection with criminal conduct, including the determination of the court as to whether a defendant has a criminal lifestyle. ARIS receipts are forwarded to participating agencies for use in the further prevention or reduction in crime or asset recovery.



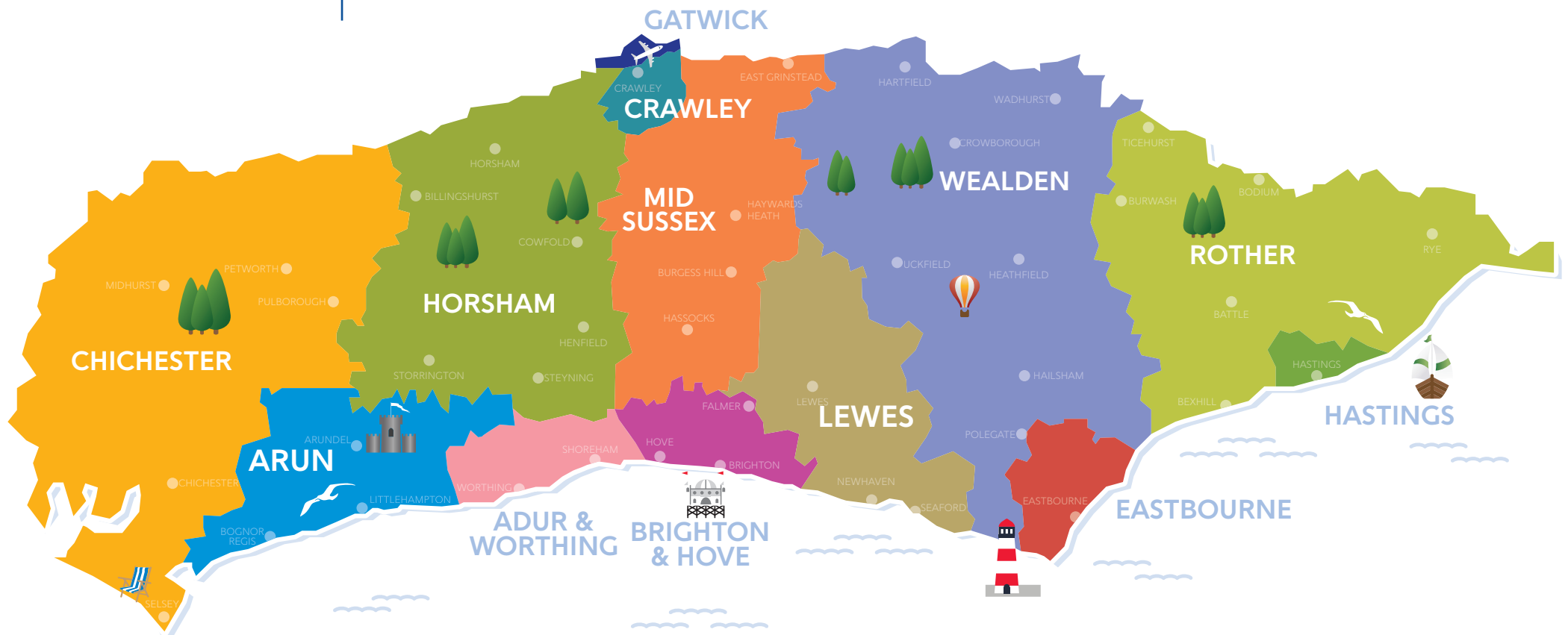
10

About Sussex

Sussex Police covers a population of 1.7 million people. The police force area covers the rural and urban counties of East Sussex (including Brighton & Hove) and West Sussex.

The South Downs National Park covers an area of 628 square miles and stretches for 87 miles from Winchester to Eastbourne through Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex and a coastline that spans 137 miles from Chichester Harbour to Camber Sands.

Sussex also has Gatwick Airport – the second busiest airport in the United Kingdom – and the Port of Newhaven – one of the oldest gateways to France.



FORCE AREA

1,462
square miles



WORKFORCE

87% frontline police officers,
staff and PCSOs

3.13 per 1,000 population



POPULATION

1.718m People
750,100 Households
1,175 people per square mile



CRIMES

0.05
crimes per person



COST

49p
per person per day



Three external bodies work closely with Sussex Police to set standards and scrutinise performance:

.....
[His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#) is the

inspection body which provides regular annual and thematic inspections;

.....
The [College of Policing](#) sets the standard for policing and carries out research;

.....
The [Independent Office for Police Conduct](#) oversees the complaints process nationally.

