

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 25 July 2014

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

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne (KB)  
Chief Executive Mark Streater (MS)  
Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney (OP)  
Assistant Chief Constable Steve Barry (SB)  
Policy Officer Graham Kane – minutes  
Communications Manager Rosie Gooch  
Executive Assistant Gina Wheatley  
Detective Chief Inspector Emma Brice

## **OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**What have been the recent operational highlights for the Force?**

**A. Have there been any key Operations or challenges?**

**B. How have you reflected on these?**

*OP explained that the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) have published a report regarding Taser use by police forces in England & Wales. The report highlighted that more officers are now equipped with Tasers and that the number of complaints have increased in-line with the additional use.*

*However, OP acknowledged that the use of Taser can be an effective and valuable tool in assisting police officers to manage difficult and challenging situations whilst minimising the harm posed to the public.*

*In addition, Sussex Police have successfully trialled Stop Sticks, which is a tactic used to safely bring vehicles to a stop by deflating the tyres. The Stop Sticks will now be rolled out across all of the divisions.*

*It was also reported that the Shakedown Music Festival took place in Brighton on 19 July 2014. This was the second largest deployment of officers in the Sussex Police calendar for the year and the significant operation passed safely and successfully.*

*OP concluded by stating that a few specialist officers in Sussex have been deployed to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.*

**SUMMER DRINK-DRIVING CAMPAIGN 2014**

**Operation Dragonfly, the Sussex Police drink-driving campaign took place in June 2014. Drivers charged with drink-driving this summer again had their names and addresses published by Sussex Police in the same way as the Christmas drink-driving campaign in December 2013.**

**A. Can you provide me with an update regarding the number of drivers that were breathalysed and subsequently arrested for drink-driving offences?**

**B. How have you evaluated the impact of this tactic across both of these campaigns?**

*SB confirmed that Operation Dragonfly, the Sussex Police summer drink-driving campaign, was a success and had received positive feedback from the public. It was highlighted that 2,258 motorists were breathalysed during June 2014, of which 140 individuals were arrested and charged for drink-driving offences. This equated to a failure rate of 3.5%.*

*In addition, more impairment tests were carried out at the roadside to test for substance misuse, compared to 2013. This is an area that Sussex Police acknowledge they are getting better at.*

*Sussex Police again made the decision to publish the names and addresses of those drivers charged with drink-driving offences, in-line with other forces. SB highlighted that this information was already in the public domain through court listings and concluded that the publicity around this ensured that the campaign remained in the media throughout the month of June.*

*There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that this tactic is having a positive impact on the number of individuals that choose to drink and drive. The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) are currently analysing the impact of this tactic.*

**KILLED or SERIOUSLY INJURED (KSIs)**

**I am fully supportive of the work carried out by Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to tackle and prevent the main causes of death and serious injuries on the county's roads. However, I am concerned to note that the number of KSIs increased by 17% across 2013/2014, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. These numbers have increased further across the first quarter of 2014/2015 and in the current rolling year 12 month figures.**

**A. What proactive initiatives is the Force doing to reduce the number of KSIs in Sussex?**

*SB acknowledged that Sussex Police and the SSRP have a shared responsibility with local authorities to work in partnership to reduce the number of KSIs on the county's roads.*

*Sussex Police were concerned to note that the KSI figures for the first quarter of 2014/2015 and the current 12 month rolling year figures are demonstrating an upwards trend. However, it was emphasised that this trend is also apparent in Surrey too.*

*SB explained that the approach of the SSRP needs to be reviewed to ensure that the partnership is still effective and that targeted enforcement activity is being coordinated in the most appropriate locations to generate casualty reductions.*

*SB reiterated that the SSRP are committed to reducing the number of KSIs and explained that the membership would be looking into the increased numbers of KSIs across the first quarter of 2014/2015 at their next strategic meeting.*

### **BURGLARY AND BURGLARY OTD**

**At the Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) in May I was concerned to note that detection rates across most areas of "acquisitive crime" were low and had demonstrated a reduction from last year. In particular, the detection rates for burglary dwelling and burglary other than a dwelling were most disappointing. I am pleased to note that the Force has demonstrated an improvement across 2014/2015 to date, although these detection rates still appear to be low.**

