

PEEL: Police effectiveness 2017

An inspection of Sussex Police



March 2018

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Force in numbers



Calls for assistance

Incidents per 1,000 population 12 months to 30 June 2017

Sussex Police

223

England and Wales

282



Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents per 1,000 population 12 months to 31 March 2017

Sussex Police

24

England and Wales

31

Change in ASB incidents 12 months to 31 March 2016 against 12 months to 31 March 2017

Sussex Police

-11%

England and Wales

-0.05%



Crime (excluding fraud)

Crimes recorded per 1,000 population 12 months to 30 June 2017

Sussex Police

64

England and Wales

77

Change in recorded crime 12 months to 30 June 2016 against 12 months to 30 June 2017

Sussex Police

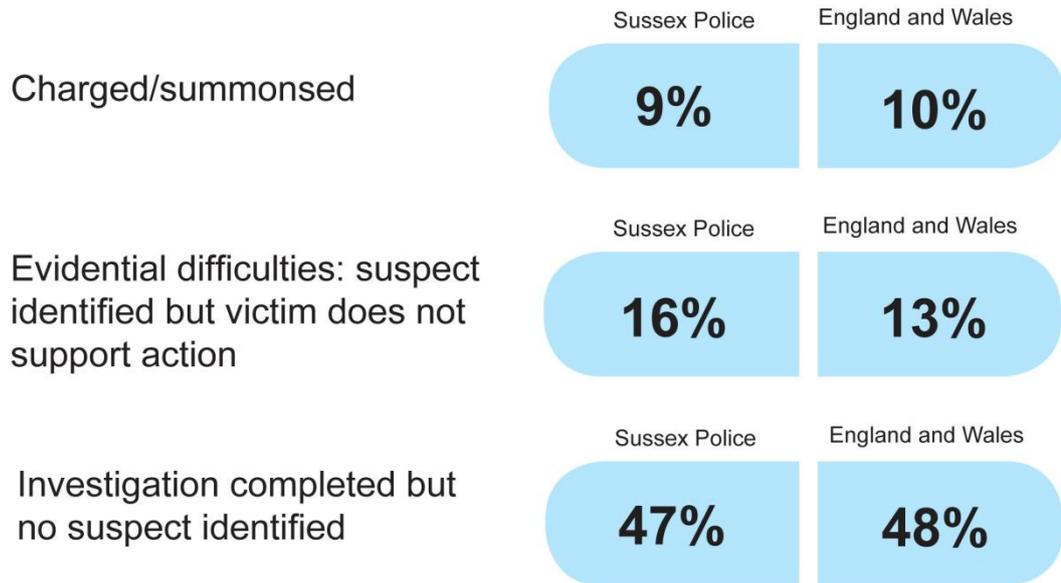
+12%

England and Wales

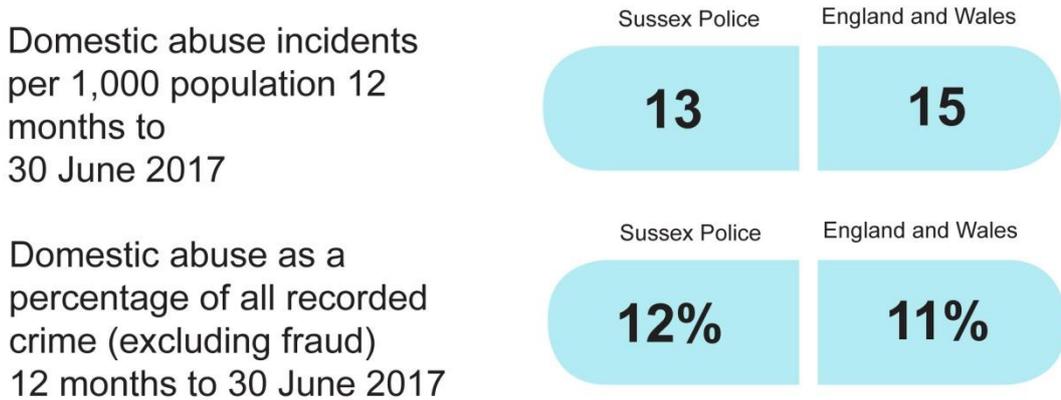
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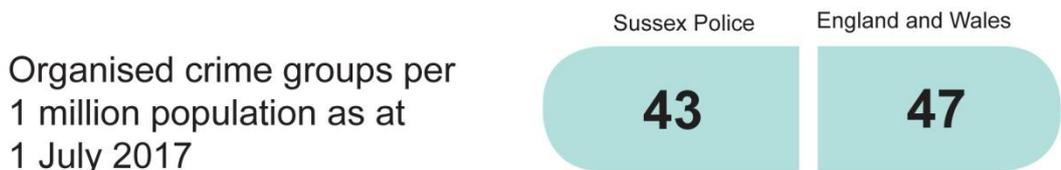
Crime outcomes*



Domestic abuse



Organised crime groups



*Figures are shown as proportions of outcomes assigned to offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017. For further information about the data in this graphic please see annex A.

Risk-based inspection

HMICFRS adopted an interim risk-based approach to inspection in 2017 in order to focus more closely on areas of policing where risk to the public is most acute.¹ Under this approach, not all forces are assessed against every part of the PEEL effectiveness programme every year. Sussex Police was assessed against the following areas in 2017:

- Preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour;
- Investigating crime and reducing re-offending;
- Protecting vulnerable people;
- Tackling serious and organised crime; and
- Specialist capabilities.

Judgments from 2016² remain in place for areas which were not re-inspected in 2017. HMICFRS will continue to monitor areas for improvement identified in previous inspections and will assess how well each force has responded in future reports.

¹ Full details of the interim risk-based approach are available from the HMICFRS website: www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/how-we-inspect/2017-peel-assessment/#risk-based

² The 2016 effectiveness report for Sussex Police can be found on the HMICFRS website: www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/peel-police-effectiveness-2016-sussex

Effectiveness overview

Judgments

Overall effectiveness 2017  Good

Question	Grade	Last inspected
Preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour	 Requires improvement	2017
Investigating crime and reducing re-offending	 Good	2017
Protecting vulnerable people	 Good	2017
Tackling serious and organised crime	 Good	2017
Specialist capabilities	Ungraded	2017

Summary

Sussex Police is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

HMICFRS is pleased to see that Sussex Police has made significant progress from its 2016 effectiveness inspection. The force has made considerable efforts to ensure that changes have been made throughout the force.

The force has worked hard to improve its response to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, and the new model for prevention, to be fully implemented in November 2017, shows promise. Preparation to implement this fully in November

2017 has been comprehensive and the areas for improvement that we have identified in this report should be addressed once the new model is in place. We are looking forward to seeing progress on our next inspection.

The force is good at investigating crime and reducing re-offending. It has significantly improved the standard of its investigations, which are supervised effectively, with a high standard of victim care, particularly in specialist units. The force has improved its response to incidents, which has had a positive effect on investigations. Most investigations dealt with by telephone are well handled, although the force should ensure that crimes are always investigated by people with the correct skills.

The force has made major improvements to the way it protects vulnerable people. Officers and staff understand that vulnerability is a priority, and improvements have also been made to the way the force supports vulnerable victims of crime, particularly victims of domestic abuse. The force has effective partnership working arrangements in place to safeguard victims.

Sussex Police has an effective approach to tackling serious and organised crime. It monitors organised crime groups well, in collaboration with local partners. The force is also proactive in the way it prevents serious and organised crime. It works effectively with victims to prevent repeat crimes against them, and also diverts potential perpetrators from organised crime. The force makes good use of specialist capabilities provided at a regional level, and works closely with the National Crime Agency to bring organised criminals to justice.

Sussex Police has the necessary arrangements in place to fulfil its national responsibilities under the *Strategic Policing Requirement*. It is well prepared to respond to a terrorist attack.

Preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour



Requires improvement

Prioritising prevention

For the last two years, HMICFRS has expressed concern that decisions by Sussex Police to reduce staffing in local policing have limited the force's ability to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. The force is now implementing plans to improve the way it provides local policing, which it expects to give a clearer focus on the importance of prevention for local policing.

In our 2016 effectiveness inspection, we reported that the force's new local policing model was due to be fully implemented by April 2017. During this inspection, we found that although Sussex Police has introduced changes to response policing and investigations, the prevention part of the model is not yet fully in place. Officers have, however, been selected for a new prevention role, taking account of their skills and abilities, and were due to their new roles in November. Police community support officers (PCSOs) have been working to the new model for some time, supported by local area commanders. Training in problem-solving and crime prevention is underway, and is mandatory for all staff joining the new prevention teams. We found evidence that this is already having a positive effect, providing a more consistent approach in preparation for November.