Source: HMICFRS – Sussex Police Profile

11

Roles and Responsibilities

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) established the role of the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Act set provisions for the replacement of police authorities with directly elected Police & Crime Commissioners aiming to improve police accountability by ‘reconnecting’ the public with policing.

| ROLE | RESPONSIBILITIES |
|---|--|
| <p>POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the strategic direction for policing in Sussex; • Publishing a Police & Crime Plan; • Setting the budget and precept for policing in Sussex; • Commissioning of victims’ support services; • Holding the Chief Constable to account for delivering policing that is efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the public as set out in the Police & Crime Plan; • Appointing, and if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable of Sussex Police. |
| <p>CHIEF CONSTABLE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the communities of Sussex safe and secure; • Delivering efficient and effective operational policing which responds to the needs of the public; • Managing resources and expenditure by the police force. |
| <p>POLICE & CRIME PANEL</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing, reporting and making recommendations on the Police & Crime Plan and the policing precept; • Scrutinising key strategic decisions and documents (including the Police & Crime Plan); • Making recommendations to the Police & Crime Commissioner on the discharge of her functions; • Holding confirmation hearings for the proposed appointments of Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer; • Power to suspend the Police & Crime Commissioner if charged with an imprisonable offence or appoint an acting Police & Crime Commissioner where the incumbent is incapacitated, resigns or is disqualified. |

GENERAL

The PCC is elected every four years and is the chair of the corporation sole. Further statutory duties and powers are set out within the Act.

The Act protects the operational independence of the police by making it clear that the Chief Constable retains direction and control of all officers and staff.

Scrutinise the decisions of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Membership consists of a maximum of 18 councillors from each of the 15 local authorities within Sussex, plus two independent members.

There is a requirement for political and geographical balance amongst the elected members of the Panel.

COMPLAINTS

Local oversight of the complaint handling by Sussex Police; Independent Review Body for certain complaints made through the formal complaints system within Sussex Police and dealing with complaints made against the Chief Constable.

Consider and investigate any complaints or conduct matters against police officers and staff.

Consider any complaints or conduct matters against the Police & Crime Commissioner.



Anti-social behaviour – Personal, nuisance and environmental are all types of anti-social behaviour. This can include abandoned vehicles; nuisance or inappropriate use of vehicles; rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour; rowdy or nuisance neighbours; illegal waste dumping, fly-tipping and polluting watercourses and land, littering or drugs paraphernalia; animal problems; trespassing; nuisance calls; street drinking; prostitution-related activity; nuisance noise; begging and misuse of fireworks.

Child sexual exploitation – is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited they are given things – gifts; drugs; money; status and affection – in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing that they are in a loving and consensual relationship – this is known as grooming. The child or young person may also trust their abuser and not understand that they are even being abused.

Elder abuse – is a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.

Female Genital Mutilation – is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed without any medical reason for this to be done.

Forced marriage – is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage, and pressure or abuse is used to force them into marriage.

Honour-based violence – is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.

Human trafficking – is a crime where victims can be forced, deceived and/or coerced into being transported within regions, countries and/or around the world with the intention of exploiting these individuals for labour, sexual purposes, human tissue/organ harvesting and/or other exploitative objectives that involve criminal activity.

Modern slavery – is serious and organised crime which can involve subjecting victims to forced and/or compulsory labour and/or holding individuals in domestic servitude, including human trafficking [see above], for personal or commercial gain. Modern slavery offending is present within most other crime types and can manifest itself in almost any commercial scenario including construction, manufacturing, shops, bars, nail bars and car washes.

Rural crime – includes agricultural; equine; wildlife and heritage crime. This can include theft of equipment or fuel; damage to property; unauthorised encampments; livestock worrying; hare coursing; poaching and interfering with protected species; lead theft from churches; damage to ancient monuments and illegal metal detecting.

Stalking – is the act or crime of undertaking fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repeated behaviour(s) that may include following, harassing and/or intimidating the victim in person.



Get in Touch

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Please visit my website and sign up to
my email newsletter: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk