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

*OP stated that the solve rates for acquisitive crime have improved across 2014/2015 to date, but acknowledged that these rates are still low and are not good enough.*

*Sussex Police have launched Operation Magpie, an initiative formed to tackle burglary across Sussex, by denying the use of the roads to burglars and tackling those handling and selling stolen goods. Operation Magpie has re-focussed this particular area of activity for the Force and recent reductions in the recorded number of burglary dwelling crimes are encouraging. KB was reassured to note that the risk of burglary in Sussex is the tenth lowest nationally.*

*Super cocooning has also been successfully trialled in Brighton & Hove and Rother. This tactic, taken from other forces, involves an intensive response from officers and staff to the immediate locality of where a burglary has taken place to raise awareness and gather evidence and intelligence.*

*OP acknowledged that whilst the solve rates are starting to improve; the Force cannot afford to be complacent. Each of the divisions now has a detailed plan for tackling burglary which ensures that greater levels of scrutiny exist. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) have also been invited back to inspect Sussex Police in this particular area.*

*In addition, the quality of investigations has been improved through supervisors regularly reviewing files and attendance at every single economic burglary where forensic opportunities exist.*

*KB concluded by commending the Force work across this area, with particular reference made to Brighton & Hove Division.*

## **UNLICENSED EVENTS – RAVES**

**At last month's PAM I was reassured to note that an internal review into unlicensed events had taken place to improve the Sussex Police response. It was also highlighted that early intervention is essential now that unlicensed events have become more sophisticated in their planning.**

### **A. Have there been any further operational successes in this area?**

*SB reiterated the comments made by Chief Constable Giles York at the PAM in June and explained that Sussex Police remain proactive in terms of gathering intelligence from the public regarding unlicensed events.*

*It was again emphasised that early intervention is essential now that unlicensed events have become more sophisticated in their planning, including indications that organised crime groups are involved.*

*Success in this area has historically been the disruption of unlicensed events. However, Sussex Police acknowledge that they are now much better at disrupting these activities, through making arrests, confiscating and seizing speaker equipment and utilising support and resources from other police force areas.*

*The Force has also been more proactive in terms of prosecutions, including charging six individuals with "conspiracy to commit a public nuisance", across 2014 to date.*

*In addition, the learning in Sussex is being shared with other forces in the South East Region, to improve the collective response.*

## **VICTIM FOCUS**

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### **OPERATION KITE**

**Child sexual exploitation is a major child protection issue across the UK. This is often a hidden problem and part of the precept increase for 2014/2015 was to fund investment in reducing serious sexual offending and tackling child sexual exploitation. Operation Kite is the Sussex Police response to child sexual exploitation and a briefing for agencies involved in tackling the problem took place in May to encourage reporting, and was attended by Norman Baker, Crime Prevention Minister.**

**A. For the benefit of the viewers, can you briefly outline what child sexual exploitation consists of?**

**B. What is the impact of child sexual exploitation in Sussex?**

**C. What operational successes are directly attributable to Operation Kite?**

**D. What steps are Sussex Police taking to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in Sussex?**

*OP explained that Sussex Police are grateful for the increased investment to develop their approach to reducing serious sexual offending and tackling child sexual exploitation in Sussex.*

*It was explained that child sexual exploitation is where an element of power over a young person is abused. OP encouraged anyone that has a concern regarding child sexual exploitation to contact Sussex Police directly or Crimestoppers anonymously.*

*Operation Kite is the Force response to improve and accelerate recognition and understanding of child sexual exploitation in Sussex. OP confirmed that a detailed plan exists within Sussex Police to develop the awareness of this type of crime in Sussex, including increased intelligence and focus to enable the Force to target perpetrators and safeguard victims. In particular, the three local Child Safeguarding Boards have identified 110 young people at risk in the county.*

*OP concluded by stating that Child Sexual Exploitation is now a standing agenda item at each of the daily management meetings across the divisions and districts.*

### **IMPACT OF FIFA WORLD CUP 2014 - DOMESTIC ABUSE**

**The FIFA World Cup in Brazil provided the Force with many different policing challenges throughout June and July, including managing the potential risk for increased anti-social behaviour incidents, public nuisance and alcohol-related crime and disorder.**

