

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

22 January 2016

Written Questions

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

The table below provides a schedule of the written questions received prior to this meeting and where possible responses have been included. Responses will be tabled at the meeting that were not available at the time of despatch. Written Questions must be received 2 weeks before a meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner or Panel Chairman is invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting.

Questions that relate to operational matters of Sussex Police will be passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response and a brief summary of the question will be provided below. For the current meeting two questions have been received for a response by the Commissioner.

| Question | Response |
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| <p>With regard to cuts in neighbourhood and community policing, why such a significant change in policy is being implemented without consultation and against the clear wishes and needs of local citizens, particularly in light of the revelation that the funding estimates upon which the decision was based were incorrect due to mistakes by the Home Office?</p> <p>Steve Parry of Brighton</p> | <p>The Local Policing Programme led by the Chief Constable aims to transform the way that policing is delivered to the residents of Sussex to meet the challenges of the future. In doing so it will ensure the Police Force makes the most effective use of available resources to provide Sussex with local policing, emergency response and successful investigations.</p> <p>The delivery and structure of neighbourhood policing and the roles of PCSOs has been largely unchanged for more than a decade. The new model will ensure that local Prevention teams are focused on targeted problem solving activity based on vulnerability, threat and risk by more multi skilled officers and PCSO's, making the role more responsive to solve local problems.</p> <p>The LPP has a comprehensive strategy to engage and listen to the views of partners and stakeholders. A series of roadshows led by Assistant Chief Constable Robin Smith were held following the launch event last year, participants included MPs, local authorities, district councils and crime prevention groups. Six workshops have been held over a</p> |

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| | <p>two month period with partners to focus on the efficiency of the processes and the approach to customers and services. In addition, five meetings have been held with community safety partners to get their views on the development of the Police Community Support Officer role. There will also be a series of follow up roadshows with stakeholders to report on the progress of the plan and to feedback on what has been learnt and put into practice.</p> <p>As PCC I am closely monitoring the roll out of the LPP with the Chief Constable and his senior team and continuously engaging with the many communities I meet as to how best this will support the policing requirements the public of Sussex want and need.</p> |
| <p>In your last newsletter of 2015 you reported a 37% increase in the reporting of domestic violence in Sussex from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 which she attributed to victims being more empowered to report domestic violence. In March 2014 Crawley MP Henry Smith received a parliamentary reply during justice questions & subsequent FOI requests have shows there has been a 76% increase in the granting of non-molestations orders in Sussex Family Court from 2011 to 2014 (Brighton 44.2%, Chichester 380%, Eastbourne 48.6%, Hastings 90.4%, Horsham 110.0% & Worthing 16.0%) as some people are using these injunction orders for non-meritorious application for legal aid for divorce and family matters. Can the Sussex PCC liaise with Henry Smith MP and ask the chief constable about setting up a criminal investigation into those people who have obtained legal aid in Sussex since 1st April 2013 by fraud by the false reporting of domestic violence to police, social services or courts.</p> <p>Richard Nixon of Crawley</p> | <p>If the questioner has evidence that he wishes to report in respect of a criminal matter, I would encourage this to be directed to Sussex Police. My office is able to assist if required.</p> |