Officers and staff across all areas of the force understand the importance of preventing crime, and are fully aware of the force's vision for local policing, which prioritises prevention. While the prevention teams will cover a larger geographic area than before, the force is ensuring that its communities in each area still have a named contact, and the chief constable has publicised the changes in person at various community events. At the time of our inspection, it was evident that while we found elements of good practice, it was clear that neighbourhood teams were still only performing a limited function, often being redeployed from their main role, and doing responsive work rather than prevention. In addition, staff mainly react to calls for service, rather than carrying out prevention activity, and are waiting for implementation of the new model to provide clarity and consistency around their remit. However, the force is confident that the new model will protect neighbourhood teams from routine redeployments, and will provide a better service to the public.

Understanding communities

Sussex Police has a good force-wide understanding of the most pressing risks facing communities in the area. However, its understanding of the actual concerns of local communities is less good. Each of the three divisions – West Sussex, East Sussex, and Brighton and Hove – holds information about community diversity in local profiles which are updated annually. The force understands the biggest threats to the public to be: child sexual exploitation and abuse; modern slavery; human trafficking and organised immigration crime; cyber-crime; and drugs-related harm. It focuses on these threats when setting its policing priorities with partners.

In our 2016 effectiveness inspection, we found that the way local policing teams in Sussex routinely engaged with the public required improvement, and that is still the case this year. There are limited opportunities for the force to interact with the public to gain an understanding of what matters locally. The new local policing teams cover a much larger geographic area than the previous neighbourhood teams, making it more difficult for local officers to gain in-depth understanding of their local communities. The force has also taken the decision to reduce its attendance at regular local public meetings, thereby reducing its opportunities to engage directly with communities. Instead, it works with other agencies and local partners to identify and prioritise the highest risks to communities; this means that the general public are less able to influence policing priorities in their locality.

The force uses social media to engage with the public, but could do more to promote its use at district level. In 2016 its Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram accounts received 6,500 comments per month, and Sussex Police contacted 5,000 people per month, entering a two-way conversation moderated by the force. However, with a population of 1.65 million people in the county, the force could make more effective use of social media.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Sussex Police works effectively with partners such as local authorities to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe. However, we found a mixed picture in relation to problem solving across the force. The force has recently introduced a new problem-solving model (SARA³), in place of the system we found during our effectiveness inspection in 2016. While the new problem-solving model is an improvement, and should provide a more consistent and structured approach, we found that some staff did not understand the model or how to use it. This will be addressed by the force, as the mandatory training covers the SARA model.

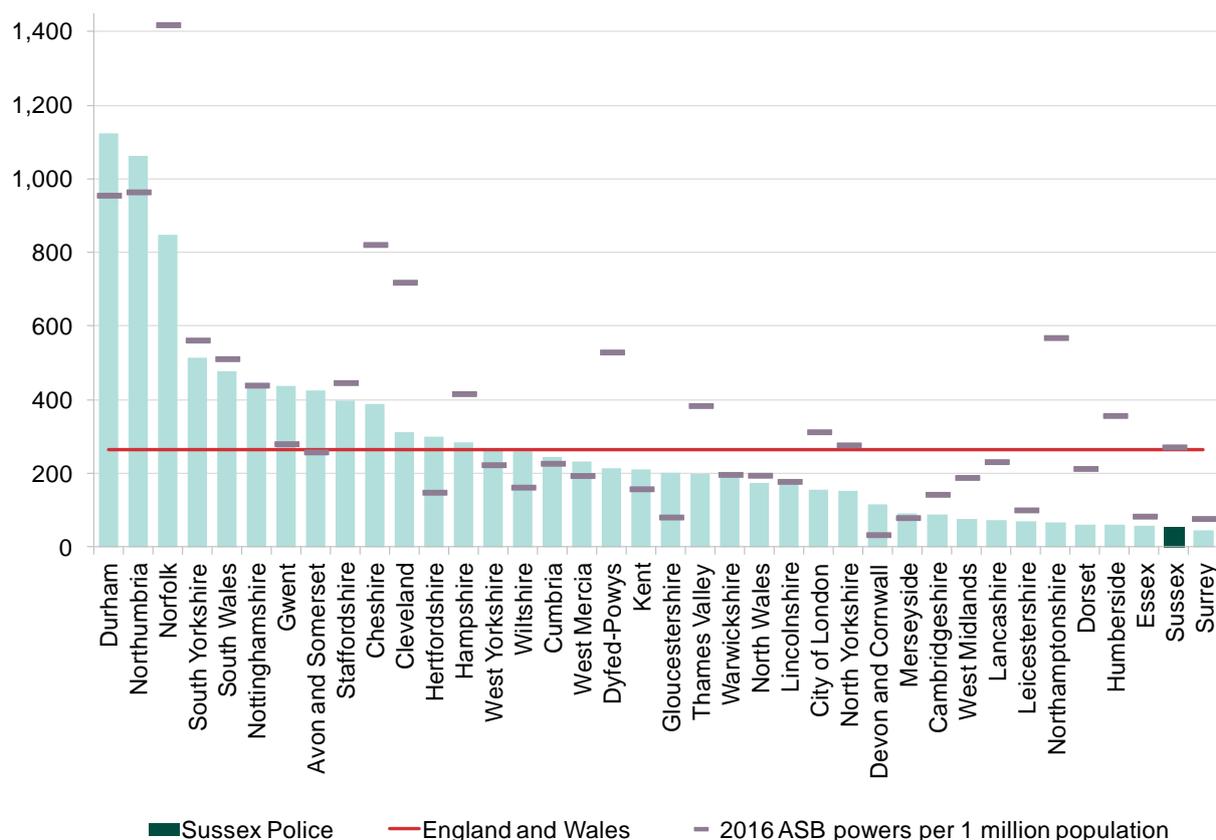
³ Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment – a problem-solving tool used to identify and solve repeat crime and community problems.

The force has set up three multi-agency groups in West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove to co-ordinate joint work to identify and solve local problems. The most established of these groups is in West Sussex, where more complex problems such as modern slavery are routinely being addressed with the support of other agencies such as health and social care. At a more local level, we found good examples of effective problem-solving with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The force has worked with housing providers to remedy neighbour disputes, and has supported the formation of community groups to tackle anti-social behaviour in their area.

However, we found at the time of the inspection that these activities have been responses to calls for service, rather than proactive prevention. This should improve under the new model, as officers on prevention teams will be protected from being transferred to other duties, giving them more time. The force does not do enough to evaluate the effectiveness of different solutions and little evidence of best practice being shared across the force, with no place to share solutions from previously resolved problems, which staff might have been able to consult. This was identified as an area for improvement in HMICFRS' effectiveness inspection in 2016, and it is disappointing that it has not made more progress.

The reduction in the rate of anti-social behaviour incidents over the last two years illustrates the problem Sussex Police has regarding effective evaluation. In the 12 months to March 2016, the rate of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents decreased by 13 percent, and from March 2016 to March 2017, there was a further 11 percent reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents (compared with a negligible decrease for England and Wales over the same year), which is very positive. However the force was unable to explain why this happened, as it does not evaluate its interventions consistently to understand 'what works'. It is also unclear why the use of anti-social behaviour powers has decreased by 79 percent when compared to the 12 months to 20 June 2016, or why repeat victimisation has risen by 10 percent. Effective evaluation must be undertaken to improve the force's approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Figure 1: Rate of anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers per 1 million population, by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017⁴



Source: 2016 and 2017 HMICFRS data return
For further information about this data, please see annex A

Areas for improvement

- The force should work with local people and partner organisations to improve its understanding of local communities.
- The force should evaluate and share effective practice routinely, both internally and with partners, to improve its approach to the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour.

⁴ Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, the Metropolitan Police and Suffolk forces were unable to provide any 2017 ASB use of powers data. Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Humberside and Merseyside forces were only able to provide partial 2017 ASB use of powers data. Greater Manchester Police was unable to provide any 2016 ASB use of powers data.

Investigating crime and reducing re-offending



Good

Initial investigation

The quality of initial investigations completed by Sussex Police is good. The force has made considerable efforts to improve the initial response from the force control room since our 2016 inspection, and this has positively influenced the quality of investigations from the start. THRIVE⁵ is now applied more consistently, and outstanding incidents awaiting initial response are now managed more robustly. This means that the assessment of incidents and decisions about police attendance are managed more effectively. We found that officers are sometimes unable to identify and secure evidence within the ‘golden hour’⁶ immediately after an incident on very busy shifts, as they are pulled away to other jobs.

The investigations and resolution centre (IRC) investigates 43 percent of incidents by telephone. The IRC works well, dealing with a large volume of non-complex demand, and the majority of investigations are thorough, leading to a satisfactory outcome for victims. We found during reality testing that on some occasions, incidents are allocated inappropriately to the IRC when they should have been allocated a face-to-face visit – when there is a potentially vulnerable victim, for example. The force should ensure investigations are not inappropriately assigned for telephone resolution, and that there is effective supervisory oversight of this process. We also found that crimes were allocated to officers and staff in some investigation teams according to their capacity, rather than their skills. The force would benefit from a clear crime allocation policy to ensure that investigations are dealt with by the most appropriate person.

The force is good at assessing reports of fraud. In the 12 months to 30 June 2017, Sussex Police received a total of 308 fraud disseminations from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). This total can be broken down into 293 fraud disseminations for enforcement and 15 fraud disseminations for victim care. These were investigated appropriately and there were 18 judicial outcomes in the 12 months to 30 June 2017. The force also has a comprehensive process for assessing

⁵ The threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement (THRIVE) model is used to assess the appropriate initial police response to a call for service. It allows a judgment to be made of the relative risk posed by the call and places the individual needs of the victim at the centre of that decision.

⁶ Golden hour refers to the time after a crime has been committed during which there is maximum potential for recovery of forensic evidence.

such reports, identifying vulnerable victims at the earliest opportunity within control rooms, using the a process called 'Operation Signature'. The force also employs a Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer to work with Victim Support and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) specifically to identify and protect those vulnerable to further targeting and financial loss and provide ongoing support. As a result of effective partnership work, a multi-agency fraud information sharing protocol has been agreed with trading standards.

Investigation quality

The overall quality of Sussex Police's investigations is generally good. Response officers are allocated investigations for seven specific non-complex crime types,⁷ with more complex investigations allocated to investigations teams or specialist units, and this works well. The force's investigative capability is good, although there are some staff shortages in specialist units, which are discussed in the next section of this report. The force uses a system known as 'earned autonomy', which allows officers assessed as competent to finalise their own investigations without supervision. We were pleased to see that there is now a much improved robust governance in place since our 2016 effectiveness and 2017 efficiency inspections. The system has been renamed 'operational competence', to reinforce the importance of getting it right, and we found that some officers had had the privilege removed when supervisors had found (through dip-sampling of investigations) that their investigations were not up to standard; these officers were being supported to improve. Officers ask supervisors for advice on a regular basis, and supervisors are aware of their officers' workloads. We found that the operational competence system is not used in serious and complex crime, and we are satisfied that the process is effective.

We reviewed a number of investigations, and found there was active and regular supervision in the majority (where appropriate). The force uses the mnemonic VOWSIO⁸ to assist officers with investigation plans, and we found that there were clear aims and objectives set out on most records using this structure. The quality of victim contact during investigations is also good, with officers establishing contact with victims, and using force systems to prompt and maintain contact.

The force achieves investigative outcomes (such as charge or no further action) which are broadly in line with those of other forces in England and Wales. The number of investigations finalised by Sussex Police with evidential difficulties where a suspect has been identified but the victim does not support police prosecution, has increased in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 to 16.0 percent, from

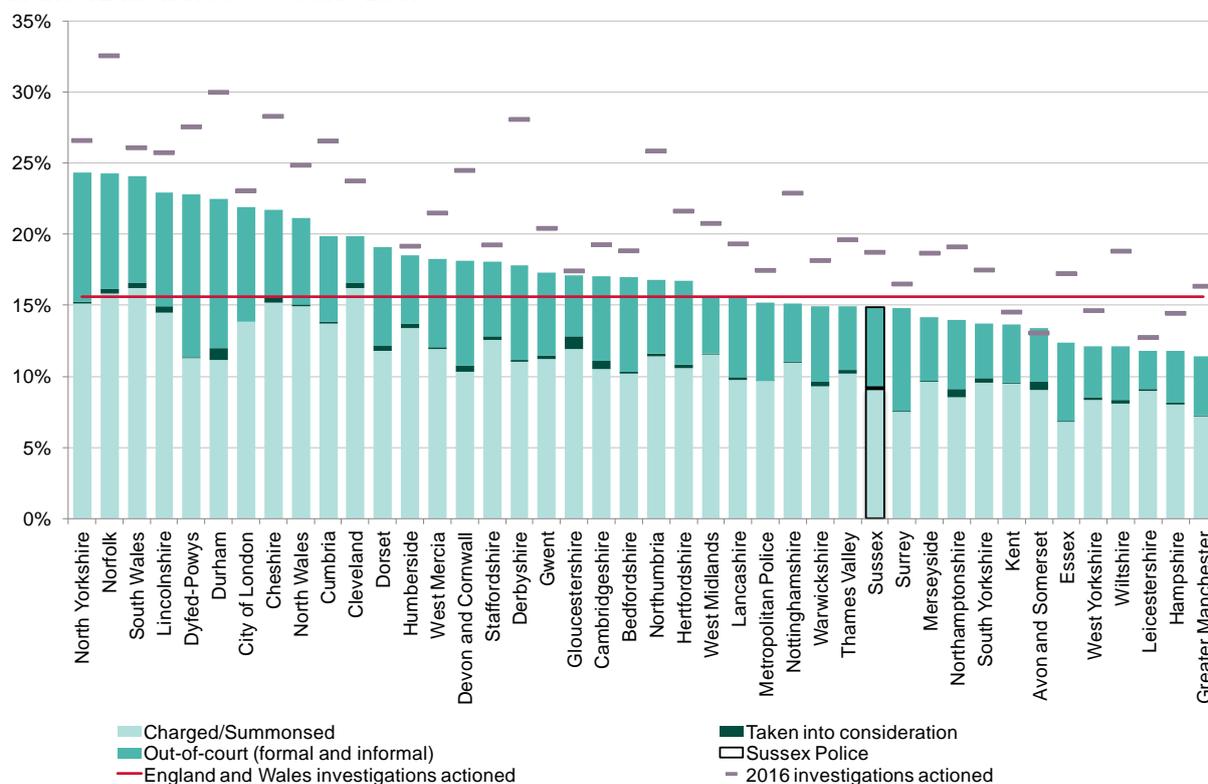
⁷ These are theft from a shop, possession of drugs, possession of a weapon, going equipped to steal, Public Order sections 4 and 5, assault without injury, and making off without payment.

⁸ Victim, Offender, Witnesses, Scene, Intelligence, Other.

11.9 percent in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This is slightly higher than the England and Wales rate of 12.9 percent for the 12 months to 30 June 2017. The majority of other investigative outcomes have not changed notably over the last 12 months to 30 June 2017. The force has a robust system in place to review all investigations, and Sussex Police was one of the best forces in the country in relation to the recent crime data integrity inspection. The force is therefore satisfied that these figures are an accurate representation.

The force’s ability to examine digital devices for evidence is good. Investigators have access to the right equipment and training, and there are currently no backlogs of devices awaiting examination. More could be done to ensure frontline officers are sufficiently selective about which devices to seize, as we found there was a tendency to seize everything, which delays investigations.

Figure 2: Proportion of investigations where action was taken, by force, for offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017^{9,10}



Source: 2016 and 2017 Home Office Outcomes Data

For further information about this data, please see annex A

⁹ Investigations where action was taken includes the outcome categories of Charged/Summonsed, Taken into consideration and Out-of-court (formal and informal).

¹⁰ Suffolk Constabulary was unable to provide 2017 crime outcomes data. Dorset Police was unable to provide 2016 crime outcomes data. Therefore figures for England and Wales will differ from those published by the Home Office. For further information about this data, please see annex A.

Reducing re-offending

Sussex Police has improved the way that it manages offenders who pose a risk to the public. The number of people circulated as wanted by Sussex Police on the Police National Computer in July 2017 was 5.69 per 10,000 population; this compares to 10.4 per 10,000 population for England and Wales. The force has recently revised its policy for dealing with suspects who are wanted, putting in place effective processes to manage them, by prioritising their arrest against the level of risk they pose to the public, and carrying out regular reviews. This is regularly reviewed, and there is oversight from detective chief inspectors, who scrutinise the numbers at daily management meetings. In West Sussex there is a specific operation dedicated to arresting outstanding suspects, called Operation Manhunt.

The integrated offender management (IOM) scheme¹¹ has recently been revised and is now a multi-agency response using a threat, harm and risk approach to the assessment for the offenders selected for the scheme. It is therefore not focused solely on serious acquisitive crime, but now includes suspects from a wider cohort of crimes, including domestic abuse, which is an improvement since our 2016 effectiveness inspection. Officers are now specifically required to gather information on these offenders at weekly intelligence meetings, and all members of the cohort are named on the Briefing and Tasking System (BATS) to increase staff awareness. The force has achieved a reduction in reoffending rates, but it is unable to explain how this has been achieved, or which interventions have been the most successful.

The force has established a foreign national offender (FNO) partnership to identify and manage the threat posed by FNOs and has a monthly meeting with multi-agency partners to manage those who pose the greatest level of risk. As a result, in the last six months the compliance rate for referrals to Immigration and Enforcement has increased from 28.7 percent in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 (which was lower than the England and Wales rate of 56.8 percent over the same period), to around 60 percent.

Area for improvement

- The force should ensure that all crimes are allocated promptly to investigators with the appropriate skills, accreditation and support to investigate them to a good standard.

¹¹ Integrated offender management (IOM) brings a multi-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together. The aims are to reduce the levels of offending and make communities safer.

Protecting vulnerable people and supporting victims



Good

Identifying vulnerability

Since our 2016 effectiveness and 2017 efficiency inspections, Sussex Police has improved its ability to identify people who are vulnerable through their age, disability, or because they have been subjected to repeated offences, or are at high risk of abuse. We found considerable improvements to the force control room (FCR) since our efficiency inspection (2017) – there is a more consistent application of the THRIVE process. This is reflected in an increase in the proportion of flagged vulnerable incidents to 7.2 percent in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, compared to 2.8 percent in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. The force uses the College of Policing definition of vulnerability¹², and we consistently found that staff are aware of the definition and now have a good understanding of vulnerability. Officers were able to tell us their responsibilities in relation to support and safeguarding of the victim, and were able to identify vulnerability well at the initial point of contact. The force has an agreed safeguarding strategy for vulnerable adults, and clear protocols for information-sharing between the police and its partners. The force is developing awareness of ‘hidden harm’, such as people trafficking or child sexual exploitation, both for its staff and for its partners through online training and regular meetings with partners such as the local authority.

The control room now reliably identifies vulnerable and repeat victims at the first point of contact and has improved its use of the THRIVE process, assessing the risk to victims. For example, we listened to 17 calls into the control room and every one had an effective risk assessment, with repeat callers and vulnerability identified. The focus on the victims of domestic abuse has increased since our last inspection; they are now all dealt with face to face, as opposed to being initially dealt with by telephone. Vulnerable and repeat victims are identified at the initial point of contact through comprehensive searches of police IT systems (such as previous incident records and crime reports) and appropriate questioning by call-takers, but the way this is captured could be improved by ensuring that all incidents, and not just those involving crime, are ‘flagged’ appropriately at an early stage.

¹² The College of Policing defines vulnerability as: A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation.

Initial response

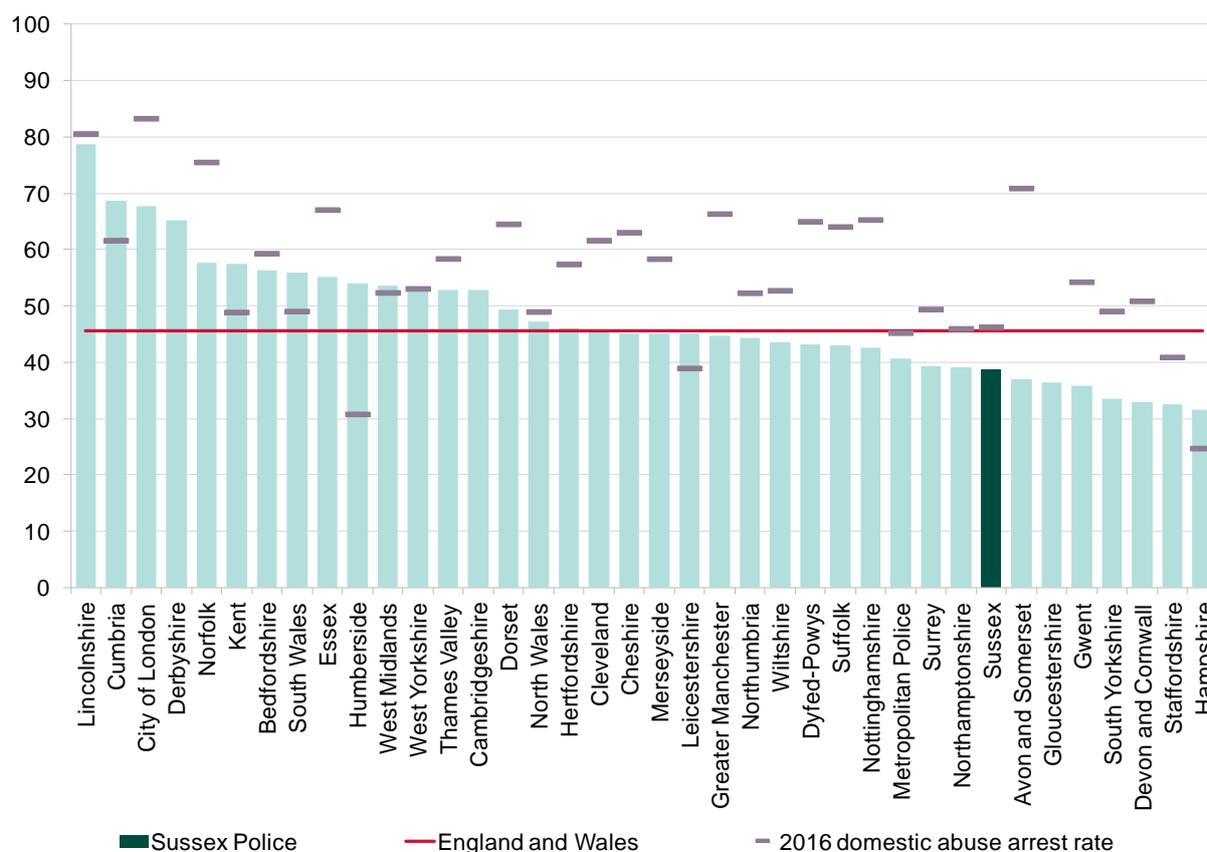
Sussex Police has made considerable improvements in this area. In our 2016 effectiveness inspection, we were concerned about the quality of investigation and decision-making in relation to some domestic abuse cases referred to the IRC, and made recommendations for the force to take immediate steps to ensure that it improved its initial assessment and response to all vulnerable people. We found a very positive picture during this inspection; clearly the force has prioritised domestic abuse cases and made the necessary changes. Incidents involving domestic abuse are now centrally managed in the control room, where it has introduced a 'vulnerability queue' monitored by a member of staff 24 hours a day. Domestic abuse incidents that are risk-assessed as not requiring immediate attention (grade 3 incidents) are continuously reviewed and reassessed, until officers are able to make face-to-face contact with the victim. All DASH¹³ risk assessments are now completed face-to-face with the victim and are well supervised by response sergeants. They are then further quality assured by the Safeguarding and Investigation Unit, ensuring appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place.

The force itself carried out a review of its handling of domestic abuse in January 2017, in an effort to understand why its performance appeared to be deteriorating. Despite a steady increase in reports of domestic abuse, the arrest rate had fallen and the rate of solved crimes was also falling. The force then developed a domestic abuse improvement plan and has put in place a number of measures to improve the service to victims. It has revised and relaunched its domestic abuse policy, and officers are directed to arrest perpetrators wherever appropriate, unless there is a good reason not to do so. All response officers are equipped with body-worn video cameras, and it is now routine practice to use these at all domestic abuse incidents.

The rate of arrest for domestic abuse offences can provide an indication of a force's approach to handling domestic abuse offenders. Although for the purpose of this calculation arrests are not linked directly to offences, a high arrest rate may suggest that a force prioritises arrests for domestic abuse offenders over other potential forms of action (for further information, please see annex A). HMICFRS has evaluated the arrest rate alongside other measures during our inspection process to understand how each force deals with domestic abuse overall.

¹³ DASH is a risk identification, assessment and management model adopted by UK police forces and partner agencies in 2009. The aim of the DASH assessment is to help frontline practitioners identify high-risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and so-called honour-based violence.