**A. What was the overall impact of the World Cup on Sussex Police resources?**

**B. In particular, was there an increase in the reporting of domestic abuse crimes and incidents over this period?**

**C. Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) went live in Sussex on 17 June 2014. How many have been issued by Sussex Police to date?**

*SB confirmed that the FIFA World Cup 2014 had a minimal impact on Sussex Police with no additional crimes recorded, compared to the monthly average.*

*In particular, the Force had significant plans in place, similar to those used for Operation Cranberry at Christmas, to proactively manage the potential increased risk for domestic abuse crimes and incidents. This included visiting potential offenders and communicating with those on Football Banning Orders.*

*SB stated that the feedback received from police and partners regarding DVPNs and DVPOs, since they went live in Sussex on 17 June 2014, has been extremely positive. DVPNs are issued by the police to provide immediate emergency protection to victims of domestic abuse and will include certain prohibitions and restrictions. Within 48 hours of a DVPN being issued there will be an application to the Magistrates Court for a DVPO. This will reflect the DVPN restrictions and will last between 14 and 28 days which will provide victims with more thinking time to understand the support that is available to them.*

*SB confirmed that each of the 16 DVPNs issued by Sussex Police to date have been converted to DVPOs. There have also been 2 breaches which has resulted in one offender receiving a four week custodial sentence and represents positive action by the courts and wider criminal justice system. The use of these powers will be reviewed again in September.*

## **GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS**

**I am very aware of the issues surrounding unauthorised encampments and the disruption they cause to local residents. Many communities across the county are affected at some point during the year and the concerns from local people form a significant part of the correspondence to my office.**

**A. Can you explain what specific powers do Sussex Police have to deal with unauthorised encampments?**

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

**C. How is this responsibility shared? What does the ongoing work with partners look like in this area?**

*SB stated that managing unauthorised encampments is difficult and involves balancing the needs and welfare of the travellers against those of the settled community.*

*The specific powers that the police have to deal with unauthorised encampments, when discovered, were explained through three scenarios:*

- 1. The police, in consultation with the Local Authority, will assess whether a transit site exists locally for the travellers to be moved to. If one exists, the police have the power to direct the travellers to leave.*
- 2. Where no transit site exists or is available, the police, in consultation with the Local Authority, will assess the needs and welfare of the travellers against those of the settled community. If the needs and welfare of the settled community outweighs those of the travellers, the police will direct the travellers to leave.*
- 3. Where no transit site exists or is available, the police, in consultation with the Local Authority, will again assess the needs and welfare of the travellers against those of the settled community. If the needs and welfare of the travellers outweighs those of the settled community, then the police will manage the unauthorised encampment proportionately.*

*It was highlighted that unauthorised encampments can have a significant impact on police resources, budgets and planning. Some of this responsibility is shared through ongoing communication and engagement with partners. However, it was emphasised that because the demand is unpredictable, including seasonal fluctuations, a consistent approach across the county is desired by Sussex Police.*

## **ABSCONDERS FROM OPEN PRISONS**

**It was reported last month that 89 prisoners had gone missing from Ford open prison since the 1970s and are still unaccounted for.**

**A. How are Sussex Police dealing with the absconders?**

**B. What strategy do Sussex Police use to decide which absconders are proactively published in the media?**

**C. How does the Force specifically communicate and engage with local communities regarding absconders?**

*OP stated that the number of absconders from Her Majesty's Prison Ford (HMP Ford) was an area that Sussex Police identified required improvements.*

*It was confirmed that 83 prisoners are currently outstanding from HMP Ford, of which 8 are categorised as either high or medium risk. OP emphasised that efforts are being made to recover these absconders and specified that all are recorded on the Police National Computer.*

*Sussex Police are working closely with HMP Ford, including the development of a video for new prisoners to watch, which will explain the benefits of reintegration back into society and the support that is available. Neighbourhood Policing Teams proactively engage with local communities regarding absconders and use publicity in the media to assist with this work.*

## **GRADE 1 RESPONSE TIMES**

**I was pleased to note that response times to grade 1 calls within 15 minutes increased to 76.3% across 2013/2014, in comparison to 2012/2013. However, this was a 6% reduction in comparison to 2011/2012 and is clearly of concern to the public relying on this emergency service and response.**

