



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

**2015/16
Annual Report**

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1. Introduction

Welcome to my 2015/16 Annual Report setting out what I have successfully delivered as your Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner during the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

I'm extremely honoured to have been re-elected as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner for a further four year term of office. It is a responsible role that I take seriously and I am looking forward to getting back to work to continue to deliver on the priorities that matter to people in Sussex.

This continues to be a very difficult time for the police service and, despite this, I am still pleased to be able to report that Sussex Police continues to deliver efficient and effective policing across the county, meeting the priorities set out in my Police & Crime Plan.

I am particularly pleased that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary recognised Sussex as one of only five police force areas nationally to achieve a rating of "good" or "outstanding" across all core Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy inspection areas.

I am also pleased to note that Sussex remains a low crime area and has seen an overall 32% reduction in recorded crime since 2005. I sought to increase public confidence in the reporting of domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes in 2015/16, to enable better identification of vulnerable victims in Sussex. As a result, recorded crimes per 1,000 population increased by 4% across the year. These increases were in line with national trends and can also be attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending.

I have continued to use monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police against the priorities, objectives and measures set out in the Police & Crime Plan. As a result of these PAMs, notable improvements have been made to burglary dwelling and burglary other than a dwelling performance across 2015/16.

Further achievements include the investment in personal-issue body-worn video cameras for all primary responders, development of an online directory of all support services available in Sussex, the creation of a Elders' Commission and a refreshed Youth Commission and the successful award of Home Office funding worth £2.078m as part of the Police Innovation Fund.

I have also made additional investment in areas that pose the greatest risk to the residents of Sussex. This investment is being used to strengthen front-line policing, safeguard the most vulnerable children and victims and tackle cyber crime.

Throughout the last year, I have continued to provide residents with the opportunity to inform local policing and budget decisions directly through my programme of public engagement events. This two-way dialogue ensures that I am made aware of any concerns and can respond accordingly.

I look forward to building on these achievements and working with the public and partners over the next four years to keep us all Safer in Sussex.

Katy Bourne
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner



2. Progress made against the Police & Crime Plan objectives

2a. Crime & Community Safety

- *Keeping Sussex a low crime area;*
- *Commissioning new and lasting initiatives to reduce offending and re-offending;*
- *Taking account of community priorities and their contributing factors (such as alcohol and drugs).*

The Commissioner's 2015/16 precept increase was invested in front-line policing, safeguarding and cyber crime. Outcomes and successes included:

Frontline Policing – Support was provided for the on-going use of approximately 1,800 mobile policing devices which were introduced to improve the productivity and effectiveness of officers in frontline line roles and to enable greater visibility and customer service.

Safeguarding – Funding was made available for the recruitment of 36 Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLOs) to enable dedicated full time 24/7 provision of investigation into sexual offences, high-risk domestic abuse, child abuse and child sexual exploitation. In 2015/16, 14 SOLOs were recruited and the Commissioner and the Chief Constable converted the remaining 22 posts into Safeguarding Investigator posts to support the increased demand in the Safeguarding Investigation Unit.

Cyber Crime – A three-year plan for tackling cyber crime has been developed by Sussex Police and Surrey Police in response to the lead that has been taken in this area by the National Crime Agency. The delivery of this plan includes the introduction of a joint Cyber Crime Unit and Cyber Crime Strategy for Sussex Police and Surrey Police, enhanced cyber crime training for all front-line staff to assist officers and staff in recognising and detecting denial of service, defacement and hacking crimes, and continued membership of the national Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership.

Safer in Sussex Community Fund – The Commissioner allocated £281,644.33 from the Safer in Sussex Community Fund (SiSCF) in 2015/16 to support 53 local projects which tackle crime and improve community safety. In total, £704,285.05 has been allocated to support 138 projects since the SiSCF was created.

In 2015/16, the SiSCF was divided into two separate funds; Community Safety Fund and Victims' Services Fund. The Community Safety Fund provides financial support to local organisations and projects that aim to reduce crime and improve community safety. The Victims' Services Fund provides financial support to voluntary and third-sector organisations in Sussex that help individuals to cope and recover from the impact of crime.

Body Worn Video – The Commissioner has invested in the purchase and rollout of over 1,000 body worn video devices. This has ensured that all primary responders in the Neighbourhood Response Teams are equipped with personal-issue body-worn video cameras in Sussex. This enables officers to capture real-time evidence in an easy to use and accessible digital format.

