

SUSSEX POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 3 July 2015.

Present:

David Simmons Adur DC
Len Brown (1) Arun DC
Emma Daniel Brighton and Hove CC
Lee Wares (2) Brighton and Hove CC
Eileen Lintill Chichester DC
Michael Jones Crawley BC
John Ungar Eastbourne BC
Bill Bentley East Sussex CC
Rosalyn St Pierre East Sussex CC
Andrew Cartwright (3) Hastings BC
Tony Nicholson Lewes DC
Pru Moore (4) Mid Sussex DC
Eleanor Kirby-Green Rother DC
Claire Dowling Wealden DC
Brad Watson OBE West Sussex CC
Graham Jones West Sussex CC
Val Turner Worthing BC
Graham Hill Independent
Sandra Prail Independent

(1) Substitute for Paul Wotherspoon
(2) Substitute for Dee Simson
(3) Substitute for Warren Davies
(4) Substitute for Norman Webster

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Wotherspoon (Adur DC), Dee Simson (Brighton & Hove CC), Warren Davies (Hastings BC), Kate Rowbottom (Horsham DC) and Norman Webster (Mid Sussex DC)

In attendance: Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner; Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC); Carl Rushbridge, Chief Finance Officer of the OSPCC; and Ninesh Edwards and Katherine De La Mora (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE- CHAIRMAN

1. The Panel proposed and seconded Brad Watson as Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.
2. Resolved – that Brad Watson is elected Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.
3. The Chairman welcomed both new and returning members to the Panel and advised that if members required any advice or support on the work of the Panel to please contact Ninesh Edwards.

Election of Vice-Chairman

4. The Panel proposed and seconded Bill Bentley as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.
5. Resolved – that Bill Bentley is elected Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6. In accordance with the code of conduct members of the Panel declared the personal interests contained in the table below. Paragraph X also contains declarations of interest.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Len Brown	Member of Safer Arun Partnership
Bill Bentley	Chairman of East Sussex Safer Community Board
Andrew Cartwright	Chairman of Community Alcohol Programme A member of the East Sussex Safer Communities Board
Emma Daniel	Member of Brighton and Hove Safe in the City Partnership Board
Graham Hill	Senior Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support charity Member of Crawley Community Safety Partnership Board
Eleanor Kirby-Green	Member of Safer Rother Partnership
Eileen Lintill	Member of Chichester Community Safety Partnership
Tony Nicholson	Chairman of Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing Chairman of Safer West Sussex Partnership
Rosalyn St Pierre	Chairman of East Sussex Corporate Parenting Panel (in relation to Item 9)
Val Turner	Member of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing
John Ungar	Member of East Sussex Community Safety Board
Brad Watson	Member of Horsham Safety Partnership

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 24 April 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 REVIEW OF PANEL MEMBERSHIP AND PROPORTIONALITY

8. The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Panel which set out the political makeup of the Panel's constituent authorities. The Panel was asked to: consider the reappointment of the two independent co-opted members; consider whether the two County Councils should be invited to make one additional appointment each to address the political balance of the Panel; and agree the party political affiliation of any additional members.

9. Resolved – that the Panel agrees:

- 1) To a Panel membership of 18 with two independent members.
- 2) To renew the appointment of the two independent co-opted members for a period of one year;
- 3) The appointment of two additional local authority members from the County Councils for a period of a year; and
- 4) That the two additional County Council appointments should be made as follows: the additional member from West Sussex County Council should be drawn from the UKIP Group and the additional member from East Sussex County Council from the Liberal Democrat Group.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

10. The Chairman introduced the public question time which was an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Panel and the Commissioner. No questions had been received prior to the meeting, and no members of the public attended to ask a question.

11. The Chairman agreed to consider the possibility of receiving an officer report or setting up a small Working Group in the future to look at ways to publicise the work of the Police and Crime Panel and to consider how the Panel could carry out their role more effectively.

6 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT

12. The Panel considered the Commissioner's Annual Report which provided an update of the Commissioner performance against the priorities, objectives and measures as set out in the Police and Crime Plan for the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015.

13. The Commissioner introduced the report, highlighting the aim to deliver an effective and efficient service across Sussex, within the recognised financial challenges. Sussex had a 55% overall reduction in recorded crime over the last ten years. A 7% increase in the reporting of crimes relating to domestic abuse, serious sexual offences anti-social behaviour and hate crimes was recorded over the last year due to the promotion and encouragement of reporting these types of crimes. The Commissioner also highlighted the work that had been completed under the four key objectives, including investment in frontline policing, safeguarding and tackling cyber-crime; the development of the victim services contact, the work of the Sussex Youth Commission and the Performance & Accountability meetings (PAMs) that the Commissioner held monthly to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police.

14. The Panel raised the following issues with the Commissioner:

- The Panel highlighted residents' concerns in local policing and asked if PCSO levels would continue to be maintained as they had been in 2014/15. *The Commissioner advised that Sussex Police were currently reviewing neighbourhood and local policing and would be able to provide details once the review was complete.*
- The Panel queried the 7% increase in reporting of certain crimes and asked what benchmarking had been done against other Police Forces who had also promoted improved reporting to seek assurance that the rise did not reflect an actual increase in crime. *The Commissioner identified two areas that have affected the increase in crime reporting. Firstly a national report had indicated that 82% of crimes were being reported accurately by Sussex Police. As a result a lot of work had been carried out to improve recording of crimes, with crime integrity data now at 97%. Secondly, the reporting of these types of crimes (domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes) had been encouraged and were traditionally very underreported.* The Panel asked for a breakdown of the increase of each of the different strands of crime identified.
- The Panel welcomed the achievements of the Commissioner, however they requested that information on areas that required improvement or further development were also included in future reports. *The Commissioner highlighted the financial challenges that faced the police force and that the Local Policing Model would be implemented over the next 4-5 years to tackle this. The nature of crime was also changing, for example cyber-crime and online fraud, and the Sussex Police needed to look at how they flex to react to these changes. The Commissioner assured the Panel that the Chief Constable was clear on the key requirements for the Police; catching criminals and protecting the vulnerable. The Commissioner also highlighted that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) was carrying out an efficiency inspection, with the outcomes expected in September. The report would be available on the www.gov.uk website and the Commissioner would respond to the report and follow up the recommendations at the PAM meetings with the Chief Constable. The financial challenge was the biggest that faced Sussex Police and the Commissioner would continue to challenge and monitor the implementation of the Local Policing Model.*
- The Panel highlighted that the number of killed and seriously injured (KSI) on the roads in East Sussex was in the top quarter nationally and that this needed to be addressed by the Commissioner. The Panel also raised the increased use of 'legal highs' and the impact this could have on KSI rates. *The Commissioner agreed that it was a concern, and the issue had been discussed at recent PAM meetings with the Chief Constable. Operation Crackdown had been re-established and Operation Dragonfly has been introduced to target drink and drug driving offences. Sussex Police were also one of the first forces nationally to publish details of offenders online. The Commissioner said on the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership Board and would continue to challenge the current figures and how they could be reduced. The Panel highlighted that the high figures were a continuous trend and suggested that a more proactive approach needed to be taken to address the issue, recognising that it was also closely linked to road engineering.*
- The Panel asked what the Commissioner's view and role was in relation to combating terrorism and suggested that this information is included in future reports. *The Commissioner confirmed that terrorism was part of the national strategic policing requirements and that part of her role was to ensure that the Strategic Policing Requirement is adhered to. The Commissioner agreed that this information could be included in her Annual Report in the future.*

- The Panel asked what challenge the Commissioner had given to the Chief Constable to support communities to tackle the impact of 'legal highs' for example and the increase in anti-social behaviour. *The Commissioner confirmed that reference was made to legal highs in the Queen's Speech and the legislation would be considered in the future. Meanwhile the issue was high on the police agenda and laws that were currently available to them to address the issue were being used, for example to size legal highs at events.*
- The Panel queried whether any underspend could be allocated to fund victim of crime support given the increased pressure on services through increases in crime reporting. *The Commissioner confirmed that budget commitments were already in place to recruit 36 new Serious Offence Liaison Officers that a significant amount of the precept was being used for victim support.*

15. The Panel thanked the Commissioner for a very interesting report.

16. Resolved – That the Panel accepts the Commissioner's Annual report, and agrees to write to the Commissioner to outline the comments made.

17. The Panel held a minute's silence at 12pm to remember the victims of the terrorist attack in Tunisia on Friday 26 June.

7 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE HOST AUTHORITY

18. The Panel considered the annual report from the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel which provided the annual budget report setting out the costs of the operation of the Panel over the course of the last year and a summary of the main achievements of the Panel. In addition the report asked the Panel to note the new mileage rate of 49.26p per mile and the requirement for the publication of Panel expenditure on the Police and Crime Panel website.

19. The Chairman thanked the host authority for their work in supporting the Panel over the last year and East Sussex County Council for the use of their facilities.

20. Resolved – that the panel:

1. Notes the budget outturn for 2014/15
2. Notes the new mileage rate of 49.26p per mile
3. Notes the requirement for the publication of Panel expenditure on the Police and Crime Panel website

8 POLICE AND CRIME PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

21. The Panel considered the Work Plan of the Panel for 2015/16. The Chairman invited the Panel to make any comments on the topics highlighted in the Work Programme and make suggestions on any further topics that should be considered by the Panel.

22. The Panel raised the following points:

- That the potential set up of a Working Group to look at the new policing model should be included on the Work Programme for the Panel to consider at its meeting in January.
- Suggested that the Panel receive a report on Road Safety with input from Sussex Police and local highways. The Chairman agreed to discuss with the Commissioner

the best way to handle this topic.

- Requested that the results of the HMIC report on efficiency (expected in September 2015) be added to the Work Plan as a potential agenda item for a future meeting.

23. The Commissioner advised that a consultation had recently been published to explore how Police complaints were handled and she would welcome the support of the Panel to explore the best way forward, potentially through the establishment of a Working Group.

24. The Panel agreed to add the complaints consultation to the Work Plan as a potential topic for a Working Group and also for a short agenda item to a future meeting.

25. Resolved – That the Panel agreed the Work Plan, subject to the additions as set out in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.3 above.

26. Claire Dowling left the meeting at 12.20pm.

9 THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ENABLING THE APPROACH TO TACKLE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

27. The Panel considered a report by the Commissioner that provided an overview of the activity the Commissioner was undertaking in relation to tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE)

28. Michael Jones declared a personal interest as a member of the Safer Crawley Partnership.

29. The Chief Executive of the OSPCC introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- CSE was now a national Strategic Policing Requirement and was recognised as a very complex area including a large number of crimes and activities.
- The Commissioner was in constant liaison with the Chief Constable to be briefed on the work being done by Sussex Police to understand the local problem profile and what action plan was being put in place.
- Sussex Police were leading on an assessment of 'what the picture looks like for Sussex', recognising the importance of multi-agency working and with the intention of creating a new Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Structure.
- Brighton and Hove was a pilot area for the 'See Me, Hear Me' initiatives.

30. The Chairman recognised the serious and complex nature of the issue and confirmed that the Panel's role would be to monitor the work of the Commissioner, whilst recognising that this was a much wider issue affecting multiple partners across the region.

