

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 22 May 2015

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

PRESENT: Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne (KB)
Chief Executive Mark Streater (MS)
Chief Constable Giles York (GY)
Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney (OP)
Detective Inspector Jon Gross
Performance & Information Manager Graham Kane – minutes
Senior Corporate & Digital Communications Manager Rosie Gooch
Communications & Engagement Assistant Sammi Hide

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

B. How have you reflected on these?

GY explained that it had been a challenging month for Sussex Police since the last PAM in April, including the launch of two separate murder enquiries, led by the joint Surrey and Sussex Major Crime Team.

The first related to the murder of Ms Emma Crowhurst, who was found with head injuries in Eastbourne, on 26 April 2015, but died a day later. The second related to the murder of Mr Derek Marney, who was found stabbed to death in Brighton on 4 May 2015, for which a man has been arrested and charged with murder.

A further success for Sussex Police had been the conviction of Mr Joseph O'Riordan after he was found guilty of attempted murder for stabbing his wife nine times. GY confirmed that Mr O'Riordan received a 20-year prison sentence at Brighton Crown Court.

Another ongoing operational challenge for Sussex Police relates to the thefts of 13 Range Rovers across Sussex. It was highlighted that a single series investigation has been created to tackle these crimes. A further series relating to the damage of over 50 vehicles in Pulborough was created, for which four males, aged between 14–18, were arrested and charged.

Another operational highlight included the recent celebrations which took place to mark 100 years of women in policing. A photograph was taken with GY, OP, Assistant Chief Constable Robin Smith, KB and a number of women officers and staff to mark this historic milestone.

In addition, it was highlighted that Brighton Police Station on John Street was temporarily closed on 12 May 2015 following an electrical fault. Members of the public were instead redirected to the police office at Hove Town Hall and the Crowhurst Road Police Station in Hollingbury. This ensured that an operational response existed which did not affect the service provided to the public.

LOCAL ALCOHOL ACTION AREA

In February 2014, Hastings was declared a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) by the Home Office as part of a 15 month scheme to address problems caused by alcohol through co-ordinated initiatives.

A. Now that the project has concluded, what has Sussex Police learnt from being part of this process?

B. Is there evidence to suggest that alcohol related crime in Hastings has reduced?

C. How will this learning be disseminated across the other policing districts?

D. Alcohol related crime tends to be exacerbated in the summer months, how is Sussex Police working with partners to address this through proactive campaigns?

OP explained that Hastings met the criteria for becoming a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) by focussing on reducing alcohol related crime and disorder and reducing alcohol related health harms in the town, following particular concerns relating to Central St. Leonards in 2013.

It was confirmed that the final project report had been submitted to the Home Office which included the following highlights:

- Alcohol related crime in Hastings reduced as part of the 15 month scheme. In particular, a 63% reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour, relating to street drinking occurred;*
- Reducing the supply of super-strength alcohol contributed towards reduced levels of alcohol related crime. However, it was acknowledged that this, alone, is not enough and more needs to be done in order to realise sustainable benefits; and*
- Pop-Up Hubs have had a positive impact in the area by providing intensive short-term help and support to those in most need of it in relation to health, housing and nutrition.*

The final report also included the following extract from a local MP in support of the LAAA project, "there was general consensus that people are not as drunk as before, that the area is generally calmer, and that the street community are more interactive with the rest of the community".

KB was reassured to note that the increase in recorded public place violent crimes was in line with national trends and could be attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending.

MS raised the question as to whether or not the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat (a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis) would be suitable for those individuals affected by alcohol. OP explained that this is something that would be worth exploring with the Health & Wellbeing Boards.

At the PAM in May 2014, the powers available to Sussex Police to tackle street drinking were confirmed as follows:

- Designated Public Place Orders (which provide the police with additional powers to confiscate alcohol in certain public place areas);*
- s.27 (the power to make individuals leave a public place area for 24 hours because of alcohol related disorder); and*
- s.40 (the power to make an individual leave a public place area for 48 hours).*

It was emphasised that the use of these powers is owned by local Inspectors within each of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the districts. GY was satisfied that these powers are being used effectively by officers who know and understand their respective "patches".

It was also emphasised that each of the Community Safety Partnerships are proactively working with Sussex Police around the alcohol and street drinking where it is a priority and concern for them.

VICTIM FOCUS

HMIC REPORT – DOMESTIC ABUSE

Last year HMIC published their report, "Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse", which raised concerns nationally that police forces needed to do more to support victims of domestic abuse. HMIC are due to revisit this area in 2015/2016 as part of a thematic inspection around "vulnerability".

A. Ahead of this inspection, what progress has been made by Sussex Police against the police force specific recommendations set out in the report?

B. What are the priority areas which still need to be addressed?

OP confirmed that significant progress had been made by Sussex Police against the police force specific recommendations set out in the HMIC report. Sussex Police continue to place victims at the heart of all of this work.

In particular, Sussex Police has developed a Domestic Abuse Action Plan which summarises and reflects the work being carried out by the Force. The Plan includes 21 actions, of which 12 have been completed, including improved training for frontline officers and staff. The others remain work in progress and are expected to be completed by September 2015.

In addition, each of the three divisions has their own multi-agency Domestic Abuse Partnership Programme which look at three areas; perpetrators, coercive control and success in evidential cases.

KB highlighted that approximately 20,000 Metropolitan Police officers will be issued with body worn video cameras by the end of March 2016. In response to this GY confirmed that a review of body worn video is underway within Sussex Police, including a detailed look at the management, movement and storage of data recorded which remains labour intensive and is an issue which has been challenged nationally. Sussex Police are alive to the benefits of body worn video but are taking a more prudent approach to this emerging market by, instead, focussing on the business processes required behind the technology.

GY confirmed that Sussex Police remain committed to reinforcing the use of body worn video across the county and pledged to repair, replace and extend the use of the current models available. A single solution with Surrey Police is also being considered. It was highlighted that body worn video, whilst an important tool for the police in terms of gathering evidence and building a case for the Crown Prosecution Service, is still only one part of the evidence available. Only when it is used collectively can the best possible case be made.

KB used the checklist for Police & Crime Commissioners in Annex B of the HMIC report to challenge the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the Force's use of positive outcomes in domestic abuse cases. OP explained that a positive action could be an arrest, the creation of a safety plan or a referral to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. However, the difficulty of defining exactly what a positive action is in relation to domestic abuse was highlighted.

It was also emphasised that the three Divisional Commanders each have a good selection of management indicators available to them. These include the number of domestic abuse incidents, crimes, repeat victims and Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders served. High risk individuals, families and locations are also discussed at the Daily Management Meetings on each division. KB requested a copy of the indicators available.

ACTION: OP to share the selection of indicators available to the Divisional Commanders, in relation to domestic abuse, with KB.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

I'm pleased to confirm that victims of crime will now be able to access a range of restorative justice (RJ) services through the opening of three specialist RJ hubs. Multi-agency hubs in Brighton & Hove, Bognor and Bexhill were opened earlier this month and are staffed with RJ specialists from Sussex Police and Victim Support.

A. The OSPCC has also funded three dedicated RJ Delivery Officer posts to support the existing RJ Coordinators. What is Sussex Police doing to support them?

B. It is important that there is a senior officer in the Force who understands RJ and helps to drive it through. Who is the Sussex Police lead for RJ?

GY confirmed that Restorative Justice (RJ) can be used for any type of offence, regardless of whether or not it involves prosecution and/or a custodial sentence.

It was emphasised that Sussex Police has embraced the three dedicated RJ Delivery Officer posts, funded by the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, which were created to assist the existing RJ Coordinators. In particular, it was highlighted that these Delivery Officers have provided training to all agencies through workshops and have actively sought suitable cases from court lists to find potential victims and offenders who would benefit from RJ, over and above the judicial process. The Delivery Officers have also been used internally within Sussex Police to promote the benefits of RJ.

KB was assured to note that Temporary Superintendent Julia Pope is the Sussex Police lead officer for RJ and that ACC Steve Barry is the lead officer for Criminal Justice.

LOCAL POLICING MODEL

The Sussex Local Policing Model was unveiled in March which set out the vision for policing Sussex in 2020.

- A. For the benefit of the viewers, how has the rollout of this new model been delivered to the public and other stakeholders?**
- B. Is there a designated programme of engagement events?**
- C. How are the Community Safety Partnerships being involved in this work?**
- D. How will the feedback received at these events be collected, analysed and used by Sussex Police to shape this model?**

GY confirmed that he was confident in the Local Policing Model (LPM) proposal which will enable Sussex Police to operate more efficiently in the future by responding to incidents based on threat, risk and harm.

Communication plans and engagement programmes have been developed by Sussex Police to assist them in the delivery of the LPM, including face-to-face briefings and the involvement of the Community Safety Partnerships. It was emphasised that the initial rollout of the programme had been well received and that the rationale behind the proposed changes had been understood. However, it was acknowledged that Neighbourhood Policing Teams need to be provided with additional information to facilitate this engagement locally.

In particular, it was highlighted that a document, "Sussex Police in 2020 – Working for a safer Sussex", had been produced which further explains the aims and objectives of the LPM. This document is available through the following link:
www.sussex.police.uk/media/912959/tom_pdf_complete_final_online.pdf

It was confirmed that the delivery of the LPM is being led by Superintendent Laurence Taylor, with direct oversight from Assistant Chief Constable Robin Smith. The team responsible for developing and implementing these high-level plans has now been formulated. In addition, "Change Champions" have also been identified across the organisation to improve the understanding of the change programme internally. KB requested a copy of the team that has been selected.

GY emphasised that members of the public are able to provide any comments or feedback regarding the LPM through the "Your Voice Counts" section of the Sussex Police website. This can be found through the following link: www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/contact-us/give-us-feedback-or-make-a-complaint/your-voice-counts

ACTION: GY to provide KB with a copy of the Sussex Police team responsible for the delivery of the Local Policing Model.

INCREASED REPORTING

I sought to increase the reporting of domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes, to better identify vulnerable victims in Sussex. I am pleased to note that there were increases in the recorded number of crimes for each of the four crime types across 2014/2015.

A. What do you attribute the increases across these areas to?

B. What assurances can you provide that Sussex Police will be able to manage these increased levels of reporting with fewer officers and staff under the new Local Policing Programme?

OP was pleased to confirm that the recorded number of domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes had increased across 2014/2015, in comparison to the same period a year earlier, as set out in the Police & Crime Plan.

The increased number of crimes can be attributed to an improvement in both public confidence and in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending. These increases are also in line with national trends. However, Sussex Police acknowledge that many more of these crimes remain underreported and confirmed that complacency would not exist around this area. The importance of partnership working in this process was also reiterated.

Sussex Police were particularly pleased with their improvements around the recording of hate crimes which increased by 33% across the Performance Plan Year. The Force was previously recognised as one of only three police force areas to record increases across each of the five strands of hate crime. GY further explained that the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection published a "Review of Disability Hate Crime" this week which confirmed that Sussex was the only police force area within the south-east region which had significantly increased the reporting of disability hate crime every year, for the past four years.

KB was reassured to note that Sussex Police would still be able to manage these increased levels of reporting with fewer officers and staff under the new LPM.

Reducing crime and protecting the most vulnerable will continue to be a priority for Sussex Police under the programme, although the importance of shifting the culture from a target driven approach one that is based on threat, risk and harm was emphasised. In particular, Sussex Police has invested in the National Decision Model and will trust and empower supervisors to make appropriate decisions.

INNOVATION FUND

I was again encouraged to note that Sussex Police was successful in its bids to the Home Office's Innovation Fund. Funding worth over £2m was received in 2015/2016 for the following four projects: Minerva, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Retail Crime Partnership and Video Enabled Justice.

A. What plans have been developed to ensure that this time-limited funding will be used efficiently and effectively to deliver these projects?

B. How will these projects be monitored and governed?

GY confirmed that Sussex Police is still awaiting confirmation of Innovation Fund grants from the Home Office. The importance of not wanting to risk spending any of the anticipated funds before the money is officially confirmed was emphasised to KB.

KB was assured to note that these projects will be monitored and governed through the expansion of existing structures. This will ensure that this time-limited funding will be used efficiently and effectively to deliver these projects on time and within budget.

GY reiterated the importance of balancing spending against delivering value for money, in response to a challenge from KB regarding underspend for both of the Innovation Fund grants received by Sussex Police in 2014/2015.