Retail Crime Partnership – A two-year project, funded until March 2017, was launched in 2015/16 which aims to create a sustainable and strategic partnership between Sussex Police, the business community and existing Business Crime Reduction Partnerships. Five Business Wardens were deployed to two pilot sites across Eastbourne and Arun districts to help prevent and detect crimes. The Business Wardens are independent of Sussex Police and have the capabilities to provide crime prevention advice, take statements, gather evidence and upload intelligence and CCTV footage directly to Sussex Police, on behalf of businesses through a third-party reporting system.



2b. Victim Focus

- *Build trust in the police and the criminal justice system;*
- *Remove proceeds of crime from criminals and reinvest that money in our communities;*
- *Encourage the development of volunteering to make us Safer in Sussex.*

Domestic Abuse – The Commissioner has continued to serve on the National Oversight Group for Domestic Abuse, following her appointment by the Home Secretary, to inform, advise and set the direction for national policy.

Support has also been provided for the “Drive”, a project which aims to reduce the number of child and adult victims of domestic abuse by developing a ‘whole system response’ that influences perpetrators to change their behaviour.

Safe:Space Sussex – The Commissioner launched the first online directory of all support services across Sussex. Through a range of search options, “Safe:Space Sussex” allows residents to find the most relevant support service for them, through a safe and confidential route. This approach complements the Victims’ Code of Practice, which entitles all victims of crime to a support service regardless as to whether or not they choose to report to the police or not.

Hate Crime Reporting App – The Commissioner has invested in a Self-Evident app which enables victims of all hate crimes to record, capture and report evidence of these crimes being committed against them and directly access support services without the need to report directly to the police.

Child Sexual Exploitation – A dedicated Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Analyst has been funded by the Commissioner to identify ‘hot-spots’ of vulnerable victims throughout Sussex. The intelligence gathered as part of this analysis has resulted in the creation targeted communications campaigns to encourage reporting. This work was cited as good practice by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) during the ‘Effectiveness (Vulnerability)’ strand of the Police, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) annual assessment in 2015/16.

The Commissioner also funded a project to improve the recognition and identification of boys and young men as victims of sexual exploitation to ensure that appropriate support and assistance is offered and specific projects to support victims of CSE, including the creation of a specialist educational pack to work with children and young people with learning disabilities. In addition, a two-year CSE project to deliver a targeted secondary school/college programme, development of a champion scheme and a community awareness-raising and empowerment campaign were also funded by the Commissioner in 2015/16.

Growing the Voluntary Market – The Commissioner established and launched a competed fund to assist the activities of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in supporting all victims of crime across Sussex. The grants programme includes seed-funding for new or innovative pilot-projects and in 2015/16 over £80,000 was invested in this capacity to fill current gaps in service provision and to inform future commissioning decisions.

The Commissioner has also created an Enhanced Victims’ Services Fund which supports well-established services across Sussex. Through this stream, £210,000 has been awarded which has created a stable platform for VCSE organisations to ensure services will continue to be available for victims across the county.



2c. Public Confidence

- *Improve the experience that victims and witnesses have of the criminal justice system;*
- *Enhance, develop and commission initiatives to bring justice for victims;*
- *Effective policing, responsive to the needs of victims and vulnerable people.*

Sussex Youth Commission – The Sussex Youth Commission (SYC) was refreshed in 2015/16 presented their final report from the “Big Conversation” to the Commissioner in 2015/16. The report gathered the views of over 2,000 young people across the county on five priority issues; hate crime, cyber-bullying and online harassment, drug and alcohol abuse, supporting young offenders and relations with the police. The conclusions were used to inform, challenge and support the priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan, and shape future youth engagement in Sussex.

The SYC also received the national ‘Compact 2015 Award’ for “meaningful engagement within the community through excellence in partnership working between the voluntary sector and the public sector” in 2015/16.

Sussex Elders’ Commission – The Commissioner created a Sussex Elders’ Commission (SEC) in 2015/16 to give older people the same opportunity to have a voice on policing and crime. The SEC members had over 1,500 conversations about policing, crime and community safety across 80 public meetings throughout Sussex. Consultation with peers captured over 6,000 concerns regarding eight priority issues; financial abuse, fear of crime, nuisance calls and scams, local policing, cyber crime, anti-social behaviour, isolation and road safety. The conclusions will be used to develop best practice and identify areas for improvement and were also used to support, challenge and inform the priorities set out in the Plan. The Commissioner presented the final report from the SEC “Big Conversation 2016” to the ‘All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ageing and Older People’ in Westminster.

Performance & Accountability Meetings – The Commissioner continued to use monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police. As a result of these PAMs, improvements were made to burglary dwelling and burglary other than a dwelling performance across 2015/16 and challenges were made regarding 101 non-emergency call handling and the use of body worn video. The Local Policing Programme was also developed further following challenge at these meetings. The PAMs continue to be recognised as best practice nationally by both the Home Secretary and the Minister for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims.

Police Efficiency Effectiveness and Legitimacy Inspection – The Commissioner has continued to hold Sussex Police to account for police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) to improve the service provided to people in Sussex. In 2015/16, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Tom Winsor, recognised Sussex as one of only five police force areas nationally to achieve a rating of “good” or “outstanding” across all core PEEL inspection areas in his State of Policing Report 2015.

Access to Justice – The Commissioner continues to lead the Video Enable Justice programme on behalf of criminal justice partners across Sussex, Surrey, London and Kent. A target operating model has been developed identifying how up to £30m of efficiency savings could be realised by adopting an innovative scheduling and management service for courts using video technology. The Commissioner has also been successful in securing £1.3m from the 2016/17 Police Innovation Fund on behalf of the partnership to progress this initiative to the next stage and develop a detailed business case. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the national criminal justice reform agenda.



2d. Value for Money

- *Improve efficiency across the criminal justice system;*
- *Further collaboration and partnership working;*
- *Effective and innovative commissioning of services and procurement of assets.*

Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner – The office remains one of the most cost-efficient Police & Crime Commissioners’ offices in England and Wales, according to HMIC’s “Value for Money Profile”, costing just 68p per household per annum compared to the national average £1.03 per annum.

Estates Investment – The Commissioner oversaw progress against the Estates Strategy in 2015/16, including the sale of Slaugham Manor for a capital receipt in excess of £2.5m, and agreement to other disposals, including Ferring Police Station, Sussex House (Hollingbury) and two residential police houses. Revenue savings from changes to the estate totalled more than £712,000 in 2015/16 and capital receipt income was reinvested into the refurbishment of John Street (Brighton), Sussex Police Headquarters (Lewes) Crawley Police Station, Hastings Police Station and Haywards Heath Police Station. Work in 2016/17 will focus on the remaining sales and provision set out in the Estates Strategy, with the aim of delivering further significant capital receipts.

Facilities – The Commissioner has ensured that all lights used across the police estate have been replaced with lo-cost LEDs when the bulbs are at their end of life. This will amount to a 30% saving on the electricity bill for the Force.

Policing Together with Surrey – The Commissioner continued to work closely with the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner to oversee significant savings in the “Policing Together” programme between both police force areas. Savings of £1.321m from collective Information Technology, Human Resources and Shared Business Services functions and £824,000 from Specialist Crime were achieved across 2015/16. In total, £5.488m of savings have been realised through this programme since 2011/12.

Police Innovation Fund – Sussex Police was successful in four bids to the Home Office’s Police Innovation Fund. Funding worth £2.078m was received in 2015/16 to deliver the following projects; Minerva, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Retail Crime Partnership and Video Enabled Justice.

3. Progress made against the Police & Crime Plan measures

The progress made against the measures set out in the Police & Crime Plan across the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 is summarised below:

2015/16 Measure	2014/15 Performance	2015/16 Performance	% Difference
Crime & Community Safety			
Reduce the recorded crimes per 1,000 population	54.894	57.299	+ 3%
Victim Focus			
Support improvements to victim satisfaction in their overall experience of the criminal justice system	-	81.1% against 83.0%	- 2%
Public Confidence			
Increase the reporting of:	<i>Recorded crimes</i>		<i>% Increase</i>
• domestic abuse;	9,179	10,641	+ 16%
• serious sexual offences;	2,024	2,381	+ 18%
• anti-social behaviour; and	20,994	23,862	+ 14%
• hate crimes	1,363	1,722	+ 26%
Value for Money			
Working with Sussex Police and partners to meet the financial challenges ahead whilst delivering Crime & Community Safety, Victim Focus and Public Confidence objectives and identifying opportunities to improve	-	£13.510m against £14.076m	- 4%

The performance headlines for 2015/16 can be summarised as follows:

Recorded crimes per 1,000 population increased by 4% across 2015/16, in comparison to 2014/15. This increase was in line with national trends and the additional recorded crimes can be attributed to an improvement in the accurate recording of crime by Sussex Police, rather than an actual increase in offending. Sussex remains a low crime area and has seen a 32% reduction in recorded crime since 2005.

The Commissioner sought to increase the reporting of domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes, to enable better identification of vulnerable victims in Sussex. Increases in the recorded number of crimes were welcomed for domestic abuse (+1,462 and +16%), serious sexual offences (+357 and +18%), anti-social behaviour (+2,868 and +14%) and hate crimes (+359 and +26%) across the Performance Plan Year, in comparison to the same period a year earlier.

Satisfaction in the overall experience of the criminal justice system reduced to 81.1% against a baseline of 83.0% across 2014/15. This was a reduction of 2%. Ongoing work with the SCJB and the Video Enabled Justice programme is addressing this performance. In addition, user satisfaction with treatment received from Sussex Police was 92% across the same period.

In total, £13.510m of savings were found in 2015/16. This is £0.566m less than the planned savings from the police budget of £14.076m.

4. Summary of Financial Performance 2015/16

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Direct Operating Costs		Cost £	Total Cost £
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Direct Operating and Commissioning Costs	Democratic representation Commissioning costs Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner <i>less Government Grant funding</i>	0.1m 3.6m 1.1m <i>(£1.8m)</i>	<hr/> 3.0m
Policing services provided by Sussex Police	Police Officers Police Staff PCSOs Buildings and Transport IT and Mobile Technology Other spend* <i>less Sussex Police income</i>	143.3m 62.9m 8.5m 15.0m 11.1m 28.9m <i>(35.6m)</i>	<hr/> 240.9m
Capital Financing	Capital financing costs <i>Less interest income on balances</i>	2.6m <i>(1.0m)</i>	<hr/> 1.6m
Planned transfers to/(from) reserves			1.6m
Total Cost of Services			247.1m
Funded by	Funding from Government Council Tax Total funding	(167.6m) (83.1m) <i>(250.7m)</i>	 <i>(250.7m)</i>
Net revenue (surplus)/deficit			<i>(3.6m)</i>

* Includes police supplies and services, community safety funding and victims' services

The figures shown in the above table are as per the Statement of Accounts 2015/16. They include all office costs and services commissioned by the Police & Crime Commissioner, and the cost of all activities carried out by Sussex Police.

The 2015/16 net annual underspend of £3.6m equates to 1.4% of the approved net revenue budget of £250.6m, demonstrating effective financial management.

For further information about the summary finances reported above, please visit the PCC website (www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk) for a copy of the full Statement of Accounts.

5. Emerging priorities 2016/17

The Commissioner has identified the following emerging priorities for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 which were funded by the precept increase:

Public Protection – New dedicated teams have been created to respond to and investigate some of the worst crimes carried out against vulnerable children and adults. This currently equates to 42% of all Criminal Investigation Department investigations in Sussex. However, further specialist investigators are needed to tackle the volume and complexity of those crimes that continue to come to light.

Digital Forensics – Technology provides police investigators with the ability to examine enormous amounts of data held on mobile digital devices and computers of suspects and victims swiftly and safely. The requirement for this has increased by up to 90% in the last four years and retrieving digital exhibits will help save police time and, most importantly, ensure more offenders are brought to justice.

Other emerging priorities for 2016/17 and beyond:

Implementation of the Local Policing Programme – The Commissioner has supported the Chief Constable in the development of a Local Policing Programme (LPP). The four-year LPP encompasses crime prevention, response and investigation based on threat, risk and harm and will enable Sussex Police to operate more efficiently in the future. Now that implementation has begun, the Commissioner will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the LPP.

New Threats, Challenges and Types of Crime – The Commissioner recognises that new threats, new challenges and new types of crime have surfaced, with a shift away from traditional crime types to emerging threats in areas such as cyber crime, to exploit the expanding digital environment. The Commissioner will ensure that the Chief Constable has the appropriate level of resources to respond flexibly and effectively to these changing types of crime and the needs of the public.

Savings Required – The Comprehensive Spending Review and Police Grant Settlement confirmed that overall police spending would be protected in 2016/17 (in line with inflation). In order to meet additional inflationary and operational pressures Sussex Police will be required to make savings of approximately £35m over 4 years. The savings required for 2016/17 are £11.5m and the Commissioner will continue to monitor the performance of Sussex Police against this target.

Blue Light Emergency Services – The Commissioner remains supportive of the Blue Light Emergency Service programme to explore further opportunities to share services with partners in order to make the most effective use of available and anticipated resources. The Commissioner will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate where it is in the best interest of Sussex residents to do so.