

Katy Bourne
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**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

Cllr Bill Bentley
Vice Chairman
Sussex Police & Crime Panel
County Hall
West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ

26 September 2017

Dear Cllr Bentley,

Police & Crime Panel Meeting: 30 June 2017

Thank you for your letter dated 13 September 2017 that included the excerpts from the minutes in relation to the 'Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report' and 'Commissioner's Question Time' agenda items. I can confirm the following in respect of the comments made by the Panel, as set out below:

Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report

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

- The Panel further pressed the Commissioner on why she would not confirm whether the numbers of reported crimes had risen or fallen in Sussex. The Commissioner said that it was nationally known that the numbers of reports of some crimes had increased and some had decreased. Changes to the way crimes are reported had made a difference to the figures. The Commissioner reiterated that this was not the purpose of the report but that she would be happy to share the details with the Panel.*

Total recorded crime in Sussex increased by 11% between 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, in comparison to the same period a year earlier. This increase was in line with both national and regional trends which also increased by 11% across the same period. Further information is available on the Office for National Statistics website through the following link:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatable

- The Panel raised their concern about cyber crime and other new types of crime, sought assurances that resources were not being reduced elsewhere and requested that more prominence be given to cyber crime in future reports to the Panel. The Commissioner highlighted that Sussex Police was working closely with Hampshire, Thames Valley and Surrey Police forces to tackle cybercrime. Cyber crime was also being tackled nationally as one of the National Policing Strategic Priorities. Surrey and Sussex Police were the first forces to set up a joint cyber crime unit. Cyber crime is one of the emerging threads of the report but the report reflected the work of the Commissioner in her Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner would welcome a working group on the issue.*

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The Annual Report 2016/17 provided an update on performance against the policing and crime objectives set out in my Police & Crime Plan for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. I recognise that new threats, challenges and types of crime have surfaced, including cyber crime and fraud, to exploit the expanding digital environment. I continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure he has the appropriate level of resources to respond flexibly and effectively to these new crime types. I also remain supportive of the Panel's proposals for a Working Group to look at this area in more detail.

15. Resolved – That the Panel made the following recommendations to the Commissioner:

i. That the Commissioner investigates the possibility of contributing to the funding of live performances of 'Chelsea's Choice' to allow all year 8 pupils to see a show.

As you will already be aware, my Safer in Sussex Community Fund (SiSCF) supports local projects in Sussex to tackle crime and improve community safety. Through the SiSCF, I have already provided support to Brighton & Hove City Council to deliver performances of 'Chelsea's Choice' to all year 8 students in secondary schools within the city. I would welcome any other applications from local authority partners seeking similar financial support. The next funding window for the SiSCF will open on 2 October 2017. Further information is also available on my website through the following link: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/apply-for-funding/

ii. That clearly defined outcomes and supporting data be included in next year's annual report.

I will consider the inclusion of greater supporting information ahead of the design, development and publication of the Annual Report 2017/18.

Commissioner's Question Time

34. The Panel raised the following issues and questions of the Commissioner:

- The Panel asked the Commissioner to keep a close eye on the changes to the Sussex Police following cuts to the 'preventative' strand of the Force. Whilst there were no compulsory redundancies being undertaken, concern was expressed that specialisms were no longer being valued. An example was given of previous changes to licensing officer arrangements resulting in a steep increase in alcohol related crime. The Commissioner noted the Panel's comments and would pass them on.*

I supported the Chief Constable in the development of the Local Policing Plan (LPP). Now that implementation has begun, I continue to monitor and hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the Programme to ensure that the Sussex Police response is both efficient and effective. This will include the Prevention strand of the LPP when it goes live on 6 November 2017.

The LPP has also been a theme at four Performance & Accountability Meetings (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 my website through the following link:
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/

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