

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

6 October 2017 – at a meeting of the Panel held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Dave Simmons	Adur DC
Mike Clayden	Arun DC
Jackie O'Quinn (1)	Brighton and Hove CC
Eileen Lintill	Chichester DC
Michael Jones	Crawley BC
John Ungar	Eastbourne BC
Bill Bentley	East Sussex CC
Carolyn Lambert	East Sussex CC
Colin Fitzgerald	Hastings BC
Tricia Youtan	Horsham DC
Tony Nicholson	Lewes DC
Norman Webster	Mid Sussex DC
Claire Dowling	Wealden DC
Christian Mitchell	West Sussex CC
Val Turner	Worthing BC
Peter Nightingale	Independent
Susan Scholefield	Independent

(1) Substitute for Emma Daniel

Apologies for absence were received from Emma Daniel (Brighton and Hove CC) and Eleanor Kirby-Green (Rother 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); Iain McCulloch, Chief Finance Officer of OSPCC; Mervin Dadd Head of Public Engagement and Communications of OSPCC and Ninesh Edwards and Rosemary Pugh (Host Authority - West Sussex CC).

Chairman's Welcome

39. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

40. In accordance with the code of conduct members of the Panel declared the personal interests contained in the table below.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Bill Bentley	Chairman of East Sussex Safer Community Board Member of LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board and LGA National Member Champion for domestic abuse
Eileen Lintill	Member of Chichester Community Safety Partnership
Tony Nicholson	Co-Chairman of Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety

	Partnership
John Ungar	Co-Chairman of Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Michael Jones	Chairman of Safer Crawley Partnership
Claire Dowling	Chairman of Safer Wealden Partnership
Val Turner	Member of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing
Susan Scholefield	A serving Magistrate Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal Service
Tricia Youtan	Member of Horsham Community Safety Partnership Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Horsham District Council
Norman Webster	Member of Mid Sussex Community Safety Partnership
Mike Clayden	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership

41. Dave Simmons declared a personal interest as a member of the Adur and Worthing Community Safety Partnership and a member of West Sussex County Council. Colin Fitzgerald declared a personal interest as the co-ordinator of a domestic violence perpetrator programme in Hastings.

Minutes

42. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 30 June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

Urgent Matters

43. There were no urgent matters.

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/21 – Revision September 2017

44. The Panel considered the Commissioner's report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2017/21 – Revision September 2017 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

45. Iain McCulloch, CFO of OSPCC, introduced the report and advised that a significant review had been conducted of reserves which have been earmarked for specific projects. Reallocation of £15m funding from reserves and re-profiling savings together with a £2m underspend has provided an additional £17m to be set aside for the Chief Constable to draw down. This is one-off funding with control checks in place in case the position changes and the money is urgently needed elsewhere. Mr McCulloch was pleased to report on good progress with the precept investment in four areas including Community Priority Teams, Special Firearms Officers, Public Protection Investigators and Prevention Youth Officers.

46. The Panel asked the Commissioner a range of questions about the relationship between the reduction in grant funding from the government and the precept. In particular what activities are being taken to lobby the government about police funding and about public engagement with local taxpayers around budget setting. The Panel also asked for re-assurance that opportunities for joint working and collaboration with the many and diverse local authorities in Sussex are considered by the Commissioner in her endeavours to lobby the Government for increased funding. The Panel asked for an explanation for a 13% increase in 'historic crime' in the Wealden District, despite new strategies to reduce crime. The Commissioner described the closer working with the Community Safety Partnerships and the work to ensure that funding is targeted more effectively in particular areas. Different areas have different requirements, the Commissioner emphasised the need to be agile on the ground and the important work with the Community Safety Partnerships.

47. Resolved – that the following points are brought to the next meeting of the Precept and Budget Working Group: -

- (1) That there is collaboration regarding the grant between local authorities and Sussex Police in terms of lobbying the Government in relation to sharing best practice;
- (2) That the precept is looked at in relation to the grant;
- (3) That the Group explores whether sufficient funding is provided to support rural policing.

Budget Timetable 2018/19

48. Mr McCulloch updated the Panel on the timetable for preparation of the budget on police funding in 2018/19. The recommended precept figure will be reported to the Panel at its next meeting on 19 January 2018.

49. Mr McCulloch advised that a key pressure particularly for the next financial year would be a 1% unconsolidated pay rise, part of the 2% pay increase for police officers. Sussex Police will be able to contain the increase in this financial year but it may be an emerging pressure for MTFS assumptions in the future. He advised that he would adjust the risk assessments accordingly. The Panel asked questions about the likelihood of the £5 increase per household in the Sussex Police precept and whether there was any danger of the budget announcement being delayed. The Chairman requested that information about the government's settlement is shared with the Panel as soon as it is available to Sussex Police.

50. Resolved – that the Panel continues to monitor the emerging financial pressures and keeps a watching brief on them.

Video Enabled Justice

51. The Panel received a set of slides on Video Enabled Justice – delivering for victims and witnesses, (copy appended to the sign minutes).

52. The Commissioner advised that that she is leading on a significant project, with £11m of funding from the Police Transformation Fund, to deliver the Video Enabled Justice project in London, Sussex, Kent and Surrey. The project involves all criminal justice partners to bring improvements to victims and witnesses through the justice process as well as reduce costs and save police time. The project also works within the partners' national change programmes, and is therefore not being

delivered in isolation. At this early stage the project is being kept small and agile, it can be grown in time to be delivered on a larger scale.

53. The Commissioner reassured the Panel that the judiciary would always have discretion on the use of video links and virtual courts. The Commissioner invited the Panel to see how the programme will work as it broadens out across different areas. She also confirmed that defence lawyers are able to request that a witness is cross examined in court. The Panel sought assurance that the victim support service was involved, in particular around transportation to the vulnerable victim suites. The Commissioner advised that there is an ambition to set up more victim suites across the county to avoid the need for victims and witnesses having to travel long distances. The project is being kept small initially, used at first hearings and in the trialling of live links in police stations. The project will eventually be integrated into the wider courts reform programme to include all trials and extended to the crown and civil courts.

54. Resolved that the Panel

- (1) Takes up the offer by the Commissioner of a demonstration for a group of Panel members to see how the programme is working in the short and medium term as it broadens out across locations;
- (2) Requests that as funding and opportunity allows, consideration will be given to issues of transportation and the situation for victims and witnesses living in rural areas.
- (3) Receives a further report at some time in the future once the project has become embedded.

The role of the Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police provides an effective response to schools and other educational establishments

55. The Panel received and noted a report by the Commissioner (copy appended to the signed minutes).

56. Mark Streater, Chief Executive of Sussex Police introduced the report. Sussex Police has created 20 Prevention Youth Officers (PYOs), part of the new prevention team. Its main objective is to identify those children who are vulnerable to becoming a victim in school/education and in their outside lives and those children who are likely to be perpetrators of crime. PYOs will build relationships with head teachers and safeguarding leads to ensure that the situation is avoided where these vulnerable children are pushed at a young age into criminality. PYOs will have the support of up to 100 specially trained youth ambassadors. Key areas of work for PYOs and schools include ensuring that schools have the tools to address the problems of harassment via social media and the risks of sexting. He advised that the report also explains the role of Commissioner around investment of the precept in the new PYOs and the focus on work with schools and secondly the work of the Community Safety Partnerships which is crucial to the continued funding for initiatives for young people.

