

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 16 June 2017

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

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner – Katy Bourne (KB)  
Chief Executive Officer – Mark Streater (MS)  
Chief Constable – Giles York (GY)  
Deputy Chief Constable – Bernie O'Reilly (BO'R)  
Digital Content Officer – Sammi Carwardine  
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (minutes)

## **REASSURANCE TO SUSSEX COMMUNITIES – MANCHESTER AND LONDON ATTACKS**

**Twenty-two people were killed and 116 injured in a suicide bombing at the Manchester Arena last month and 8 people were killed and 48 injured in van and knife attack in London earlier this month.**

**A. As a result of these terrorist attacks, the UK threat level was raised from Severe to Critical before returning to Severe again. What additional measures, if any, have you put in place in Sussex?**

**B. Are you confident that the Force remains well placed in its preparation and plan to respond to any such an event in Sussex?**

**C. Has there been an increase in reports of hate crime in Sussex since the attacks? If so, what has the Force done to tackle this?**

**D. How will Sussex Police work with partners to review the safety and security needs of any upcoming major events in Sussex and amend these to ensure the most appropriate plans are in place?**

**E. As part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST), how do the Force and partners monitor and review the overall effectiveness of the Prevent Boards to prevent the radicalisation of individuals in Sussex?**

**F. At April's PAM, you explained that a small number of the additional 52 Armed Response Officers (AROs) had been recruited and trained following the increase to the policing part of the Council Tax in 2017/18. How many more of these AROs have been recruited and has any more progress been made in respect of the purchase of new specialist ARO vehicles?**

GY provided assurances to the public regarding the capabilities and preparedness of Sussex Police and local, regional and national partner agencies to respond to any such attacks in Sussex in a resilient and coordinated manner.

Armed Response Officers (AROs) have been deployed across Sussex and Surrey as an additional measure to provide enhanced high-visibility policing and reassurance for local communities. It was also emphasised that the Force and partners regularly participates in scenario-based exercises to assess their planned responses to different situations through Operation Commander.

It was reported that there had been a 19% increase in the number of hate crimes recorded in Sussex since the recent terrorist attacks, although the difficulties attributing this directly to the attacks and community tensions was highlighted. These increases were recognised to be in line with national trends. It was also confirmed that these recorded increases in the number of hate crimes were less than the increases recorded immediately after the EU Referendum.

In addition, it was emphasised that increases in the number of recorded hate crimes could be attributed to an improvement in public confidence as well as the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending. Reassurance was again provided that all reports of hate crime in Sussex would be taken seriously, investigated proportionately and used to develop intelligence to protect communities.

GY explained that Sussex Police always work closely with partners to review the safety and security needs of any upcoming major events in Sussex to ensure that the most appropriate plans are in place. This process involves the creation of a Safety Advisory Group well in advance of each event taking place with different levels of specialist search and security officers used depending on the threshold for the event. Assurances were also provided to KB that the plans for the other forthcoming major events in Sussex are being revised again following the recent terrorist attacks to ensure they remain current and appropriate.

CONTEST, the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is organised around four work streams. The Pursue and Protect strands are both owned and led on by the police and the Prevent and Prepare strands are the responsibility of the local authority, as follows:

- Pursue** – to stop terrorist attacks and find those responsible (police-led);
- Prevent** – to stop people becoming terrorists/supporting terrorism (local authority-led);
- Protect** – to strengthen protection in place against terrorist attacks (police-led); and
- Prepare** – to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack (local authority-led).

There are four Prevent Boards in Sussex to prevent the radicalisation of individuals. These cover the areas of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex and Crawley. Sussex Police is represented by Divisional and District Commanders at each of these meetings. GY confirmed to KB that he was confident and reassured that the most appropriate individuals from the Force, local authorities and partner agencies are represented on each of these Boards.

The planned increase in the number of AROs available across Sussex and Surrey, brought about by KB's decision to increase the precept in 2017/18, was part of a two-year programme to provide a more robust response to frontline colleagues in the event of a terrorist attack.

An update regarding the recruitment of AROs was provided including highlighting the difficulties getting police officers through the challenging training programme. Programmes were run in October 2016 and January 2017, each comprising of 16 applicants, within which 9 and 10 candidates were successful, respectively. A further programme began in May 2017 and remains ongoing with 14 of the original 16 applicants. The number of available instructors has been increased by 25% to assist with this additional demand.

It was also highlighted that five new specialist ARO vehicles had been ordered, of which two of these are already available in Sussex and Surrey. The other three ARO vehicles will be available within six months.

