

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 27 January 2017

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

PRESENT: Police & Crime Commissioner – Katy Bourne (KB)
Chief Finance Officer – Iain McCulloch (IMcC)
Chief Constable – Giles York (GY)
Deputy Chief Constable – Bernie O'Reilly (BO'R)
Digital Content Officer – Sammi Carwardine
Superintendent – Lawrence Hobbs (observer)
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (absent but retrospective minutes)

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

A. What have been the recent operational challenges for Sussex Police?

B. How have you reflected on these?

GY began by commending two individuals for exceptional recognition:

Detective Constable Louise Pye was awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in the New Year's Honours 2017 for her extensive work with police family liaison officers.

Chief Superintendent Nev Kemp was named Senior Champion of the Year by Stonewall in the Workplace Equality Index 2017. Sussex Police again featured in the top 100 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) friendly employers in the UK for the sixth time in eight years. The Sussex Police LGBT Network was also highly commended in the network group category.

In addition, three operational challenges since the last PAM were highlighted as follows:

On 13 January 2017, Mr Jamshid Piruz, 34, was sentenced to life imprisonment, with a minimum term of five years, for two counts of grievous bodily harm with intent after he attacked two police officers with a hammer in Crawley. Mr Piruz was also sentenced to nine months for affray and six months for burglary.

On 14 January 2017, Mr David Smith, 50, was charged with making an explosive substance for an unlawful purpose and possession of an explosive substance for an unlawful purpose. Officers evacuated the flats in Belmont Close, Hassocks, for most of the day whilst a controlled explosion was carried out by the bomb-disposal team to make the area safe. This was treated as an isolated incident and was not terrorist-related.

Police Sergeant (PS) Sasha Stevens was recognised for preventing the same individual from committing suicide on two separate occasions. At the beginning of January 2017, PS Stevens engaged an agitated, unpredictable man in conversation and talked him away from the edge after he was threatening to jump from the roof of the Eastbourne Arndale Centre. Last week, the same man was threatening to jump from Beachy Head and PS Stevens again engaged with him and talked the man away from the edge despite him being uncommunicative for a long period of time.

OPERATION DRAGONFLY –
CHRISTMAS DRINK-AND-DRUG-DRIVE CAMPAIGN 2016 – RESULTS

As discussed at last month's PAM, "Operation Dragonfly", the dedicated Sussex Police drink-and-drug-drive campaign in the lead up to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, took place in December 2016.

A. Can you provide me with the total number of drivers who were breathalysed or tested for substances and subsequently arrested for drink-or-drug-driving offences?

B. How have you reflected on this latest campaign?

C. What other initiatives does the Force have planned to tackle drink-and-drug-driving throughout the rest of the calendar year?

GY confirmed that between 1 December and 31 December 2016, Sussex Police made 206 arrests for drink-and-drug-driving offences.

Over the course of December 2016, the Force stopped and breathalysed over 2,500 motorists, of which 146 individuals were arrested for drink-driving. Over the same period, c.100 individuals were stopped and tested for substances using the drug-wipe test, of which 60 individuals provided positive readings and were arrested for drug-driving.

The data represented a steady increase from last year and was, to an extent, expected from a drug-drive perspective because of a greater investment in the number of officers qualified to test motorists for drugs at the roadside and the wider availability of drug-wipe tests.

GY reflected on the latest campaign as a success but expressed his disappointment to KB that drink-and-drug-driving had still not become socially unacceptable. The point was again made that drink-and-drug-driving is regarded as one of the "fatal four" by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) alongside speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driver distractions, including the use of mobile phones, satellite navigation systems and iPods whilst driving.

*It was also emphasised that Sussex Police and the SSRP have recently participated in a national campaign, "**It Can Wait**", which highlights that distracted driving is never OK. The Force has been proactively educating members of the public regarding the risks of being distracted whilst driving and the possible penalties that could be incurred. This will be followed up by dedicated periods of enforcement. All of the evidence gathered as part of this campaign will be collated and shared with the national programme.*

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

OPERATION RIBBON – RESULTS

“Operation Ribbon”, the dedicated Sussex Police response to reports of domestic abuse over the Christmas and New Year period, was highlighted at last month’s PAM.

- A. How effective was this Operation in tackling domestic abuse in Sussex?**
- B. How supportive have the courts been in progressing prosecutions in a swift and timely manner?**
- C. How will the learning from this campaign be used to inform the Force’s response to domestic abuse now that the festive period has concluded?**

B’OR explained that sadly domestic abuse continues to remain daily business for Sussex Police. It was highlighted that approximately 70 domestic abuse incidents are reported each day, of which c.35 are recorded as domestic abuse crimes.

There were 807 domestic abuse serials reported between 19 December and 31 December 2016, of which 405 were recorded as domestic abuse crimes. A total of 142 arrests were made by Sussex Police in response to these crimes. This was fewer than the 962 domestic abuse serials reported between 21 December 2015 and 3 January 2016, of which 458 were recorded as domestic abuse crimes and a total of 279 arrests were made by the Force. KB requested the comparative figures for each of the past five years in which the campaign has been delivered.

B’OR confirmed that the formal report analysing and evaluating the overall Operation is still outstanding. This report will look at the effectiveness of the Operation, including the decision to proactively visit previous victims and known offenders on conditional bail for domestic abuse related offences. The significant engagement with members of the public to encourage victims to come forward and the associated communications that supported the campaign were also recognised. KB has already requested a copy of the finished report.

The Transforming Summary Justice initiative, adopted by all criminal justice agencies in June 2015, aims to reform the way that criminal cases are handled in order to create a swifter system with reduced delays and fewer hearings. B’OR confirmed that the Force receives huge support from the courts in respect of domestic abuse and that the timeliness in which each case is progressed through the courts is evaluated on a case-by-case basis according to risk.

It was also highlighted that Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) provide protection to victims by enabling the police and magistrates’ courts to put in place protective measures in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator and provide protection to a victim via bail conditions. KB requested a breakdown of the number of DVPOs and DVPNs issued by Sussex Police in December 2016.

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BURGLARY DWELLING

I note that the Force experienced a 15% increase in the number of recorded burglary dwelling crimes across the period 1 April to 31 December 2016, in comparison to the same period in 2015/16.

A. Can you provide me with an update regarding Force performance in this area?

GY reiterated the seriousness with which the Force takes all burglaries and stated that it remains paramount that the Sussex Police response is both reassuring and effective in terms of pursuing those individuals responsible.

The 15% increase in the number of recorded burglary dwelling crimes across 2016/17 to date was acknowledged but the relatively low risk of experiencing a burglary in Sussex was highlighted. The Force is positioned 8 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales in terms of the risk per 1,000 population. Sussex Police is also top of their Most Similar Group (MSG) of eight police forces for risk of burglary dwelling crime. Sussex Police is also positioned 10 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales (and top of their MSG) in terms of the solved rate for burglary dwelling.

KB welcomed the reassurance she was given in respect of which crimes Sussex Police will attend. It was highlighted that the Force will always make an assessment on a case-by-case basis based on the type of crime and the victim.

It was also emphasised that the definition of burglary dwelling is set to change in April 2017. This will include no longer separating burglary dwelling and burglary other than a dwelling.

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS – PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES, POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES AND ROBBERIES

Last week, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published crime figures for England and Wales for the year ending September 2016. Total recorded crime had increased by 8% in Sussex and by 9% nationally. The increases in recorded crimes in Sussex were broadly in line with the regional and national picture, with the exception of public order offences, possession of weapons offences and robberies which increased by 51%, 46% and 16% respectively, in comparison to 2015.

A. How have you reflected on this recent publication?

B. What do you attribute these increases in recorded crime to?

C. What is the Force doing to proactively reduce the number of weapons available in Sussex and to educate individuals about the possible consequences of carrying weapons?