**A. What assurances can you provide that this improving trend will continue across 2014/2015?**

**B. How are Sussex Police continuing to monitor, review and improve these response times?**

*OP reiterated that grade 1 response times remain a huge area of focus for Sussex Police and stated that the Force endeavour to attend all calls as quickly and as safely as possible.*

*Sussex Police are pleased by the improvement that has been demonstrated in this area and the percentage of grade 1 calls attended within 15 minutes are now back to, and exceeding, the performance levels demonstrated in 2011/2012.*

*OP concluded by stating that Sussex Police are continuing to work hard to maintain this improving trend across this area, including a specific focus by each of the divisions and districts on a daily basis.*

### **HMIC – VALUING THE POLICE REPORT**

**Q. As you are aware, HMIC published the national “Valuing the Police” report for police forces in England and Wales, this week, setting out how the service has responded to the demands of the spending review and looking ahead to the challenges of the next. The specific progress report for Sussex explains that, “collaboration is expected to contribute 1% of the Force’s saving requirements which is considerably less than the 10% progress for England and Wales”.**

**A. What is your overall reaction to the report?**

*OP explained that she was delighted to receive the “Valuing the Police” report from HMIC which confirmed that Sussex Police are on track to achieve the required savings of £56.8m over this spending review period. It was also highlighted that this achievement has been made from an already difficult position.*

*OP was particularly pleased to report that the Force received “good” ratings in terms of “ensuring a secure financial position”, establishing a sustainable and “affordable way of providing policing” and for being “efficient”.*

*It was emphasised that Sussex Police has a good track record for achieving savings and have worked hard to make savings from other costs, excluding those relating specifically to officers and staff. This was particularly evident as HMIC also recognised that the Force had actually increased the proportion of frontline staff.*

*KB was concerned to note that collaboration is expected to contribute 20% of Surrey Police’s saving requirements in comparison to the 1% outlined in the progress report for Sussex Police. However, OP was able to reassure KB that this difference reflects the more cautious approach taken in Sussex. Both forces have been asked to explain these differences to HMIC by October 2014, which will include presenting financial information using the same methodology as Surrey.*

### **INVESTMENT AREAS FOLLOWING PRECEPT INCREASE**

**I increased the policing part of the Council Tax for 2014/2015 by 1.95% to fund investment in the areas of visible frontline policing, serious sexual offending and child sexual exploitation and cyber crime.**

**A. Now that we have reached the end of the first quarter of 2014/2015, can you provide me with a progress update for each of the three investment areas?**

*OP stated that Sussex Police are now starting to realise the tangible effect of the additional investment in the areas of visible frontline policing, serious sexual offending and child sexual exploitation and cyber crime.*

*The investment has had a direct impact on what the Force is able to do and the following progress has been made:*

#### *Visible Frontline Policing*

*The Force has increased the proportion of visible frontline staff, including specific investment in Neighbourhood Policing, which was recognised in the recently published "Valuing the Police" report from HMIC*

#### *Serious Sexual Offending / Child Sexual Exploitation*

*Sussex Police have developed a plan in collaboration with Surrey Police to implement and uplift the approach taken by both forces in terms of tackling serious sexual offending and child sexual exploitation.*

*This will include the recruitment of a number of dedicated Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLOs) to support victims. This will include the recruitment of eight SOLOs by September, a further six SOLOs by January and the remainder by April 2015.*

*A further 90 police officers will be taking their detective exams in September which will increase the pool of investigative resources available to the Force.*

#### *Cyber Crime*

*It is recognised that all officers and staff have a part to play in tackling cyber crime in terms of developing a competent and confident Forcewide response.*

*A three year plan for tackling cyber crime has been developed by Sussex Police in response to the lead that has been taken in this area by the National Crime Agency.*

*The delivery of this plan will include:*

- the introduction of a Cyber Crime Unit for Sussex Police and Surrey Police in November 2014;*
- enhanced cyber crime training for 280 frontline staff, across all divisions, supported by both regional and national cyber crime specialists;*
- membership of the National Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership*