

## **OSPCC Statement of Intent – Sussex PCC Candidacy for Mayor of Sussex**

Katy Bourne, the current Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), has been selected as the Conservative Party candidate for the first mayoral election in Sussex on 4 May 2028.

Between now and the election in May 2028, the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) will continue to ensure that the PCC remains supported when discharging her statutory duties under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 through the adoption of a 'business as usual' approach.

The OSPCC will adhere to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity 2011 to ensure that all communications activity and publicity complies with applicable statutory provisions between now and May 2028. This includes not using any public resources for party political purposes or incurring any expenditure for the purposes of publicity designed to influence members of the public to take a particular view. These principles extend to using the staff, facilities and equipment within the OSPCC and Sussex Police.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act also places political restrictions on any support for individual candidates on OSPCC staff. This includes prohibiting anything that could be perceived as showing support for an individual candidate or party and/or be used by a candidate to show or imply support for their campaign.

The OSPCC remains committed to treating all candidates registered by the returning officer even-handedly and fairly. This will include the provision of open-source information only when responding to correspondence or requests for information. Any information that is provided to individual candidates will also be published on the PCC website for transparency.

This will replicate the same approach taken by the OSPCC ahead of the previous PCC elections when Mrs Bourne was also selected as the Conservative Party candidate.