



Agenda item no. 6

To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Subject:	The role of the Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police provide an effective response to schools and other educational establishments
Date:	6 October 2017
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel note and comment on the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines the planned changes to the Sussex Police response to schools and other educational establishments.
- 1.2 The report also sets out the role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in ensuring that Sussex Police provides an effective policing response to schools and other educational establishments, as well as the accountability of the Chief Constable for the delivery of these changes through the Local Policing Programme (LPP).

2.0 Prevention Youth Officers

- 2.1 Sussex Police currently has 20 Neighbourhood School Officer posts dedicated to working with schools and other educational establishments.
- 2.2 These roles will be changed to Prevention Youth Officer (PYO) posts when the Prevention strand of the LPP goes live on 6 November 2017. However, it should be emphasised that there will not be a reduction in the number of these posts.
- 2.3 The PYOs will develop and maintain relationships with schools and other educational establishments and be an integral part of the newly formed Local Prevention Teams. These officers will work closely with multi-agency safeguarding and vulnerability teams to tackle any identified problems that arise and ensure that a more consistent and joined-up approach around information sharing and problem solving exists.
- 2.4 The remit of the PYO will be very different to that of the existing Neighbourhood School Officer posts. Children and young people are in schools and other educational establishments for approximately seven hours a day. Sussex Police recognise that there is also a need to provide contact for children and young people outside of these traditional school hours. As part of the new model, PYOs will be available for a greater part of the day (0800hrs – 2300hrs) outside of the core school hours.

- 2.5 The PYOs will spend at least 25% of their time in schools and other educational establishments delivering targeted inputs around specific priority areas. These inputs will be agreed at the start of each academic year and will look at both the policing priorities for Sussex Police and the data recorded by the Force in respect of crimes in schools. If an emerging issue is identified within a school or other educational establishment, this will be managed through the Local Prevention Teams and other multi-agency partners.
- 2.6 Sussex Police has also developed new processes to provide greater structure around communication with schools and other educational establishments. This will include the requirement for head teachers or safeguarding leads to carry out risk-assessments on any incidents that take place within their grounds.
- 2.7 Schools and other educational establishments will also be asked to record the actions and interventions they complete within the school arena. Part of this process will include making a decision about whether there is a need to escalate a matter to the police or not because many low-level crimes and incidents can be dealt with by schools and other educational establishments within their own behavioural policies.
- 2.8 If a young person is subsequently referred to the police, the collation of this evidence will provide the investigating officer with more information to assist them in their decision making, allowing a greater consideration of all possible outcome options. There is a clear need for schools and other educational establishments to be able to intervene and offer children and young people diversionary activities that are broader than simply pursuing prosecutions through the criminal justice system. This approach should also contribute to reductions in the number of children and young people who are unnecessarily criminalised.
- 2.9 Schools and other educational establishments will be asked to contact Sussex Police through the non-emergency number (101), online through the Force website or by email if the matter does not require an immediate response. This contact should always be made through the emergency number (999) if an immediate response is required. All reports of crime will be recorded and assessed based on threat, risk and harm. This approach ensures that the most appropriate response can be taken.
- 2.10 PYOs will be asked to take responsibility for sharing their knowledge and expertise with police colleagues from Response, Investigations and other departments within the Force. They will also be required to assist in upskilling all officers (especially other officers working in Prevention) in their understanding of how best to engage and deal with children and young people and of Operation Stepping Stone - the Sussex Police initiative to reduce the criminalisation of children and young people.
- 2.11 The Citizen Focus & Diversity Team within Sussex Police develop relationships with children and young people from all ethnic groups and identify those who might elect to sit on a Youth Independent Advisory Group. The PYOs will also build and develop relationships with staff and residents from children's homes to embed the local and regional protocol to reduce the criminalisation of children in care.

2.12 As well as working with children and young people in schools, the PYOs will also form long-standing relationships with young people and their careers in children's homes. Sussex Police recognise that children and young people in care are some of the most vulnerable in our communities. By forming these relationships in different settings and establishments, the Force is aiming to reduce the risk of these children and young people becoming vulnerable through child sexual exploitation.

2.13 The role of the PYO seeks to:

- work closely with the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation/Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation processes;
- improve the information sharing with Safeguarding Investigation Unit/Missing Persons Team around vulnerable young people;
- ensure that strong relationships exist with schools. This will include the police sharing information with schools when a child has been involved in, or was present during a domestic incident, as part of Operation Encompass. This has been trialed in Crawley and the Force is seeking to roll this out across Sussex within the next year;
- develop a database for vulnerable children and young people that can be viewed and edited by all necessary partner agencies; and
- identify local priorities from daily police briefings in partnership with the social, economic, health, education and safeguarding leads to ensure that educational targeted inputs reflect local objectives.

2.14 Through this approach, Sussex Police will aim to ensure that:

- there is no increase in the criminalisation of children and young people;
- there is no reduction in early safeguarding and information sharing opportunities;
- established and strong relationships with schools are fostered and enhanced;
- there is not a reduction in universal early intervention;
- proactive policing of schools and other educational establishments is maintained.

3.0 Other Sussex Police Initiatives to Work Closely with Children and Young People

3.1 Sussex Police continue to work closely with the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) lead for children and young people. There is a national appetite to treat children as children first and to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children and young people. Operation Stepping Stone is used to embed this ethos throughout Sussex.

3.2 The Force has also developed a new Youth Ambassador role consisting of over 100 police officers and staff with a passion for developing and improving the relationship between young people and the police in Sussex. The Youth Ambassadors have each agreed to be a local point of contact and will seek to influence their peers and colleagues in the way they work and engage with children and young people. Improving the relationship between young people and the police was an issue that was first highlighted by the Sussex Youth Commission in 2015.

- 3.3 Each of the three policing divisions (Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex) has a senior officer representative who sits on the relevant Youth Offending Service Executive Boards and Partnership Tactical Coordinating Groups. The regional Prevent lead also links the Youth Safety Team within Sussex Police to the Prevent Board.
- 3.4 The University of Brighton, in partnership with Sussex Police, developed a Police Liaison Officer role to work at all three university campuses. The post specifically focused on the delivery of the Prevent strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, including the provision of early intervention and education and was a conduit to specialists at Sussex Police. This post was paid for in full by the University.
- 3.5 The post has evolved into a more generic liaison role and in January 2017 an additional officer was recruited to build on the already successful model. Two Police Constables now work closely with the University management team and staff to provide support and guidance to the 20,000 students. Strong working relationships have been developed with student services to ensure that there is good information sharing around safeguarding. They also provide an excellent communication pathway between the University and the relevant Local Policing Teams.
- 3.6 The two officers have a strong visible presence at the University within the educational buildings and the on-site and community accommodation, and are contactable through clinics, telephone, email and social media. Sessions are delivered on topics including crime prevention, consent and resilience. Leaflets have been developed in partnership with the University to provide advice and guidance regarding common issues and concerns. Both of these roles are predominantly paid for by the University of Brighton, with a 10% contribution received from the funds recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). These posts do not currently serve Sussex University.

4.0 Performance Information Relating to Educational Establishments

- 4.1 There was a 16% increase in the number of recorded crimes relating to educational establishments in 2016/17 (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017), in comparison to the same period in 2015/16. This included all recorded crimes relating to schools, colleges and universities, and equated to an additional 254 crimes recorded.

Educational Establishment	2015/16	2016/17	Difference	% Difference
School	1,287	1,565	+ 278	+ 22%
College	192	143	- 49	- 26%
University	114	139	+ 25	+ 22%
Total	1,593	1,847	+ 254	+ 16%

- 4.2 Schools had the greatest number of recorded crimes in 2016/17 and the biggest percentage increase in comparison to the year before. There are 656 schools in Sussex, which equated to 2.39 crimes recorded per school in 2016/17. This was an increase of 0.43 crimes (and 22%) per school. The data available is not currently separated between primary and secondary schools, although it is recognised that the vast majority of these crimes were recorded in secondary schools.