Figure 3: Domestic abuse arrest rate (per 100 domestic abuse-related offences), by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017^{14,15}



Source: 2016 and 2017 HMICFRS data return, 2016 and 2017 Home Office domestic abuse crime data¹⁶

For further information about this data, please see annex A

The arrest rate for domestic abuse-related offences has fallen by 16.2 percent over the last 12 months, and at 38.8 arrests per 100 domestic abuse-related offences this is lower than the England and Wales rate of 45.5 per 100 domestic abuse-related offences. The force believes that arrests are being made proportionately, but has also provided further training to all officers and staff regarding domestic abuse. At the time of the inspection, a quarter of staff had already received this training. The force is working effectively with partners to provide longer-term safeguarding through the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH). For example, the force part-funds a three-year commissioned service from the Missing People charity to

¹⁴ Durham, Lancashire, Warwickshire and West Mercia forces were unable to provide 2017 domestic abuse arrest data. Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Durham and Gloucestershire forces were unable to provide 2016 domestic abuse arrest data.

¹⁵ North Yorkshire Police was unable to provide comparable domestic abuse arrest data. Therefore, it has been removed from the graph. For further information, please see annex A.

¹⁶ The Home Office has provided HMICFRS with data on domestic abuse-related offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017. These data are more recent than those published by the Office for National Statistics.

provide a comprehensive return home interview service for young people covering the whole force area, with a role in the MASH dedicated to missing people. Neighbourhood officers also undertake some safeguarding responsibilities on occasion: in one case of murder, a neighbourhood officer who knew the victim's family was asked to support and advise them, while monitoring any community tension in the area.

Mental health

Sussex Police's response to mental health is positive. Discussions are advanced with the relevant partner organisations such as the NHS Trust and Ambulance Trust, and essential joint agreements are in place to allow provision of more effective services to people with mental health conditions. These include protocols for patients who are absent without leave from mental health facilities, the conveyance of mental health patients and the use of sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act.¹⁷ Officers and staff in the control room have a good understanding of the importance of taking immediate action where necessary to protect those with mental health conditions, demonstrated through the calls we listened to in which mental health was treated as a priority. There are good processes in place for assessing risk which enable staff to make effective decisions. In addition to THRIVE, call-handlers use the mnemonics VOWSIO (Victim, Offender, Witness, Scenes, Intelligence, Other) to assess risk, and RARA (Remove, Avoid, Reduce, Accept) to prompt the call-taker to take the necessary action.

There are five mental health triage cars, staffed by both a mental health practitioner (MHP) and a police officer, covering the force area with the exception of Brighton and Hove (this was a decision taken by the local Clinical Commissioning Group). Each vehicle has access to all mental health records to assist in decision-making and providing the right service. In addition each custody suite has access to an MHP in person or by telephone to provide direct advice and support in dealing with people with mental health problems. The force has carried out a comprehensive evaluation of street triage through academic partners, which concluded that it is an effective way of reducing demand. For a time, the force had MHPs based in the control room, and evaluation shows that it would benefit from reintroducing them, and from having full-time support in the MASH. Mental health partners advised us that even with funding in place, a shortage of nurses makes this more difficult to achieve.

The use of section 136 by Sussex Police remains high (541 individuals per 1 million population) compared to England and Wales (433 individuals per 1 million population), but the force's own figures shows that it has reduced over the last three

¹⁷ Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 enable a police officer to remove, from either a private place (s.135) or a place other than where they live (s.136), someone who they believe to be suffering from a mental disorder and to be in need of immediate care and control, and take them to a place of safety – for example, a health or social care facility, or the home of a relative or friend.

years. Sussex Police has provided various training courses and materials for officers over the last 12 months, including bespoke training for custody sergeants by the mental health liaison and diversion team, and training on autism awareness by the charity Autism Sussex. Mental health training is also included in officer safety training, which is compulsory for all frontline officers and staff. Sussex Police and its partners recognise that a high proportion of sectioned individuals are taken to custody as a place of safety, and believe this is due to a lack of beds elsewhere. The force and its partners would benefit from sharing best practice across the county.

If the victim of a crime is identified as having a mental health condition, we found that the force supports them throughout the investigation well. The force ensures there is contact with partner support agencies, and that applications for help at court are made early, through victim services.

Investigating crimes involving vulnerable people

Sussex Police is generally good at investigating crimes involving vulnerable people. Crimes are generally allocated to the appropriately trained specialist teams, although a crime allocation policy would assist the force in formalising the process. Most investigations involving vulnerable victims are supervised effectively, conducted thoroughly, and handovers from one team to another are of a good standard. We found the quality of investigations to have become much more consistent since our 2016 effectiveness inspection. Investigating officers work well with domestic abuse caseworkers to ensure victims receive regular contact and are safeguarded effectively. Victims of domestic abuse and stalking, who have been assessed as at high risk, are mapped and neighbourhood teams are also notified to visit them to provide safeguarding and prevention advice.

However, staff shortages in the safeguarding and investigation units (SIU) mean that some detectives are dealing with an excessive number of complex investigations, including rape and child sexual exploitation, and investigative quality is sometimes affected. This was identified as an area for improvement in our 2016 effectiveness inspection, and the force has since invested in an additional 75 posts in the SIUs to meet the increasing demand. However, at the time of this inspection, these posts had not all been filled and there was a high level of stress-related sickness absence among staff in these units, further adding to already high workloads.

The force needs to learn why the number of domestic abuse suspects given bail is higher than the England and Wales rate (in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, bail was used 20.1 times per 100 domestic abuse-related offences, compared to the England and Wales rate of 8.8 per 100 domestic abuse-related offences), and why the number of suspects charged has declined by 30.9 percent compared to the previous year. The force's use of its wider legal powers to protect victims of domestic abuse,

such as domestic violence protection orders,¹⁸ is slowly improving, and the force is actively trying to increase its use of powers to safeguard victims, such as Clare's Law,¹⁹ by highlighting it within the force.

Details of multi-agency public protection arrangement subjects and intelligence requirements are stored on the briefing and tasking system, and officers are aware of them. However, we found that officers felt that the numbers of registered sex offenders managed by individual officers was too high (around 80 per officer), and while the force has considerably reduced the number of overdue visits since our last inspection, it is still unable to fully meet the demand, with 67 visits overdue (6 high, 40 medium and 21 low-risk). This was highlighted as an area for improvement in our 2016 inspection, and although numbers of overdue visits to registered sex offenders are not as high as in 2016, we remain concerned that these individuals are not being monitored as effectively as they should be, to prevent them re-offending and protect the public from harm.

Partnership working

Sussex Police works well with partnership organisations to protect vulnerable people. There is consistent use of the 'SCARF'²⁰ risk assessment tool by officers and staff, routinely supervised by sergeants, with partnership agreements in place to share information. The force has one MASH in each division and we found them to be working well. We saw evidence of cohesive relationships between partners within the MASH and we found evidence of effective partnership working in relation to missing and vulnerable children. For example, the MASH in Horsham receives around 45 risk assessment forms from police officers per day. These are then triaged with partners, checking across all systems to make sure that the necessary action is taken, such as referral to another agency.

¹⁸ Domestic violence protection notices (DVPNs) may be issued by an authorised police officer to prevent a suspected perpetrator from returning to a victim's home and/or contacting the victim. Following the issue of the DVPN, the police must apply to magistrates for a domestic violence protection order (DVPO). The DVPO will be granted for a period of up to 28 days.

¹⁹ Clare's Law, or the domestic violence disclosure scheme, has two functions: the 'right to ask' the police about a partner's previous history of domestic abuse or violent acts; and the 'right to know' – police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

²⁰ Single Combined Assessment of Risk Form.

There is also an established multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC)²¹ process. The force has actively increased the number of referrals into the MARAC process (from 1,622 in the 12 months to 31 March 2016, to 1,939 in the 12 months to 31 March 2017), and is finding it difficult to deal with the increased demand in some areas of the force. This means that assessments may be less thorough, and actions taken (including safeguarding) may be compromised.

One excellent example of the force working well with partners is the force's Operation Signature, which focuses on the protection of vulnerable members of the community, preventing them from becoming victims of fraud and suffering further financial loss. The force works with banks, agencies and community groups to raise awareness and provide support to victims, and officers and staff are passionate about their support for the scheme. Examples of preventing further loss by repeat victims include stopping targeted mail and using devices on phones to prevent scam callers, working with banks to alert the police when potential fraudulent activity is detected, and visiting 1,500 victims of fraud to offer support and advice.

Areas for improvement

- The force should ensure that the risks posed by registered sex offenders are managed effectively.
- The force should improve its understanding of the reasons for the declining arrest and charge/summons rates and above average use of bail in domestic abuse cases and take appropriate action to address these.
- The force should improve the quality of investigations involving vulnerable people, ensuring that the workloads of specialist investigators are manageable at all times and that such investigations are subject to regular and active supervision.

²¹ A multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, independent domestic violence advisors, probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Tackling serious and organised crime



Good

Understanding threats

Sussex Police has a good understanding of both emerging and traditional serious and organised crime threats. The force has structured processes for handling this type of crime, including a MoRiLE²² risk assessment. The force recognises that understanding communities is an integral part of understanding serious and organised crime, and that effective disruption of serious and organised crime activity makes communities safer.

Intelligence from a wide range of sources, including neighbourhood teams and partner agencies, is used by the force to create serious and organised crime local profiles, which are then used to direct joint action – an improvement from our 2016 inspection. The force has also recently introduced a ‘threat desk’ within its intelligence bureau. The threat desk is responsible for intelligence collection and development in relation to child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and cyber-crime, and the force is taking proactive steps to address new and emerging threats. The way that the force analyses information in relation to serious and organised crime has been put forward for consideration to be included in the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice. The assistant chief constable oversees the tactical tasking and co-ordination group, which ensures that resources are deployed in the highest harm areas. Lead responsible officers and senior investigating officers are held to account.

The force recognises that response and neighbourhood team officers are often the first to identify organised crime group (OCG) bases such as nail bars,²³ and also people at risk of ‘cuckooing’²⁴. It has ensured that these frontline officers are fully briefed on local OCG activity in their areas. Neighbourhood and response team officers have a good understanding of serious and organised crime, and seek to gather evidence and fill gaps in intelligence. The force also takes a proactive approach to tackling serious and organised crime through its community

²² MoRiLE: the ‘management of risk in law enforcement’ process developed by the National Police Chiefs’ Council. This tool assesses the types of crimes, which most threaten communities and highlights where the force does not currently have the capacity or capability to tackle them effectively.

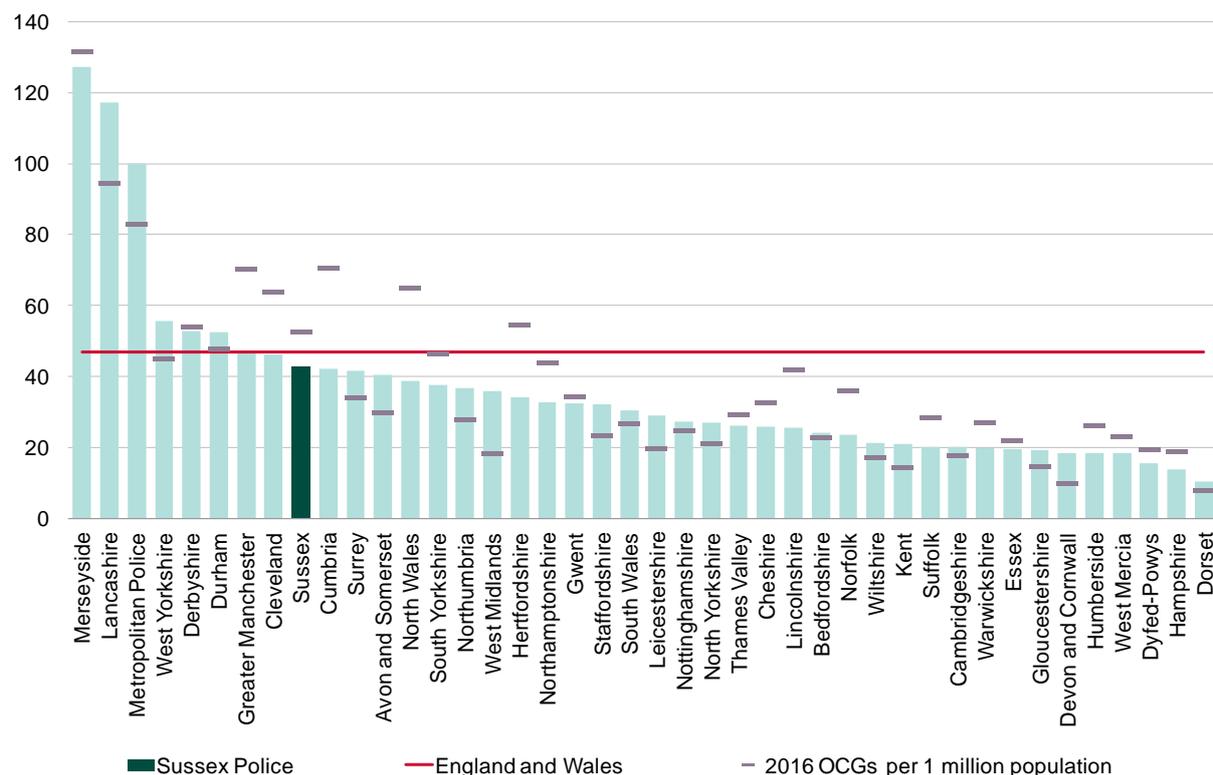
²³ Venues for manicures and nail painting, that are often used as a front for criminal activity.

²⁴ Cuckooing – the term used for a drug dealer befriending a vulnerable person in order to take over their house for use in drug dealing.

investigation teams. These are based in each division, and are responsible for reviewing all crime and intelligence submissions to identify potential OCG activity which they can then act upon. The community investigation teams provide an additional resource to focus on serious and organised crime, bridging the gap between response teams and the serious and organised crime unit (a specialist unit which also draws upon regional resources when required).

Once OCGs have been identified, Sussex Police assesses them promptly and comprehensively. This assessment is known as organised crime group ‘mapping’. The force follows national guidance by systematically reviewing all mapped OCGs at specified intervals, together with continuous intelligence analysis of OCGs on a 24-hour basis – prioritising them effectively and archiving them appropriately. The number of OCGs per one million population in Sussex is 42.8. While this has decreased since 2016, from 52.4, the number is high compared to most other forces in England and Wales. This is partly a result of the force’s proactive and thorough approach to identifying OCGs.

Figure 4: Rate of organised crime groups (OCGs) per 1 million population, by force, as at 1 July 2017²⁵



Source: 2016 and 2017 HMICFRS data return
For further information about this data, please see annex A

²⁵ The City of London Police has been removed from the graph as its organised crime group data are not comparable with other forces due to its size and its wider national remit. For further information, please see annex A.

Disrupting and investigating serious and organised crime

Sussex Police has a robust approach to disrupting and investigating serious and organised crime. The force is an active partner within the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, and participates in tackling a number of the priority threat groups for the region, leading on the firearms threat group, for example. The force has partnership boards in each of its three divisions, with West Sussex being the most highly developed. There is also a regional intelligence meeting attended by various organisations, including Border Force and the National Crime Agency, promoting the exchange of intelligence between the agencies. Within force, intelligence from both overt and covert sources is handled centrally, which means that the force has a comprehensive and overarching view of the intelligence picture, and any emerging threats for Sussex are identified quickly.

Lead responsible officers are assigned to take responsibility for OCGs over the long term, on the basis of their skill set and location. They use comprehensive and effective plans that follow the 4Ps framework.²⁶ They are given detailed briefings by senior intelligence analysts, and are provided with tactical options, supported by the senior investigation officer and the serious and organised crime unit who hold them to account. Good practice is shared between lead responsible officers at tactical tasking and co-ordination meetings, helping the force to understand the effect of its activity across the 4Ps. This is an improvement from last year.

The community investigation teams have a range of both overt and covert tactics at their disposal, and prepare weekly updates in relation to their disruption activity. These are passed through the intelligence unit to the divisional detective inspector and lead responsible officer. The team's main focus is on tackling OCGs involved in child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking and county lines²⁷ work. We saw some very impressive examples of complex investigations by the community investigation teams, which resulted in joint work with the serious and organised crime unit and National Crime Agency. The force is working hard to improve its recording of the more minor disruptions. Sussex Police is also good at ensuring response and neighbourhood teams are fully aware of OCG activity in their local areas, and are encouraged to disrupt where possible.

We commend the force for its ground-breaking work to tackle county lines crime. It uses sensitive innovative tactics to disrupt the lines, together with a response plan and partnership arrangements to safeguard vulnerable people against cuckooing, which the National Crime Agency is considering sharing nationally as best practice.

²⁶ Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare – HM Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.

²⁷ The term 'county lines' describes organised drug-dealing networks expanding – usually from large cities into smaller towns – in order to exploit new markets and evade police detection. This activity is often accompanied by violence and intimidation as new groups compete with locally-established drug dealers.