57. The Panel was very supportive of strategy and welcomed the report. The Chief Executive agreed to clarify the extent to which police staff, other than police officers, will be utilised as youth ambassadors and the extent of their investigative capacity. The Panel felt that if youth ambassadors were able to help to bridge the gap in the process for investigating the source of supply of drugs and the use of weapons in schools then this would be an important development. The

Commissioner agreed to highlight the Panel's concerns about drug supply and use of weapons in schools to the Chief Constable. The Panel welcomed the extended role of the PYOs in terms of time, i.e. beyond normal school hours; their role within the new partnership approach using statutory and voluntary agencies; the opportunity to build close relationships with head teachers and to disseminate good practice amongst colleagues. This Panel felt that the strategy demonstrated a real investment in young people. The Panel also suggested that parents, carers and foster carers need to be included in the partnership working; that the closer working with schools and head teachers is extended to colleges and universities and that consideration is given to using retired officers as part of the youth ambassador part of the programme.

58. Resolved – that

- (1) Clarification is provided about the extent to which police staff are involved in the work of the youth ambassador, as opposed to serving or uniformed officers and the extent of their investigative capacity;
- (2) That the concerns of the Panel regarding the supply of drugs, and the presence of weapons in schools is highlighted to the Chief Constable;
- (3) Panel members share the report with appropriate officers and members in their areas at city, district, borough and county level;
- (4) The continued progress and success of the work will be reviewed by the Panel in twelve months;
- (5) In the meantime Panel members can be updated through the Community Safety Partnerships or members can raise issues if anything of particular relevance to this strategy is occurring in their area.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's work forthcoming under the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act

59. Mark Streater provided an update on the new duties for the Commissioner under the Policing and Crime Act. He advised that the Commissioner will have a wider role in dealing with less serious complaints about the police and will have a more interventionist role to give the public assurance about how the Commissioner is discharging her role particularly around reviewing appeals. It is important for the Panel to be aware of this legislation in its scrutiny of the Commissioner role. Mr Streater advised that the new model is not likely to be implemented until the Autumn of 2018 and that he would bring a further paper to the Panel in the new year.

60. Resolved – that

- (1) A paper is provided for the Panel at its meeting in January on how the new model will operate and what the Commissioner's new duties will be regarding review of low level complaints to the police;
- (2) Thought is given by the Commissioner to public engagement about the new process.

Chairman's feedback on the first meeting of the Precept and Budget Working Group

61. The Chairman thanked Mr McCulloch and Sussex Police for the report to the Working Group. The Panel had been interested to hear about cross-border working and how the use of technology can lead to improved services. The Chairman stated that the Group wished to receive the broad range of information available in order to act as critical friend to the Commissioner in the development of the Precept. The next meeting will be on 28 November, timed to following the Chancellor of Exchequer's Autumn Statement.

62. Resolved – that the Working Group works through the detail of the Precept proposals at its next meeting on 28 November and will then advise the Commissioner of its views.

Quarterly Report of Complaints

63. The Panel received a report from the Clerk to the Panel providing an update on complaints received in the last quarter (copy appended to the signed minutes).

64. The Clerk highlighted Paragraph 2.3.1 which sets the record straight regarding a discussion at the previous meeting. He also advised that it was appropriate to draw attention to the gratitude expressed by a member of public to the Commissioner and her officers, set out in Paragraph 2.6.

65. Resolved – that the Panel notes the report.

Written Questions

66. The Panel received a report on responses provided to written questions received from members of the public prior to the meeting, (copy appended to the signed minutes).

67. The Chairman introduced the item and explained that the Panel encourages questions from the public on matters of strategy and policy for response by the Commissioner, questions about operational matters should be addressed to the Chief Constable.

68. In a follow-up question to the response by Commissioner on the numbers of police officers on duty in the Horsham area and the rising rate of rural crime in the area, the Commissioner advised that she did not have decision-making powers on numbers of police officers deployed in any particular area. She has asked the local District Commander to respond and provide re-assurance to the Panel member on this matter. The Commissioner advised that she does have flexibility through the local Precept to improve the budget situation and has lobbied government on removing the cap on precepts and allow her the general power of competence which other organisations have. Discussions on funding and the local Precept will be taken forward by the Working Group at its meeting in November.