- 4.3 The greatest increases recorded related to 'violence against the person' (+139 additional offences recorded and 20%), 'burglary' (+52 additional offences recorded and 55%), and 'sexual offences' (+49 additional offences recorded and 40%). A breakdown of all of these crime types by educational establishment is included in Appendix A.
- 4.4 The increases in the number of recorded crimes are partly attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) judged Sussex Police to be 'good' at recording crime, with 94.59% of all reported crimes recorded by the Force as part of their Crime Data Integrity inspection in 2016.
- 4.5 The increase in the number of violence against the person crimes are attributed to a greater number of social media based harassment offences being recorded without any physical injury. Following changes to recording classifications, legislative changes and the introduction of new legislation, a higher volume of low level 'violence with no injury' and 'violence with slight injury' crimes have been recorded. This means that crimes that were not recorded previously are now being recorded and contributing to the increase in crime.
- 4.6 Guidance has also been shared with schools and the police in relation to sexual offences, and child produced sexual images, in particular. These increases could also be attributed to a greater awareness amongst professionals and an improved confidence in young people to come forward as victims of sexting. Sussex Police has also developed a campaign to raise awareness of the risk of sending nude selfies through their Snapchat, Instagram and YouTube accounts. This is part of the Force's wider campaign to disrupt, prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation
- 4.7 A reduction in the resources and ability of schools to deal with matters within their own behavioural policies and procedures has also been recognised as a potential contributing factor to the increases recorded. This should be addressed by the PYOs working with schools to record better the actions and interventions they have completed within the school arena without escalating this to the police.
- 4.8 There was, however, a 48% reduction in the number of child offenders in 2016/17, compared to the previous year. This equated to 110 fewer young people being dealt with outside of the criminal justice system. This reduction is attributed to Operation Stepping Stone and the Force using alternative outcomes to deal with children and young people, where appropriate, that do not result in them being given a criminal record.

5.0 Role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

- 5.1 The Commissioner has supported the Chief Constable and Sussex Police to provide an effective response to schools and other educational establishments by providing funding through the following: policing precept, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Safer in Sussex Community Fund (SiSCF).
- 5.2 The Commissioner was again given public and Police & Crime Panel support to increase the policing part of the Council Tax for 2017/18 following a proposal set out by the Chief Constable. Part of this investment was set aside for the PYO posts.

- 5.3 The Commissioner also allocated £1,399,293 to the CSPs in Sussex across 2017/18. This was the fifth year running that the Commissioner protected this funding despite national reductions, with CSPs receiving the same level of funding as they did in 2012/13. This funding has been used by each of the CSPs to tackle crime and local priorities, including the provision of support to schools and other educational establishments in their areas.
- 5.4 The three Youth Offending Boards in Sussex are also given a combined total of £318,896 each year by the Commissioner as part of the community safety funding settlement. The Head of Partnerships from the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner sits on all three of these Boards and provides additional oversight, monitoring and guidance around initiatives to reduce youth offending.
- 5.5 In addition, a total of £71,960 from the SiSCF has been allocated to support 16 local projects that tackle crime and improve community safety in and around schools and other educational establishments since the Fund was established in 2014. A summary of these projects, amounts awarded and a brief description of their work is included in Appendix B.
- 5.6 The Sussex Youth Commission (SYC) was established by the Commissioner in 2014 to give young people across the county an opportunity to have a voice on policing and crime. Several key recommendations were made by the SYC as part of this work including the creation of an Independent Youth Advisory Group within Sussex Police to provide independent advice and scrutiny; and to improve the relationship between young people and the police.

6.0 Accountability

- 6.1 The Commissioner has supported the Chief Constable in the development of the LPP. Now that implementation has begun, the Commissioner continues to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the LPP to ensure that the Sussex Police response is both efficient and effective.
- 6.2 The Commissioner continues to challenge the Chief Constable on the implementation of the LPP at both her weekly meetings, and her monthly webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs).
- 6.3 The Sussex Police response to schools and other educational establishments was specifically raised at the PAM on 15 September 2017.
- 6.4 The LPP was also a theme at four PAMs in 2015 (18 March, 22 May, 31 July and 20 November), three PAMs in 2016 (15 April, 22 July and 21 October) and two PAMs in 2017 to date (27 January and 15 September). All of these sessions are archived and can be viewed on the Commissioner's website through the following link: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/
- 6.5 The Commissioner also has a seat on the Local Policing Programme Board to monitor progress and challenge, where appropriate, on behalf of the public.

Recommended – That the Police & Crime Panel note and comment on the report.

Mark Streater

Chief Executive, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Email: mark.streater@sussex-pcc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01273 481584

APPENDIX A – Performance Information Relating to Educational Establishments

Educational Establishment	Crime Type	2015/16	2016/17	Difference	% Difference
School	Auto theft	7	5	- 2	- 29%
	Burglary	74	117	+ 43	+ 58%
	Criminal damage	171	164	- 7	- 4%
	Other offences	47	54	+ 7	+ 15%
	Other theft and handling	223	247	+ 24	+ 11%
	Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)	26	33	+ 7	+ 27%
	Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)	3	2	- 1	- 33%
	Robbery	1	2	+ 1	+ 100%
	Sexual offences	106	160	+ 54	+ 51%
	Trafficking in controlled drugs	3	3	+/- 0	+/- 0%
	Vehicle interference and tampering	1	1	+/- 0	+/- 0%
	Violence against the person	625	777	+ 152	+ 24%
Total		1,287	1,565	+ 278	+ 22%
College	Auto theft	3	1	- 2	- 67%
	Burglary	13	11	- 2	- 15%
	Criminal damage	23	20	- 3	- 13%
	Other offences	3	4	+ 1	+ 33%
	Other theft and handling	70	56	- 14	- 20%
	Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)	1	3	+ 2	+ 200%
	Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)	0	1	+ 1	+/- 0%
	Robbery	1	0	- 1	- 100%
	Sexual offences	10	5	- 5	- 50%
	Trafficking in controlled drugs	1	0	- 1	- 100%
	Vehicle interference and tampering	1	0	- 1	- 100%
	Violence against the person	66	42	- 24	- 36%
Total		192	143	- 49	- 26%
University	Auto theft	1	0	- 1	- 100%
	Burglary	7	18	+ 11	+ 157%
	Criminal damage	11	12	+ 1	+ 9%
	Other offences	1	1	+/- 0	+/- 0%
	Other theft and handling	76	77	+ 1	+ 1%
	Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)	3	4	+ 1	+ 33%
	Sexual offences	5	5	+/- 0	+/- 0%
	Vehicle interference and tampering	0	1	+ 1	+/- 0%
	Violence against the person	10	21	+ 11	+ 110%
Total		114	139	+ 25	+ 22%
Grand Total		1,593	1,847	+ 254	+ 16%

APPENDIX B – Safer in Sussex Community Fund – Grants Awarded

CSF reference	Name of Project	Name of Organisation	Area	Amount awarded	Brief
SIS218	Equality Awareness in Schools	Diversity Lewes	Lewes	£2,000.00	Diversity training in schools.
SIS059	Safe Start, Safe Future	SafetyNet	B&H	£8,000.00	Safety sessions delivered in schools.
SIS022	Moving Up - Year 11 Transition	Haywards Heath Youth CIC	Mid Sussex	£1,480.00	Project targeted at year 11 students, identified by their school as potential NEETs and in need of additional support in the transition from year 11.
SIS117	WASP After School Club	Impact Initiatives	B&H	£5,000.00	Based in Whitehawk. Many children are referred to the After School and Summer Holiday Club by other professionals as they need a place to go to outside of school where they are safe and cared for and are away from their families who are unable to provide a positive environment particularly over the long summer holidays which are a particularly stressful time for families living in poverty.
CSF172	Culture Swap	Act On It	Hastings	£2,990.00	Pilot in a school in St Leonards-on-Sea. Celebrating diversity and community cohesion. Encouraging the reporting of Hate Crime.
CSF044	Schools Conference: British Values, Prevent and Equality: Linking the agendas together	Equality and Participation Team, Children's Services, East Sussex County Council	East Sussex	£2,000.00	A one-day conference for primary and secondary school staff in East Sussex to make sense of the new Prevent duty and how this links with the teaching of British Values and the wider equality agenda including hate crime.
CSF028	Brunch at the Bridge	Youth Dream	Chichester	£5,000.00	To provide support for 16-24 year olds needing support into education, work and training.
CSF034	Safety in Action events	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service	East Sussex & B&H	£13,500.00	Practical, 'hands on' event aimed at teaching young children aged 10-11 years how to deal with or avoid life-threatening situations. Half-day session for children within their own school groups who take part in a variety of practical sessions lasting 10 minutes each before moving onto the next scenario.
CSF068	Star Youth Project	Sussex Community Development Association	Lewes	£5,000.00	Youth Drop-In provides a flexible and personalised approach to supporting young people who are vulnerable and at a high risk of exclusion, low level crime and ASB. Our partnership with schools will ensure that the young people most "at risk" are identified early and engaged in community based activities, every town has a small group of young people who can be identified by Community Police who are most likely to be responsible for crime and anti-social behaviour.

Agenda Item No. 6

CSF reference	Name of Project	Name of Organisation	Area	Amount awarded	Brief
CSF063	Rock Challenge	Be Your Best Foundation	Sussex-wide	£5,000.00	Performing arts event for young people aged 10 to 18 that involves young people from 16 schools from across Sussex enabling up to 1,500 young people to participate. The aim of the event is to allow young people to experience a drug-free high and increase their resilience to negative influences by building confidence and teamwork skills. Evaluation of previous events has shown that as a result of participation anti social behaviour has reduced in the schools taking part.
CSF121	Chelsea's Choice	PSHE Team, B&H City Council	B&H	£4,790.00	Chelsea's Choice is a well-evaluated Theatre in Education performance that raises awareness of sexual exploitation and increases disclosures in at risk young people. Chelsea's Choice will be delivered to all Year 8 students in Brighton & Hove secondary schools in the summer term 2017. This will reach approximately 4,000 students.
CSF158	Digital Leaders - Changing Lives, Shaping Futures	Priority 1-54	East Sussex	£5,000.00	The development of an effective, sustainable youth-led approach to e-safety, with young Digital Leaders taking the lead in transforming e-safety in their schools and within the wider community.
CSF172	Get Ready!	Haywards Heath Youth CIC	Mid Sussex	£2,200.00	A programme of activities in the summer holidays targeted at young people aged 10 and 11 transitioning between primary and secondary school and living in the Bentswood area of Haywards Heath. Project provides a mix of activities that will help the targeted group develop new friendships and improve self-esteem and confidence and increase their interest in school work.
CSF175	NSPCC School Service - Speak Out, Safe Safe	NSPCC	Sussex-wide	£5,000.00	The NSPCC has been running its free safeguarding service in schools since 2011. 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' is an early intervention programme delivering messages of how primary school children can protect themselves from abuse.
CSF204	Refurbishment of the Landport Community Hub	Landport Community Hub	Lewes	£2,500.00	To renovate and put into full use the Landport Community Hub building in order to keep the targeted youth provision that is there and add a nursery for under 5s and a dance school that provides homework club sessions and a family ethos to young dancers from families with many challenges.
CSF212	The Keystone Centre refurbishment	The Keystone Centre	Arun	£2,500.00	The Keystone Centre provides afterschool activities for young people in Wick, Littlehampton. We reach out to local young people 11-18 with: After school recreational activities and informal learning opportunities. We also aim to help 'at risk' young people facing complex and challenging home lives supporting them to overcome barriers they face to: Being able to engage in education. Integration in the community . Transition into positive adulthoods.
TOTAL IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS/EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS				£71,960.00	