B'OR began by providing a definition for public order offences, possession of weapons offences and robberies. These were defined as follows:

- **Public order offence** – This includes the use of threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour towards another person that is intended to cause them to believe that immediate unlawful violence will be used against them or to provoke them to use immediate unlawful violence.
- **Possession of weapons offence** – Anything can be considered an offensive weapon if it satisfies one of the following three categories: An offensive weapon per se, something adapted to cause injury or something that is not offensive per se, or adapted, but is intended to be used for the purpose of causing injury.
- **Robbery** – This is the crime of taking or attempting to take anything of value by force, threat of force or by putting the victim in fear.

BO'R welcomed the ONS crime figures but stated that due to ongoing crime data integrity improvements the statistics provided are not reliable, comparable or an accurate measure of trends in crime.

It was highlighted that Sussex Police record approximately 7,000 public order offences each year. The vast majority of these offences are attributed to the Night Time Economy (NTE) and linked to alcohol. The Force has done a huge amount of work with local authority partners, including licensing, to support and challenge where appropriate. However, whilst it was acknowledged that this type of offence had increased by c.800 recorded crimes in comparison to 2015, this did not account for the 51% set out in the ONS statistics. This was attributed to the numbers potentially being measured in a slightly different way and B'OR acknowledged that further work was required to either validate or discount the figures.

In respect of possession of weapons offences, B'OR explained that Sussex Police will proactively target any individual where intelligence exists to suggest that they are routinely carrying a weapon, or shops that are known to be selling them to anyone under the age of 18 years old. The Force is supporting a national initiative to tackle knife crime and to raise awareness of people who have lost their lives to knife crime. This knife amnesty surrender will give members of the public the opportunity to dispose of any knives in dedicated bins across Sussex without prosecution.

B'OR concluded by stating that approximately four robberies take place in Sussex each week. These consist of both personal and business crimes and often occur as part of the NTE when victims can make themselves more vulnerable to opportunistic offenders. Whilst the numbers are relatively small, it is acknowledged that this is a high-risk and high-harm area of policing that the Force continues to take really seriously.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNIT

The South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU) has the responsibility of working with police forces in the South East, including Sussex, to protect communities from serious organised crime.

- A. For the benefit of the viewers, can you explain what the remit of the SEROCU is?**
- B. How effective do you think the SEROCU is in respect of tackling those who commit serious and organised crime? What measures do you use to assess success?**
- C. How effectively does SEROCU work with partner agencies in Sussex to use powers to seize and recover assets from criminals involved in organised crime?**
- D. In December 2015, HMIC published an inspection report into ROCUs which reviewed the capability and effectiveness of the national response to serious and organised crime. Has the SEROCU been able to deliver each of the seven regional recommendations identified in the report within the prescribed timescales (30 June 2016)?**

GY explained that the SEROCU has responsibility to protect communities in the South East from serious organised crime. The aim of the Unit is to create a cohesive regional response to serious organised crime by providing enhanced interoperability and resilience to the police force areas in Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Thames Valley and Kent.

Thames Valley Police is the host force but each police force pays a contribution, in addition to national funding. The SEROCU is also closely aligned to the South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU) and other agencies, including the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The SEROCU is made up of the following structure:

- *Regional Investigation Unit – coordinates investigations both regionally and nationally.*
- *Regional Asset Recovery Unit – takes money and assets from criminals on a large scale.*
- *Regional Intelligence Unit – coordinates intelligence both regionally and nationally.*
- *Regional Protected Persons Unit – supports people subject to witness protection.*
- *Regional Cyber Crime Unit – works closely with the Sussex & Surrey Cyber Crime Unit.*

GY was confident that Sussex Police is using the SEROCU effectively to seize and recover assets from criminals involved in organised crime. It was explained that success is measured by the amount of support and intelligence that is received. A coordinated approach between the SEROCU, NCA and other agencies ensures that whilst they are all individually looking at the same types of criminality, there is no duplication of work.