31. The Panel raised the following issues with the Commissioner:

- Asked if the trust young people have in the police was an issue that affected the number of CSE related crimes that were reported and if any work would be undertaken to increase young people's confidence in the police. *The Commissioner confirmed that Brighton was one of three pilot areas for the See Me, Hear Me initiative that would be carried out over two years, look specifically at child exploitation. The work and evaluation were being underpinned by the University of Sussex to help create clear outcomes on best practice. Any learning would be*

disseminated across Sussex immediately through the Pan-Sussex Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Group. The Panel asked if the data from the pilot would distinguish between new and historic crimes. The Commissioner advised that the evaluation criteria would be set by the Office of Child Commissioner. The Chief Executive advised that in the last year approximately 4,000 crimes had been reported that linked to CSE. Of these, 40% had been reported within one month of occurring and 4% of the crimes were classed as historic (having occurred up to 25 years ago).

- *Questioned whether the increased media coverage of CSE had resulted in a large number of historic cases being reported to Sussex Police and what impact this was having on resources. The Commissioner confirmed that part of the precept increase over the last two years had been used to increase funding in this area. A serious and Sexual Offence Unit had been established, constituting of 36 officers and the Commissioner would be constantly reviewing the resourcing in place to ensure it was adequate. The Panel welcomed the addition of the Sexual Offence Liaison Officers (SOLOs) and asked what additional support is provided to victims following court cases, recognising that the increased number of cases was putting a strain on voluntary organisations. The Commissioner confirmed that an additional £250k had been invested in Specialist Advisors and that she would continue to monitor the capacity of post-court specialist services across Sussex.*
- *Asked what the timetable would be for the development of an action plan and when it would be completed. The Chief Executive confirmed that a lot of work was currently being undertaken. The Safeguarding Boards all had action plans in place. The Sussex Police Action Plan would look at what additional work was required to enable resources to be targeted accordingly. The majority of risk has been identified as local cases, e.g. 'sexting' and therefore a campaign was already underway to work with schools to education pupils of the risk, including the production of a video 'Charlotte's Story'.*
- *Asked how residents/communities with concerns of suspected CSE activity can report this. The Commissioner advised that residents should use the 101 service of Crimestoppers if they wished to remain anonymous. Reporting was included in the See Me, Hear Me pilot and so it would be interesting to await the outcome of that. The Panel highlighted that the 101 system was not always the most straightforward for residents to use and suggested that a dedicated local number could be explored as a potential option.*
- *The Panel recognised the increased responsibility of schools and asked what the Safeguarding Boards were doing to ensure that schools were adhering to the safeguarding principles. The Commissioner confirmed that she regularly met with the Chairmen of the three Boards and school activity was monitored.*
- *Asked what work was done to help tackle organised CSE crime and whether anything further needed to be done to help ensure sufficient evidence was gathered and children were suitably informed. The Commissioner confirmed that work was on-going with local authorities on the organised crime aspect. A pilot site would be run in Sussex, in collaboration with Surrey, to run through a test case to see how all the organisations work together and establish any key learning.*
- *Asked whether any work was being done to focus on potential problem areas, for example host families for language schools and home-to-school transport. The Commissioner agreed to raise these as potential problem areas.*
- *Queried what work would be carried out beyond September 2015, as outlined in the Work Programme in Appendix 3 of the papers. The Commissioner advised that the*

work programme focussed on the work of the CSE analyst and that Local Authorities will be invited to help continue the work beyond September.

32. The Chairman thanked the Commissioner for the report and answers to the Panel's questions and recognised the importance of the Panel keeping up to date as the work progresses.

33. Resolved – that the Panel notes the reports.

10 QUARTERLY REPORT OF COMPLAINTS

34. The Panel received and noted a report providing an update on complaints received in the last quarter and progress made on live complaints. No new complaints received by the Panel over the last quarter pertained to issues within the remit of the Panel.

11 WRITTEN QUESTIONS

35. The Panel received and noted the schedule of written questions submitted prior to the meeting and responses from the Commissioner's Office.

12 COMMISSIONER'S QUESTION TIME

36. The Panel welcomed the debate and topics that had been covered in the meeting and had no further questions for the Commissioner at the time.

The meeting ended at 1.20pm.

(The meeting ended at Time Not Specified)

CHAIRMAN