Preventing serious and organised crime

Sussex Police is good at preventing serious and organised crime. The force has taken steps to identify those at risk of being drawn into serious and organised crime and to put preventative measures, which was an area for improvement in our 2016 inspection. For example, the force now runs an external mentoring scheme, which specifically targets young people and those most at risk of being drawn into crime and organised crime. Trained police officers are allocated to individuals identified by social services, local children's homes, police officers and staff and schools, with the aim of diverting them from criminal behaviour. Success stories include a number of people who have successfully passed the police constable recruitment process, and others who have gained permanent employment as a result of the scheme. In another example, the force's child sexual exploitation team and regional organised crime unit worked together to identify links between young people who go missing regularly and OCGs that may exploit their vulnerability. This means that the force can disrupt OCGs who target vulnerable children, and put safeguarding measures in place.

The force has carried out a county-wide assessment of street gang²⁸ activity which confirmed that it continues to have none that meet the national definition of "home grown" urban street gangs. The force believes that this is due to the successful identification and disruption of potential gang members who have been targeted with prevention activity such as the mentoring scheme and referral to charitable organisations. The force has also worked with the Metropolitan Police Service to ensure that it is well prepared to tackle any new threats from the London area.

The force uses serious crime prevention orders (SCPOs) and ancillary orders to prevent serious and organised criminals from offending while in prison and after they are released. It works effectively with prisons and the IOM scheme to target individuals to prevent reoffending, and we found the co-ordination and management of offenders subject to SCPOs is excellent. Sussex Police has been granted only 1.6 SCPOs per 100 OCGs (active and archived between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017), which is below the England and Wales rate. However, the force had applied for additional SCPOs during the same period, which have been authorised by the Crown Prosecution Service, and which have not been included in these figures as the cases have not yet come to trial. Should they be granted, the force would be above the England and Wales rate.

²⁸ Urban street gangs and many other gangs evolve into organised crime groups (OCGs). Gangs tend to be less organised than OCGs and more concerned with perpetuating a threat of violence or harm across a particular geographical area related to the gang's main activities (Serious and Organised Crime Act 2015).

Specialist capabilities

Ungraded

National policing responsibilities

The *Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)*²⁹ specifies six national threats: terrorism, cyber-crime, public order, civil emergencies, child sexual abuse and serious and organised crime.

Sussex Police has the necessary arrangements in place to ensure that it can fulfil its national policing responsibilities. The force works jointly with Surrey Police to respond to the national threats; assistant chief constables from both forces lead programmes to develop the forces' capabilities in relation to each of them.

The force has established a comprehensive training programme; training exercises are routinely completed with other organisations to examine the joint response to civil emergencies and other disasters. The force has recently completed an exercise with local authorities and the health service to test its response to a terrorist attack at Gatwick Airport. Both forces also participate in an annual training exercise with other local forces; this specifically examines how well large numbers of officers can be mobilised in response to large-scale civil disorder.

Firearms capability

We inspected how well forces were prepared to manage firearms attacks in our 2016 effectiveness inspections. Subsequent terrorist attacks in the UK and Europe have meant that the police service maintains a firm focus on armed capability in England and Wales.

It is not just terrorist attacks that place operational demands on armed officers. The threat can include the activity of organised crime groups or armed street gangs and all other crime involving guns. The *Code of Practice on the Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons*³⁰ makes forces responsible for implementing national standards of armed policing. The code stipulates that a chief officer be designated to oversee these standards. This requires the chief officer to set out the firearms threat

²⁹ The SPR is issued annually by the Home Secretary. It sets out the latest national threats and appropriate national policing capabilities required to counter them. National threats require a co-ordinated or aggregated response from police forces, national agencies or other partners. *The Strategic Policing Requirement*, Home Office, March 2015. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417116/The_Strategic_Policing_Requirement.pdf

³⁰ *Code of Practice on Police use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons*, Home Office, 2003.

in an armed policing strategic threat and risk assessment (APSTRA). The chief officer must also set out clear rationales for the number of armed officers (armed capacity) and the level to which they are trained (armed capability).

Sussex Police operates joint arrangements with Surrey Police to provide armed policing. The force has a good understanding of the potential harm facing the public; its APSTRA conforms to the requirements of the code and the College of Policing guidance.³¹ The force last reviewed its APSTRA on 22 September 2017.

We found that the designated chief officer scrutinises the APSTRA closely, and formally approves its content, which includes the levels of armed capability and capacity that the threats require. His decisions and the rationale on which they are based are clearly auditable.

The force has begun a programme to increase the availability of ARVs, and HMICFRS found that a clear justification for this decision had been set out in the force APSTRA.

³¹ College of Policing authorised professional practice on armed policing available at: www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/armed-policing/?s

Annex A – About the data

The information presented in this report comes from a range of sources, including data published by the Home Office, the Office for National Statistics, inspection fieldwork and data collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales.

Where HMICFRS collected data directly from police forces, we took reasonable steps to agree the design of the data collection with forces and with other interested parties such as the Home Office. We gave forces several opportunities to quality assure and validate the data they provided us, to ensure the accuracy of the evidence presented. For instance:

- Data that forces submitted were checked and queried with those forces where data were notably different from other forces or were internally inconsistent; and
- All forces were asked to check the final data used in the report and correct any errors identified.

The source of the data is presented with each figure in the report, and is set out in more detail within this annex. The source of Force in numbers data is also set out below.

Methodology

Data in the report

British Transport Police was outside the scope of inspection. Any aggregated totals for England and Wales exclude British Transport Police data, so will differ from those published by the Home Office.

Where other forces have been unable to supply data, this is mentioned under the relevant sections below.

Population

For all uses of population as a denominator in our calculations, unless otherwise noted, we use Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-2016 population estimates. These were the most recent data available at the time of the inspection.

For the specific case of City of London Police, we include both resident and transient population within our calculations. This is to account for the unique nature and demographics of this force's responsibility.

Survey of police staff

HMICFRS surveyed the police workforce across forces in England and Wales, to understand their views on workloads, redeployment and the suitability of assigned tasks. This survey was a non-statistical, voluntary sample which means that results may not be representative of the workforce population. The number of responses varied between 16 and 1,678 across forces. Therefore, we treated results with caution and used them for identifying themes that could be explored further during fieldwork rather than to assess individual force performance.

Ipsos MORI survey of public attitudes towards policing

HMICFRS commissioned Ipsos MORI to survey attitudes towards policing between 21 July and 15 August 2017. Respondents were drawn from an online panel and results were weighted by age, gender and work status to match the population profile of the force area. The sampling method used is not a statistical random sample and the sample size was small, varying between 300 and 321 individuals in each force area. Therefore, any results provided are only an indication of satisfaction rather than an absolute.

The findings of this survey are available on our website:

www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/data/peel-assessments

Review of crime files

HMICFRS reviewed 2,700³² police case files across crime types for:

- theft from person;
- rape (including attempts);
- stalking;
- harassment;
- common assault;
- grievous bodily harm (wounding); and
- actual bodily harm.

Our file review was designed to provide a broad overview of the identification of vulnerability, the effectiveness of investigations and to understand how victims are treated through police processes. We randomly selected files from crimes recorded between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017 and assessed them against several

³² 60 case files were reviewed in each force, with the exception of the Metropolitan Police Service, West Midlands Police and West Yorkshire Police where 90 case files were reviewed.

criteria. Due to the small sample size of cases selected per force, we did not use results from the file review as the sole basis for assessing individual force performance, but alongside other evidence gathered.

Force in numbers

A dash in this graphic indicates that a force was not able to supply HMICFRS with data or the data supplied by the forces were not comparable.

Calls for assistance (including those for domestic abuse)

These data were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales. In 2017, the data requested from forces contained a different breakdown of occurrences where the police were called to an incident.

Recorded crime and crime outcomes

These data are obtained from Home Office police recorded crime and outcomes data tables for the 12 months to 30 June 2017 and are taken from the October 2017 Home Office data release, which is available from:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

Total police-recorded crime includes all crime, except fraud offences, recorded by all police forces in England and Wales. Home Office publications on the overall volumes and rates of recorded crime and outcomes include British Transport Police, which is outside the scope of this HMICFRS inspection. Therefore, England and Wales rates in this report will differ from those published by the Home Office.

Data referring to police-recorded crime should be treated with care, as recent increases may be attributed to the renewed focus on the quality and compliance of crime recording since HMICFRS' national inspection of crime data in 2014.

Suffolk Constabulary was unable to submit 2017 outcomes data to the Home Office due to data quality issues, relating to the changing of its crime recording system to Athena. Therefore Suffolk Constabulary has been excluded from the England and Wales figure.

Other notable points to consider when interpreting outcomes data are listed below.