There are three other specialist units within SEROCU dealing with specialist functions:

- **Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN)** – to utilise the full range of intelligence and enforcement opportunities by stimulating the lawful flow of information, locally, regionally and nationally.
- **Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART)** – provides a valuable and cost effective service to the regional police forces and other law enforcement agencies by disrupting and dismantling the assets of organised crime groups that have a direct impact on local communities.
- **Asset Confiscation Enforcement (ACE) Team** – forms part of the RART and is a multi-agency approach to enforcing confiscation orders that have been obtained with a view to realising assets in an efficient manner. It was emphasised that the ACE team has recovered over £250,000 in the calendar year to date.

GY concluded by stating that each of the seven regional recommendations identified in the HMIC report have been completed. Only one of the national recommendations is still subject to further discussion.

OPERATIONAL DELIVERY BUDGET 2017/18

The operational delivery budget for 2017/18 includes a budget savings requirement of £11.3m.

A. What are the areas in which you propose to realise these savings and when do you expect these savings to be met?

B. What governance arrangements do you have in place to ensure that these proposals are robust and sustainable?

GY explained that savings of up to £16.5m have been identified for 2017/18, although the budget savings requirement for the year is £11.3m. This figure is part of the latest estimated total savings requirement of £42.6m by 2021.

It was emphasised that Sussex Police is looking to make these savings across three areas in 2017/18: Policing Together, Local Policing Programme and Estates and Future Workplace Programme.

- **Policing Together** – this is predominantly collaborative work with Surrey Police across three areas: specialist crime capability, operational deployments (including contact) and support services (including people services, corporate services and joint procurement services). Specialist crime capability and operational deployments are expected to deliver savings of £1.3m and £0.5m in 2017/18, respectively.
- **Local Policing Programme (LPP)** – the LPP is expected to deliver savings of £27m by 2021, of which savings of £12.4m are forecast for 2017/18.
- **Estates and Future Workplace Programme** – this is expected to deliver savings of £2.3m in 2017/18 (including those savings attributed to support services).

GY also provided KB with assurances that a robust three-layer model is in place to ensure that these savings are made. This includes continuously considering the impact on business and the affordability through the following mechanisms:

- **Sussex Police and Surrey Police Oversight Board** – attended by both Police & Crime Commissioners.
- **Six-weekly Chief Officer Team meeting** – attended by both Chief Constables.
- **Sussex Police and Surrey Police Change Board** – to examine business cases. This Board is chaired by B'OR.
- **Sussex Police and Surrey Police Investment Board** – to monitor spend. This Board is chaired by Peter Gillett, Director of Finance for Sussex Police.

LOCAL POLICING PROGRAMME

The Local Policing Programme (LPP) is your four-year plan for how local policing will be delivered across Sussex in respect of crime prevention, response and investigation.

A. Can you provide me with a progress update in respect of the implementation of the LPP to date?

B. How will success be measured in the delivery of the LPP?

C. Is there any learning that could be taken from the 'Efficiency' strand of HMIC's Police, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) assessment for 2016/17 and used to improve the LPP?

D. How is the Force continuing to involve, engage and work with members of the public and partners in the rollout of the LPP?

B'OR began by explaining that the LPP will enable Sussex Police to operate more efficiently in the future. The LPP is expected to deliver savings of £13m by 31 March 2017, and further savings of £14m in the next 14 months too.

The LPP encompasses crime prevention, response and investigation as follows:

- **Prevention** – Local resources deployed in crime prevention, with trained police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), working closely with partners, providing problem-solving activities tailored to local needs and demands. A strong focus on targeted work in the most vulnerable areas.
- **Response** – Emergency response delivered from geographical hubs, linked to custody centres. Vehicles will use standby locations, similar to the ambulance service, to ensure rapid and county-wide coverage. Access to officer skills, availability and location will mean controllers will send the most appropriate officer to incidents, first time. Officers will be equipped with mobile devices meaning that, unless an arrest has been made at the scene, they will not need to return to a police station and can return quickly back to their response role.
- **Investigation** – Clear investigative principles and standards will be applied by the new Resolution Centre to ensure that those calls for assistance that require further investigation are dealt with effectively by officers and staff with enhanced skills.