## **OPERATION WILDLIFE – WILDLIFE FESTIVAL 2017**

**The third Wildlife Festival took place in Shoreham last weekend. Operation Wildlife was the Sussex Police response to support the festival and ensure public safety.**

**A. How have you reflected on this policing operation?**

**B. Were any additional precautionary measures taken as a result of the recent terrorist attacks?**

*BO'R confirmed that between Friday, 9 June and Saturday, 10 June 2017, the third Wildlife Festival took place in Shoreham and was attended by more than 45,000 people. Sussex Police undertook a full-scale operation (Operation Wildlife) to ensure that those attending did so safely and securely and that the event was managed effectively.*

*Following the recent terrorist attacks elsewhere in the country, AROs were deployed to the festival for the first time, along with specialist drugs officers and dogs aiming to disrupt suppliers entering the site. This approach received a positive response from members of the public who felt reassured by their presence.*

*It was highlighted that nearly 100 individuals were dealt with by Sussex Police, all bar six on suspicion of drugs offences, with most of them ejected from the festival after having had an array of illegal drugs seized. 20 individuals were arrested on and around the site over the two days, of which 17 were for drugs offences, two were for assault and one was for robbery. It was also emphasised that 59 offences were dealt with by way of community resolution, including the issuing of 15 cannabis warnings.*

*BO'R concluded by explaining that a Safety Advisory Group existed to review the safety and security needs of the festival. The Group consisted of representative members including: Sussex Police, Adur District Council, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance Service and the event organisers, SJM Concerts. The safety plans were again amended as a result of the recent terrorist attacks to ensure that the most appropriate plans were in place. This is the same approach that will be adopted for all upcoming major events taking place in Sussex.*

## **STREET DRINKING**

**With summer now upon us, there are naturally concerns from residents, communities and businesses regarding the potential for street drinking and other associated anti-social behaviour, in town centres and public spaces, to be exacerbated.**

**A. What are the key areas of risk around street drinking in the summer months for Sussex Police and how is the Force responding to these?**

**B. What powers are available to Sussex Police to tackle street drinking, and how are these prioritised and enforced by the Force?**

**C. How is the Force working with partners to tackle street drinking?**

*BO'R acknowledged that street drinking is exacerbated in the summer months and emphasised that the policing response needs to be balanced, proportionate and supportive to understand better the complex needs of this community. It was also recognised that whilst Sussex Police has a role to play, this is a collective responsibility for all partners to tackle.*

*The following powers are available to Sussex Police in terms of tackling street drinking:*

- *Directed and preventative police patrol activity (including the power of arrest for any criminal offences);*
- *Criminal Behavioural Orders (on the back of any criminal conviction or a non-relevant conviction of a substantial offence);*
- *A range of dispersal powers (including 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);*
- *Public Space Protection Orders (these are led on and enforced by local authorities through Fixed Penalty Notices).*

*BO'R explained that the Force needs to be careful about simply displacing street drinkers from one area to another. A range of other interventions should be considered before any enforcement is carried out.*

*Sussex Police carry out demand analysis (to profile behaviour and incidents to ensure that police resources are deployed to the right place, at the right time) and that learning is shared with other police force areas with similar characteristics (i.e. coastal towns).*

*It was emphasised that a partnership-based approach is well established in Sussex to support the homeless and street community. Pop-up hubs in Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Bognor Regis facilitate multi-agency intervention to provide these vulnerable individuals with access to a number of support services and providers. This approach represents a more compassionate and supportive approach to targeting members of the street community and represents a more long-term and sustainable solution.*

## **OPERATION DRAGONFLY – SUMMER DRINK-AND-DRUG DRIVE CAMPAIGN 2017**

**“Operation Dragonfly”, the Sussex Police drink-and-drug drive campaign began earlier this month and will run until 10 July 2017. A heightened and targeted policing response will take place in Sussex as part of this summer campaign.**

**A. Can you provide me with an update regarding how the campaign is progressing (including the total number of drivers who were breathalysed or tested for substances and subsequently arrested for drink or drug driving offences)?**

**B. How are Special Constables being used as part of this campaign?**

**C. What other initiatives does the Force have planned to tackle drink-and-drug driving throughout the rest of the year prior to the commencement of the Christmas drink-drive campaign?**

**D. National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) launched ‘Motorcycle Awareness Week’ at the end of May 2017. How did Sussex Police support this campaign?**

*BO’R confirmed that Operation Dragonfly, the Sussex Police summer drink-and-drug drive campaign, began on 1 June and will run until 10 July 2017.*

*It was highlighted that between 1 June and 12 June 2017, 275 vehicles had been stopped as part of this campaign. 212 breath tests were administered, of which 55 arrests were made on suspicion of drink-driving offences. A further 11 drug-wipe tests were administered by the roadside too, of which five arrests were made on suspicion of drug-driving offences.*

*A dedicated ‘Strike’ team consisting of Special Constables is supporting the work of the Road Policing Unit and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership as part of Operation Dragonfly. The team are responding to reports received through Operation Crackdown to educate road users and carry out enforcement activity, where necessary.*

*It was explained that a full evaluation of the campaign would take place following its conclusion on 10 July to summarise and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Operation. KB confirmed that she would also raise this area again at her Performance & Accountability Meeting in July to understand how the Force has reflected on this latest campaign.*

*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](http://www.operationcrackdown.co.uk)). Individuals were also informed that they can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. If it is known that someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, members of the public should always call 999 immediately.*

*Sussex Police supported the NPCC’s ‘Motorcycle Awareness Week’ at the end of May 2017 through a number of initiatives which aimed to raise awareness of the vulnerability of motorcyclists. It was highlighted that whilst motorcyclists make up only 1% of all road users they are involved in 20% of all road traffic collisions. In 2016, there were 55 fatalities on the roads of Sussex, of which 10 of these were motorcyclists (18%). The increased activity and focus of this campaign resulted in 33 prosecutions.*

*It was again reiterated that whilst Operation Dragonfly focusses specifically on drink-and-drug driving in the summer and lead up to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, Sussex Police continue to run proactive and targeted campaigns and activities throughout the calendar year which target the ‘fatal four’: excessive speed, not wearing a seatbelt, using mobile phones when driving and drink-and-drug driving.*

**ACTION: KB would like to know which areas of Sussex were specifically targeted as part of Operation Dragonfly.**

## **DIRECT ENTRY AND FAST TRACK PROGRAMMES**

**Sussex Police was one of the first forces in England and Wales to recruit officers through the Direct Entry (Superintendent) Programme and the Fast Track (Constable to Inspector) Programme.**

**A. How have you reflected on the introduction of these programmes in Sussex?**

**B. Last month, the Metropolitan Police Service opened recruitment for Direct Entry Detective Constables for individuals with no previous police experience. Are there any plans to introduce a similar programme in Sussex?**

*GY reiterated that the Direct Entry (Superintendent) Programme and the Fast Track (Constable to Inspector) Programme were developed by the College of Policing in response to the recommendations made in the Winsor Review.*

*It was explained that nationally there were some reservations amongst existing police officers regarding the introduction of these programmes which provided another unconventional way into the police service. The Direct Entry (Superintendent) Programme in particular represented the first time that any individual had joined the police service at a rank above Police Constable.*

*The Force recruited one male candidate from the Direct Entry (Superintendent) Programme and three candidates on the Fast Track (Constable to Inspector) Programme (one female and two male candidates) in 2014. It was also highlighted that each of these individuals is performing well in their new roles. A further three women candidates have been recruited on the Fast Track Programme in 2017.*

*Sussex Police does not have any immediate plans to introduce a Direct Entry Programme for Detective Constables in Sussex. GY explained that the Force is fortunate that it does not have a shortage in the number of detectives at present. This would be something that Sussex Police might look at in the future if this position changed and there were insufficient internal applications from existing police officers.*

## **OUT-OF-COURT DISPOSALS**

**Out-of-court disposals are the powers given to the police to provide on-the-spot sanctions to low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.**

- A. Can you clarify exactly what out-of-court-disposals are used for in Sussex?**
- B. How effective are out-of-court-disposals in terms of positively contributing to reduced levels of crime and reoffending?**
- C. How do Sussex Police monitor and review the overall effectiveness of out-of-court-disposals?**
- D. The Force issued 221 cautions for sexual offences in the last five years, of which 77 were issued for sexual offences against women and girls over the age of 13, including three for rapes. Can you explain the circumstances in which it would be acceptable to deal with the most serious offences by way of a caution?**

*GY explained that out-of-court disposals are a method of dealing with low-level crimes and anti-social behaviour outside of the judicial system.*

*Out-of-court disposals provide police officers with increased discretion to provide simple, timely and prompt resolutions (and reparations) to victims with greater consideration given to their wants and needs. Out-of-court disposals include: Cautions (and Conditional Cautions), Fixed Penalty Notices, Cannabis Warnings and Community Resolutions.*

*A Gravity Factor Matrix has been developed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to assist in making consistent cautioning and charging decisions nationally.*

*Sussex Police has a Multi-Agency Out-of-Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel which meets quarterly to independently monitor, assess, scrutinise and quality-control the use of all out-of-court disposals in Sussex. The Panel consists of representative members from: Sussex Police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), National Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, local authorities, magistrates, Victim Support and the Strategic Independent Advisory Group. This Panel also includes a representative member from KB's Sussex Youth Commission.*

*It is difficult to say whether out-of-court disposals are contributing to reduced levels of crime and reoffending in Sussex. However, evidence exists to suggest that early intervention, through the use of out-of-court disposals, correlates positively with reduced levels of reoffending. The increased levels of victim satisfaction linked to out-of-court disposals are attributed to the faster resolution that these outcomes provide.*

*GY also provided some further information regarding the really exceptional circumstances in which it would be appropriate to deal with the most serious offences by way of a caution. The response to each case is dependent on a range of factors including the nature and circumstances of the offence, the welfare and views of the victim, whether there had been a clear admission of guilt and the ages of those involved. The CPS is also involved in this decision-making process.*

*It was reiterated that a caution is still a legitimate criminal justice outcome, with real sanctions attached. This can also have long-term implications, such as notification on pre-employment checks.*