- Crime outcome proportions show the percentage of crimes recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 that have been assigned each outcome. This means that each crime is tracked or linked to its outcome. Therefore these data are subject to change, as more crimes are assigned outcomes over time.

- Under the new framework, 37 police forces in England and Wales provide outcomes data through the Home Office data hub (HODH) on a monthly basis. All other forces provide these data via a manual return also occurring on a monthly basis.
- Leicestershire, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire forces participated in the Ministry of Justice's out of court disposals pilot. This means they no longer issued simple cautions or cannabis/khat warnings and they restrict their use of penalty notices for disorder as disposal options for adult offenders, as part of the pilot. These three pilot forces continued to operate in accordance with the pilot conditions since the pilot ended in November 2015. Other forces subsequently also limited their use of some out of court disposals. Therefore, the outcomes data should be viewed with this in mind.
- Direct comparisons should not be made between general crime outcomes and domestic abuse-related outcomes. Domestic abuse-related outcomes are based on the number of outcomes for domestic-abuse related offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017, irrespective of when the crime was recorded. Therefore, the domestic abuse-related crimes and outcomes recorded in the reporting year are not tracked, whereas the general outcomes are tracked.
- For a full commentary and explanation of outcome types please see Crime Outcomes in England and Wales: year ending March 2017, Home Office, July 2017. Available from:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633048/crime-outcomes-hosb0917.pdf

Anti-social behaviour

These data are obtained from Office for National Statistics data tables (year ending 31 March 2017), available from:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables

All police forces record incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported to them in accordance with the provisions of the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR). Forces record incidents under NSIR in accordance with the same victim-focused approach that applies for recorded crime, although these data are not subject to the same quality assurance as the main recorded crime collection. Incident counts should be interpreted as incidents recorded by the police, rather than reflecting the true level of victimisation. Other agencies also deal with ASB incidents (for example, local authorities and social landlords), but incidents reported to these agencies will not generally be included in police data.

When viewing this data the reader should be aware that Warwickshire Police had a problem with its incident recording. For a small percentage of all incidents reported during 2015-16 the force could not identify whether these were ASB or other types of incident. These incidents have been distributed pro rata for Warwickshire, so that two percent of ASB incidents in the reporting year for 2015-16 is estimated.

Domestic abuse

Data relating to domestic abuse-flagged offences is obtained through the Home Office for the 12 months to 30 June 2017. These are more recent data than those previously published by Office for National Statistics. The Home Office collects these data regularly and requires all forces to record accurately and flag domestic abuse crimes. Domestic abuse flags should be applied in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules³³ to ensure consistency across forces, and within published data sets.

Data relating to domestic abuse arrests and outcomes were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales.

Further information about the domestic abuse statistics and recent releases is available from:

www.ons.gov.uk/releases/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesyearendingmarch2017

When viewing this data the reader should be aware that North Yorkshire Police was unable to give the Home Office comparable data on domestic abuse-flagged crimes. The force extracted data for HMICFRS on the powers and outcomes used to deal with these offences by using an enhanced search. This search examined additional factors (such as the victim / suspect relationship) and included a keyword search to identify additional domestic abuse crimes which may not have been flagged. The force used a simpler search, which identified domestic abuse crimes by flagging alone, to extract data it supplied to the Home Office. As North Yorkshire Police's data on domestic abuse are not comparable with other forces, we have excluded the data.

³³ Home Office Counting Rules are rules in accordance with which crime data – required to be submitted to the Home Secretary under sections 44 and 45 of the Police Act 1996 – must be collected. They set down how the police service in England and Wales must record crime, how crimes must be classified according to crime type and categories, whether and when to record crime, how many crimes to record in respect of a single incident and the regime for the re-classification of crimes as no-crimes.

Organised crime groups (OCGs)

These data were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales. City of London Police is excluded from the England and Wales rate as its OCG data are not comparable with other forces due to size and its wider national remit.

As at 1 July 2017 City of London Police had recorded 46 OCGs. However during the inspection we found that only six OCGs were within the force's geographical area and the remaining 40 were part of the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau's remit.

Figures in the report

Not all forces' reports will contain all the figures we mention in the sections below. This is because some forces' data was incomplete or not comparable with England and Wales data, and in 2017 HMICFRS undertook risk-based inspections.

More details about our risk-based approach can be found here:

www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/how-we-inspect/2017-peel-assessment/#risk-based

Rate of anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers per 1 million population, by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017

These data were collected directly from all 43 geographic police forces in England and Wales. HMICFRS collected data on anti-social behaviour powers, including:

- criminal behaviour orders;
- community protection notices;
- civil injunctions; and
- dispersal orders.

Together these powers form the anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers considered in this report.

The Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced ASB powers which can be applied by both local authorities and the police. The ASB powers data provided in this report covers police data. Therefore, results should be treated with caution as they may not include instances where local authorities exercised these powers.

When viewing this data the reader should be aware of the following:

- Bedfordshire Police, Greater Manchester Police and the Metropolitan Police Service were unable to provide data on anti-social behaviour powers as the data are not held centrally within each force;

- Greater Manchester Police was unable to provide any 2016 ASB use of powers data. Greater Manchester Police intends for its new integrated operational policing system to incorporate recording of ASB powers;
- Suffolk Constabulary was only able to provide data for the southern area of the force in 2017. Therefore its data are excluded;
- The forces highlighted above are not included in the figure or in the calculation of the England and Wales rate;
- Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Humberside and Merseyside forces were only able to provide partial 2017 ASB use of powers data;
- Gloucestershire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Constabulary were unable to obtain data regarding the number of civil injunctions as their local authorities lead the application of these;
- Humberside Police was unable to provide data on community protection notices and civil injunction notices as its local authorities lead the application of these. The force does not collect data on criminal behaviour orders and dispersal orders; and
- Merseyside Police was unable to provide data on dispersal orders as these orders are attached to individual crime files.

Proportion of investigations where action was taken, by force, for offences recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017

Please see 'Recorded Crime and Crime Outcomes' above.

Suffolk Constabulary was unable to provide 2017 crime outcomes data. Dorset Police was unable to provide 2016 crime outcomes data. Therefore, these forces' data are not included in the figure.

Dorset Police was unable to provide 2016 crimes outcome data, because it had difficulty with the recording of crime outcomes for the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This was due to the force introducing the Niche records management system in spring 2015. Problems with the implementation of Niche meant that crime outcomes were not reliably recorded.

Domestic abuse arrest rate (per 100 domestic abuse-related offences), by force, in the 12 months to 30 June 2017

Please see 'Domestic abuse' above.

- The arrest rate is calculated using a common time period for arrests and offences. It is important to note that each arrest is not necessarily directly linked to its specific domestic abuse offence recorded in the 12 months to 30 June 2017 in this calculation. It is also possible to have more than one arrest

per offence. In addition, the reader should note the increase in police-recorded crime which affected the majority of forces over the last year. This may mean arrest rates are higher than the figures suggest. Despite this, the calculation still indicates whether the force prioritises arrests for domestic abuse offenders over other potential forms of action. HMICFRS evaluated the arrest rate alongside other measures (such as use of voluntary attendance or body-worn video cameras) during our inspection process to understand how each force deals with domestic abuse overall.

When viewing this data the reader should be aware of the following:

- Durham, Lancashire, Warwickshire and West Mercia forces were unable to provide domestic abuse arrest data. North Yorkshire Police was unable to provide comparable domestic abuse crime and arrest data, so a rate could not be calculated. Therefore, these forces are not included in the figure.
- Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Durham and Gloucestershire forces were unable to provide 2016 domestic abuse arrest data. Therefore, these forces do not have 2016 data included in the figure.

When viewing domestic abuse arrest data for 2016, the reader should be aware of the following:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary was unable to provide 2016 domestic abuse arrest data due to a recording problem that meant it could only obtain accurate data from a manual audit of its custody records.
- Lancashire Constabulary had difficulty in identifying all domestic abuse-flagged arrests. This affected 23 days in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. The force investigated this and confirmed that the impact on the 2016 data provided to HMICFRS would be marginal and that these are the most reliable data it can provide.

Rate of organised crime groups (OCGs) per 1 million population, by force, as at 1 July 2017

Please see 'Organised crime groups' above.

Organised crime group data from City of London Police are not comparable with other forces. Therefore, its data are not included in the figure.

For data relating to 2016 the number of OCGs in Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police force areas is a combined total of OCGs for the two force areas. The OCGs per 1 million population rate is based upon their areas' combined population. For the 2017 data Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police force split their OCGs into two separate force areas.