

PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

DATE: 21 June 2019

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

PRESENT: Police & Crime Commissioner – Katy Bourne (KB)
Chief Executive Officer – Mark Streater (MS)
Deputy Chief Constable – Jo Shiner (JS)
Assistant Chief Constable – Jon Savell (JSav)
Digital Content Officer – Sammi Carwardine (audio recording)
Head of Performance – Graham Kane (retrospective minutes)
Senior Media Relations Officer – Jill Pederson (observing)

ROAD SAFETY

I continue to encourage communities and partners to play a full and active part in making the roads of Sussex safer. This work is carried out in partnership with Sussex Police (Operation Crackdown), Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Community Speed Watch groups.

A. What are the key areas of risk around road safety in the summer months for Sussex Police and how is the Force planning to respond to these?

B. What is the Force specifically doing to ensure the safety of motorcyclists and deal positively with those who continue to break the law?

C. What other initiatives does Sussex Police have planned to tackle the main causes of death and serious injury on the county's roads for the rest of the year?

JS confirmed that the 'fatal four' continue to remain the key areas of risk for Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP). These are: excessive or inappropriate speed; driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; driver distractions (such as using mobile devices) and not wearing a seat belt.

The summer months present Sussex Police with a number of challenges around road safety and the Force has a "robust response" in place to respond with targeted road policing campaigns in place for each of these.

'Operation Ride' is the Sussex Police enforcement operation that tackles the anti-social use of motorcycles and Powered Two-Wheelers (PTWs) on the roads, in respect of inappropriate speed and noise. Operation Ride is run by the Force throughout the summer months when the use of motorcycles and PTWs predominantly increases as the weather improves.

It was highlighted that Sussex Police use marked and unmarked units, including motorcycles equipped with video recording capabilities, to patrol the roads used most frequently by PTWs. Offending riders are stopped and their bikes are examined for illegally fitted equipment, including exhaust systems, and any offences discovered are subject to prosecution through the courts. Sussex Police continue to provide educational material and seminars to riders throughout the year, in order to influence positively their behaviour and attitudes.

*The Deputy Chief Constable also confirmed that the Force provides the communities of Sussex with an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving through **Operation Crackdown**. This is a joint initiative run by Sussex Police and the SSRP that enables the Force to develop intelligence regarding repeat offenders, vehicles, times and locations which can then be used to plan, target and deploy police resources. Further information can be viewed through the following link:*

<http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

KB explained that the number of individuals killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads of Sussex has remained consistent at approximately 1,000 a year (or an average of 20 KSIs a week). JS confirmed that the Force continues to focus on the number of KSIs recorded in Sussex through the identification and targeting of new and emerging threats.

Following the precept increase in 2018/19, Sussex Police has invested further money into roads policing, including the Serious Collision Investigation Unit. This ensures that the Force is able to investigate properly the most serious collisions that lead to death or serious injury on the roads in Sussex.

It was emphasised that the SSRP has a lead responsibility for reducing road casualties across Sussex through a combination of education, engineering and enforcement. The SSRP brings together teams from Sussex Police, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Brighton & Hove City Council and Highways England. It was highlighted that this partnership-based approach is required in order to work towards creating a safer environment for all road users.

The Deputy Chief Constable concluded by stating that 'Operation Dragonfly', the dedicated Sussex Police summer drink-and-drug-drive campaign, will commence on Monday, 24 June 2019 and will run for two weeks until Sunday, 7 July 2019. KB confirmed that the results of this campaign will be raised at the Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) on 19 July 2019.

CRIME DATA INTEGRITY

In September 2016, Sussex Police received an unannounced crime data integrity inspection. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) judged the Force to be 'good' at crime recording.

A. How do Sussex Police monitor ongoing performance in this area, outside of the HMICFRS inspection process?

B. The inspection report identified SIX 'areas for improvement' for Sussex Police and it was agreed that these would be revisited at a future PAM. What progress has been made by the Force to address these areas for improvement?

C. How regularly does the Force carry out internal crime data integrity audits and what do the governance arrangements look like around this?