69. Resolved - that the report is noted.

Commissioner's Question Time

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

- General security and safety of rail passengers in relation to the proposal for driver-only trains and previous comments by Commissioner on female-only

carriages: The Commissioner advised that security on the railway network is the responsibility of the British Transport Police but if the Panel had any specific issue or incident to report she would look into it. The suggestion for female-only carriages amounts to victim blaming and it must be the perpetrators of harassment of women on trains who are stopped.

- Steps that are being taken to drive down incidents of domestic violence and address the lack of perpetrator provision in Sussex: The Commissioner recognised the good work that is being done in Hastings on domestic abuse and emphasised that work in this area must have an all-organisation approach. She also referred to a three-year programme called Drive, working with perpetrators to change behaviours and habits. Evidence from this programme will assist the Commissioner in directing funding to assist victims. Funding has become available to tackle low to medium perpetrator issues and this will be pan-Sussex.
- Work being done to deal with and to eradicate anti-social behaviour particularly in the Eastbourne area: The Commissioner reported on the good performance of Sussex Police in reducing anti-social behaviour particularly in terms of the funding per 1000 people. In respect of Eastbourne, the Commissioner advised that she had recently carried out walkabouts with the teams who are working on and achieving good results tackling anti-social behaviour. She also referred to business wardens who are working with the police to deal with this issue too.
- Activities which the Commissioner undertakes to ensure that what she is being told by the Chief Constable is happening on the ground: The Commissioner described the wide variety of meetings she holds with police officers and the public to check the temperature from top to bottom on a range of issues. She would welcome the Panel's views on how she might improve her tactics. Information on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Peel Inspections could be provided for the Panel.
- The justification for changes to arrangements for the security and safety of the public at the Lewes Bonfire celebrations: The Commissioner assured the Panel that decisions are taken to ensure the safety of the public by the Sussex Police and the British Transport Police in collaboration with the Bonfire Societies. One of the reasons for the recent change would be the severe terror threat which is made more difficult to manage with large crowds in small spaces. She agreed to question the Chief Constable to ensure that the decisions were fair and proportionate.
- Feedback on progress with improvements to the 101 Contact and Command Centre service: The Commissioner advised that this had been discussed at the Police Performance Accountability Meeting (PAM) in September. She advised that some technical issues for the call handlers had been addressed and that the Chief Constable had agreed to promote the best time of day or night for the public to make 101 calls. Full details of the Chief Constable's responses on the matter at the PAM will be provided for the Panel.
- Concerning the safety of the public in relation to the taxi company Uber, specifically that information provided to the licencing committee at Brighton and Hove City Council is evidential and not anecdotal: The Commissioner agreed to contact the City Council to check that this was in order.

- Clarification about the views of the Chief Constable and the Commissioner on the value of visits by the police to victims of crime: The Commissioner explained that the Chief Constable had been misquoted in a recent press article. She advised that the police do a huge amount of work with the victims of crime and that the service was currently under review to understand how best to resource this complex area of work for the police.

71. Resolved – that

- (1) Information relating the HMIC's Peel Inspections is provided for the Panel within the next year;
- (2) The Chief Constable is asked about arrangements for security and safety at the Lewes Bonfire celebrations and that it is fair and proportionate;
- (3) The Panel is provided with the Chief Constable's responses at the September PAM regarding the 101 Contact and Command Centre service;
- (4) Brighton and Hove City Council is contacted regarding public concern raised about safety in relation to the Uber taxi company. In particular that information provided to the licencing committee is evidentially supported.

Commissioner's Response to Panel Recommendations from 30 June 2017 meeting

72. The Panel received and noted the Commissioner's response to its recommendations from the 30 June 2017 meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

73. The next meeting date of 19 January 2018 was noted.

The meeting ended at 1.10 p.m.

Chairman