Each stage of the LPP will be evaluated post-implementation on an individual basis against predetermined evaluation criteria. The success of the LPP will be measured against the delivery of local policing outcomes. The ability of the Force to meet national standards to improve accountability and transparency, maximise the use of available resources and reduce costs will also be used to measure success.

HMIC published their findings for Sussex Police in the "Efficiency" strand of its annual inspection into Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) in November 2016. The report described the LPP as "robust", "sophisticated" and "sound". It was emphasised that learning will be taken from the report in respect of the management of hidden demand and, whilst the prevention strand of the LPP is now in place, a second and more detailed demand analysis will be undertaken across crime prevention to understand better the impact of these changes.

B'OR reiterated that a sophisticated communications strategy is in place around the LPP and stated that Sussex Police are continuing to involve, engage and work with members of the public and partners in the rollout. Any comments or feedback regarding the LPP can be shared with the Force through the following link:

www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/contact-us/give-us-feedback-or-make-a-complaint/your-voice-counts

KB challenged the Force regarding the effectiveness of the promotion of the contact details for the local neighbourhood prevention teams. B'OR responded to this challenge by explaining that each area has a local prevention team that can be contacted through the non-emergency number (101).

GY acknowledged that the rollout of the LPP will have an impact on members of the public and recognised that policing is going to look and feel very different as part of these changes. The importance of taking police officers, staff and members of the public with them on this journey was again highlighted. A commitment that Sussex Police would continue to attend any public meeting where the public feel a police presence is warranted was also made.

ACTION: KB requested the actual number of deployments that were saved by the Resolution Centre in 2016.

POLICING PRECEPT DECISION

Following a public consultation, I have again been given public support to increase the policing part of the Council Tax for 2017/18. This will add an extra £5 a year per Band D property, a move which received support from the Police & Crime Panel last week. This investment will provide over 100 additional police officers and specialist staff to strengthen four areas of local policing: Community Investigation Teams, Armed Response Officers, Public Protection Investigators and Expert Youth Teams.

A. When will recruitment for these posts begin and when do you expect those officers and staff to be fully trained and working in their new roles?

B. In 2016/17, it was agreed to invest the £5 precept increase into two areas: protecting children and vulnerable adults from exploitation and abuse and improving the Force's digital forensic capability. What outcomes and outputs have been delivered from this investment in 2016/17 to date?

GY explained that 36 police officers were recruited in November 2016 and that there are plans to recruit a further 36 officers in March 2017. Additional intakes are planned for July and October 2017, and February 2018. Recruitment for all of these intakes will open in May 2017.

Some context was provided in respect of the length of time it currently takes an individual to progress through initial training. If an individual is recruited in March it would take them seven months (to October) before they received independent patrol status. Each individual would then remain on probation for a period of two years.

*The Force is also currently accepting police officer **transferee** applications, particularly from those individuals from public protection or response, counter terrorism firearms officers and officers with generic detective skills.*

The following was confirmed in respect of the 2016/17 investment of £3.3m into protecting children and vulnerable adults from exploitation and abuse and improving the Force's digital forensic capability:

Protecting children and vulnerable adults from exploitation and abuse – this area of policing received investment of £1.3m in 2016/17 to strengthen the Force's safeguarding capacity and capability. Nearly all of the new posts have been filled which has improved the resilience for rape investigations. Police officers now have a smaller caseload which has resulted in better quality investigations and faster responses provided to victims.

Improving the Force's digital forensic capability – Public protection received investment of £2.0m in 2016/17. By the end of the financial year, it was highlighted that the number of police officers engaged in public protection will have increased by 41.00 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts to 274.00 FTE. The number of police staff engaged in the same area will also have increased by 17.5 FTE to 64.00 FTE. It is anticipated that there will be further increases to both the number of officers and staff engaged in public protection.