JS confirmed that Sussex Police were the first police force area in England and Wales to be inspected by HMICFRS in this area in 2016. It was highlighted that crime data integrity is an "incredibly complex area" with substantial rules and regulations in place to ensure that it is carried out consistently and accurately throughout England and Wales.

The Deputy Chief Constable explained that when the Force was last inspected HMICFRS confirmed that Sussex Police had a high compliance rate – with 95% of all reported crimes recorded accurately. There were no specific recommendations made to the Force in the report, although six areas for improvement were identified. HMICFRS has not confirmed when any further unannounced inspections of crime data integrity will commence but the Inspectorate is already revisiting some police forces based on previous inspection findings.

It was emphasised that Sussex Police carry out regular crime data integrity audits on the areas of crime recording that require it based on internally completed risk-assessments. A separate review, looking at processes and compliance, remains ongoing and is expected to recommend that the Force expands the training provisions in place for police officers and staff, particularly for complex areas such as stalking, domestic abuse and sexual offences. The level of resources and posts in the Data Compliance team are also being assessed to consider whether these need to be enhanced, following historical reductions, in order to maximise compliance in this important area. This review is expected to be completed by the end of July 2019.

The Force's performance in respect of crime data integrity is monitored and reviewed through the bi-monthly Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy Board and the quarterly Organisational Reassurance Board. Both meetings are chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable. JS also has a monthly 1-2-1 meeting with the Force Crime Registrar, who is responsible for crime data integrity, to ensure that the findings of any audits are not diluted in any reports.

The Deputy Chief Constable provided KB with assurances that Sussex Police is working hard to address the six areas for improvement identified in the report through their regular audit processes. JS concluded by stating that Sussex Police need to keep crime data integrity under constant review in order to ensure that the residents of Sussex can remain confident in the ability of the Force to record crime accurately. This also has an impact on the ability of Sussex Police to target resources to those locations where they will have the greatest impact. KB agreed to revisit this area at the PAM on 13 September 2019.

SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY

In April 2018, the Home Secretary launched a Serious Violence Strategy which set out the Government's response to serious violence following the recent increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.

A. In light of the Strategy, the criteria contained within and the additional funding that has been awarded to Sussex Police – what initiatives are taking place in this area across Sussex, how will these be managed and how will the outcomes be measured?

B. Earlier this month, the Home Office held a South East Regional Serious Violence Strategy Engagement Event in Sussex with representation from police force areas in Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley, together with their Police & Crime Commissioners. Following this event, what actions are Sussex Police taking to develop their response to serious violence in the South East region?

C. The Strategy states that "tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone. It requires a multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors." What action has Sussex Police taken (or plans to take) with partners to tackle serious violence?

JSav began by explaining that Sussex Police and the Police & Crime Commissioner have been successful in securing multiple strands of funding to tackle serious violence in Sussex. This has included:

- *£1.340 million from the Serious Violence Fund to support a law enforcement agency surge to tackle serious violence, with a particular focus on knife crime;*
- *£891,616 from the Early Intervention Youth Fund to divert young people away from crime; and*
- *£880,000 from the Home Office to create and support a Violence Reduction Unit in Sussex.*

There are three elements planned to spend the additional funding received, including:

- ✓ *Surge activity: involving increased local high-visibility patrols, stop and searches and preventative activity, including 'knife sweeps';*
- ✓ *Partnership working: to understand better the scale of the issue in Sussex, particularly in respect of closer working with healthcare professionals and agencies that support the homeless and street communities; and*
- ✓ *Operation Safety: an education, engagement and awareness raising initiative delivered to schools and other educational establishments.*

It was highlighted that KB has used the funding from the Early Intervention Youth Fund to establish a Sussex Early Intervention Youth Programme, called REBOOT, throughout Sussex. The aim of REBOOT is to engage positively with those under the age of 18 at risk of committing serious violence, and those who have already come to the attention of the police through anti-social behaviour and low-level crime. REBOOT will work with local authorities and statutory partners in health, police and probation, together with schools and other educational establishments, and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

JSav confirmed that as a result of the South East Regional Serious Violence Strategy Engagement Event, Sussex Police is now coordinating a monthly regional serious violence meeting, with thematic leads from the police force areas in Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley. The purpose of this meeting is to share best practice and to identify commonality of approach in this area.

The Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that Sussex Police has developed a local Serious Violence Strategy, led by Detective Superintendent Stuart Hale. The Strategy is presented under four areas (pursue; prevent; protect and prepare) and sets out what the Force would like to achieve in Sussex and the plans in place to deliver this.

It was also highlighted that the Strategy sets out a specific partnership-based approach to tackling serious violence in Sussex. To support this ambition, a monthly multi-agency meeting has been established that is coordinated by Sussex Police and comprises of partners from local authorities, children's social care, community safety, public health and youth offending throughout the county.

This meeting will be involved in spending the aforementioned £880,000 that has been secured from the Home Office to tackle serious violence through the creation of a Violence Reduction Unit. This funding has been awarded, subject to a satisfactory business case, performance plan and framework being developed and presented to HM Treasury, setting out the planned educational, training, social care and health-related initiatives that will be achieved. Sussex Police plan to support this work from both a preventative and enforcement perspective. The funding also needs to be spent by March 2020 and will be monitored through the monthly Strategic Planning Board, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, and formally reported back to the Home Office on a quarterly basis.

COUNTY LINES – DRUG GANGS AND ORGANISED CRIMINAL NETWORKS

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

A. Can you provide me with an update regarding performance in this area, including the number of active 'lines' in Sussex and any recent disruption activity?

B. How are you developing and improving the response in Sussex?

C. How is the Force proactively working with partners to tackle county lines?

The Assistant Chief Constable reiterated that county lines crime relates to the supply of Class A drugs, primarily crack cocaine and heroin, from urban cities to market towns, coastal areas and rural locations by young people, using a branded mobile telephone line. There are also links to gangs and criminal networks using increasing levels of extreme violence and intimidation to establish and maintain these markets.

It was highlighted that the scale of active county lines in Sussex is extremely variable and is subject to change on a weekly basis. The Force does, however, now have an enhanced understanding of county lines activity through intelligence that has been received locally, regionally and nationally as part of a collective and partnership-based approach.

JSav confirmed that Sussex Police recently supported the National Crime Agency and the County Lines Intensification Week that ran from 13 to 19 May 2019 as part of an ongoing commitment to tackle and disrupt county lines drug dealing. During this week, the Force made a number of arrests for county lines offences and seized large amounts of drugs, cash and weapons. The week also involved focussed policing activity to support vulnerable individuals, including visiting addresses where people were at risk of being 'cuckooed' to check on their safety, together with delivering educational inputs to schools, colleges, universities, hotels and taxi firms about identifying county lines offences.

The Assistant Chief Constable recognised that the response in Sussex could be developed and improved further still by understanding better the different ways of diverting children and young people away from being drawn into gangs and county lines activity. This remains a collective responsibility for all partners to tackle and respond to.

JSav stated that he was confident that the Prevention Youth Officers (PYOs) are being utilised effectively in Sussex to engage with schools and other educational establishments. As part of this work, the PYOs are raising awareness of the risks of children and young people being drawn into gangs and county lines activity. KB was reassured that this preventative activity is also extended to Alternative Provision Colleges and Pupil Referral Units, outside of mainstream education.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME STRATEGY – MODERN SLAVERY

In November 2018, the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy was launched and set out the Government's response to the range of serious and organised crime threats identified.

A. What are the challenges for Sussex Police in terms of modern slavery and human trafficking?

B. How has the availability of this Strategy, together with the Modern Slavery Strategy, supported the Force in this work?

C. Some of the categories of serious offences covered by the term in the Strategy are 'hidden' and under-reported, including modern slavery. What is the Force doing to raise awareness and support victims to report these crimes?

D. What support has been received from local partners in this area?

JSav began by defining modern slavery and human trafficking as "knowingly holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them during or soon after." It is possible to be a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking without crossing a national border, although human trafficking often involves an international cross-border element.

It was emphasised that one of biggest challenges for the police service is that individuals do not always consider themselves to be the victim of either modern slavery crimes or human trafficking offences. The number of ports, harbours, marinas and beaches along the 137 miles of coastline in Sussex – together with the availability of Gatwick Airport – means that there are lots of opportunities for individuals to be trafficked into the county. Sussex Police is working closely with Border Force and Immigration at the Airport to manage this risk.

The Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that there are approximately four modern slavery crimes reported to Sussex Police every week. This is anticipated to represent a significant under-reporting with individuals either not having the trust and confidence to come forward to report these offences or being fearful of authority, dependent of the country they have been trafficked from. It is also understood that some victims might not even know how or who to report these crimes to in the first instance.

It is acknowledged that police officers, staff and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Sussex are identifying better when other crimes or offences also involve modern slavery offences. This enables the Force to work "smarter" within the confines of the legislation to secure greater sentences for those found to be perpetrating these abhorrent crimes.

It was also emphasised that Sussex Police has been working hard to improve the understanding of partner agencies in this area. A dedicated Modern Slavery Delivery Manager, funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner, has been working with partners across Sussex to raise awareness of modern slavery, develop a coordinated response and to provide training and support to local communities in tackling modern slavery. This has contributed to increases in the intelligence reports received regarding modern slavery offences from under 20 reports per month to more than 50 reports per month. This additional intelligence is providing the Force with a greater understanding of the types of modern slavery and human trafficking offences taking place in Sussex.

The Assistant Chief Constable confirmed that there is a National Strategic Action Plan which sets out the 52 areas of good practice or deliverables that need to be implemented by each of the police forces areas in England and Wales. The Chief Constable for Devon and Cornwall Police is responsible for coordinating this Plan to improve the overall policing response to modern slavery. Sussex Police has satisfied 45 of the 52 deliverables set out in the Plan – which equates to 86% - with further plans in place to discharge the remaining seven deliverables.

OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

The Warrant Enforcement Bureau undertakes regular checks of all outstanding warrants in Sussex and use a broad range of methods to find and locate these individuals.

A. How many arrest warrants were issued in Sussex in 2018/19 and what was the execution rate for these warrants?

B. How many arrest warrants remain outstanding and what different categories do these relate to?

C. What is Sussex Police doing to find these individuals and how are they prioritised?

D. What impact have the changes to pre-charge bail had on the number outstanding warrants now that there is no formal duty to report back to a police station or court for those individuals released under investigation?

JS confirmed that 1,516 arrest warrants were issued in Sussex throughout the calendar year of 2018, of which only 84 remained outstanding as at 31 December 2018. This equated to an execution rate of 94% and confirms that Sussex Police remains focussed on executing the vast majority of warrants as a matter of routine.

The Deputy Chief Constable also explained that 650 warrants were issued between the period 1 January to 31 May 2019, of which 146 remain outstanding. This equates to a lower execution rate of 78% which is consistent with the performance for the same period in 2018. The Force is confident that a similar execution rate to the one achieved in 2018 will still be achieved across the full calendar year in 2019.

The warrants are categorised by the Warrant Enforcement Bureau based on the seriousness of the offence, vulnerability of the victim and characteristics of the offender as follows:

Category A: *for the most serious offences including murder, rape, serious assaults, robbery and drug trafficking (these warrants are subject to a review every two weeks);*

Category B: *for the less serious offences including volume crime, theft, possession of drugs and criminal damage (these warrants are subject to a review every three weeks);*

Category C: *for minor public order offences including drunk and disorderly and low level traffic offences (these warrants are subject to a review every four weeks).*

The Warrant Enforcement Bureau enter all warrants received onto a system and make an initial assessment against threat, harm and risk, before they are tasked out to the most appropriate team for response. All outstanding or 'live' warrants in the system are reviewed daily and prioritised accordingly to ensure that the individuals wanted are found and located.

It was emphasised that this can be a time-consuming process which directly impacts on the availability of police resources. The importance of providing a proportionate policing response was reiterated. KB was also reassured to note that all warrants continue to remain live on the system until an individual is either found or could not possibly be alive anymore.

The Deputy Chief Constable stated that there are too many variables to make a definitive inference that the changes to pre-charge bail, introduced by the Policing and Crime Act in April 2017, are having a detrimental impact on arrest warrants in Sussex. The evidence available at present suggests that this is not the case and further work is required to understand this position better.