

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

5 October 2018 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council	Mr Mitchell	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Dave Simmons	Adur District Council	Cllr Mike Clayden	Arun District Council
Cllr Mo Marsh	Brighton & Hove City Council	Cllr Joe Miller	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Eileen Lintill	Chichester District Council	Cllr Carolyn Lambert	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Colin Fitzgerald	Hastings Borough Council	Cllr Tricia Youtan	Horsham District Council
Cllr Tony Nicholson	Lewes District Council	Cllr Norman Webster	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Claire Dowling	Wealden District Council	Cllr Val Turner	Worthing Borough Council
Miss Susan Scholefield	Independent member		

Apologies were received from Cllr John Ungar (Eastbourne Borough Council), Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green (Rother District Council) and Mr Peter Nightingale (Independent Member)

Part I

17. Declarations of Interest

17.1 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
Mike Clayden	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership
Claire Dowling	Chairman of Safer Wealden Partnership
Colin Fitzgerald	Employed by Solace Women's Aid Charity Chairman of Safer Hastings Partnership
Eleanor Kirby-Green	Member of Safer Rother Partnership
Carolyn Lambert	Member of East Sussex Fire Authority
Eileen Lintill	Member of Chichester Community Safety Partnership

Mo Marsh	Lead Councillor for Community Safety (BHCC) Deputy Chair of the Neighbourhoods Inclusion Communities and Equalities Committee (BHCC)
Tony Nicholson	Co-Chairman of Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Susan Scholefield	A serving Magistrate Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal and Competition Service Non-Executive Director of Surrey and Borders NHS Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors.
Val Turner	Member of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing
John Ungar	Co-Chairman of Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Norman Webster	Member of Mid Sussex Community Safety Partnership Stakeholder Governor of Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust East Grinstead.
Tricia Youtan	Member of Horsham Community Safety Partnership Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Horsham District Council

17.2 In addition, Cllr Youtan declared a personal interest as a governor of The Forest School for Boys, Cllr Miller declared a personal interest as a governor of Longhill High School, Cllr Marsh declared a personal interest as a governor of Coombe Road Primary School and Bevendean Primary School, Cllr Lintill declared a personal interest as a governor of Petworth Primary School.

18. Minutes

18.1 The Panel considered the unconfirmed minutes of the last meeting. Members pointed out that minute 7.1 indicated that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) would be reviewed and brought to the Panel at the October meeting, but noted it was absent from the agenda. The Chairman advised this was an oversight, and that the Working Group would consider the MTFS in detail as part of the precept work, and that a report would undoubtedly come to the next meeting of the Panel in February 2019.

18.2 Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), queried the content of minutes 6.1 and 8.1. Officers subsequently reviewed the webcast of the June meeting; no amendment was made to minute 6.1. Minute 8.1 was amended accordingly to better reflect the information as

communicated. The word 'extra' was removed from the final bullet point and now reads as follows:

- It was hoped that 800 police officers would be employed in the next four years with the means to do this set out in an Attraction Strategy. 600 of those would cover vacancy gaps left by retirement and departure, and therefore the remaining 200 were additional posts.

18.3 Resolved – subject to the amendment as agreed above, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2018 be approved as a correct record and they be signed by the Chairman.

19. Public Question Time

19.1 Ms Symes asked the following question of the Commissioner:

We have seen an increase in crime in Horsham town centre wards and local residents are understandably concerned about the lack of community policing. Residents do not feel safe and some are changing their daily routines as a result, e.g. avoiding walking from their home to the station early in the morning and in the evening. We have therefore launched a campaign calling for an increase in resources for community policing which, so far, has been supported by over 300 concerned Horsham residents. What are your plans for addressing this serious and pressing issue?

19.2 The Commissioner gave the following response to Ms Symes' question:

I understand the importance that the residents of Sussex place on police visibility and community engagement.

This is the main reason I have continued to carefully monitor the implementation of the Local Policing Programme (LPP), articulating community concerns as the changes unfolded. The LPP is intended to create a modern workforce, of highly trained officers and staff, who are able to respond dynamically to the needs of the public and the changing types of crime, based on threat, risk and harm.

I am pleased to confirm that neighbourhood policing officers are now spending 41% of their time proactively working in local communities, compared to just 16% that was possible as part of the previous structure.

I have continued to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the LPP in respect of numbers, timescales and public engagement at my monthly webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs).

For most of 2017, Sussex Police was still facing substantial funding reductions, projected to result in 476 fewer officers over the next four years. The lifting of the precept cap by Government at the end of the year, combined with a funding settlement and my decision to release £17m of reserves, means that Sussex Police is now investing in and strengthening

local policing – re-establishing the visibility and reassurance that communities have been telling me is so important to them.

As a result, Sussex Police has now embarked on a large recruitment drive so that, by 2022, Sussex will have 200 more police officers than it currently does now. It will take some time for the investment to flow through into extra officers and better services but the groundwork put in over the past year by the Chief Constable and his team means that Sussex Police can scale up their Prevention, Response and Investigation capability so that the public feel a difference in Sussex, including our rural areas.

The Chief Constable published his Sussex Police 2018/22 Transformation Strategy in April 2018, which sets out how the Force will use the additional funding to modernise and strengthen local policing in Sussex. This additional investment in local policing will ensure that local residents and those visiting Sussex can feel safe at home, in public spaces, at night time, and on the roads.

The LPP is a scalable model and can therefore flex as resources change. Now that the Strategy has been launched, I will monitor progress made against the delivery of the Strategy and challenge, where appropriate, at my monthly PAMs.

The Strategy was one of the areas that I raised with the Chief Constable at my PAMs on 20 April and 21 September 2018. These sessions are archived and can be [viewed on my website](#).

Further information about the LPM and the 2018/22 Transformation Strategy is available on the [Sussex Police website](#).

19.3 Ms Symes thanked the Commissioner for the response to her initial question and noted that she had a petition, signed by 450 residents of Horsham, concerned about the rise in crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. Ms Symes asked the following supplementary question of the Commissioner:

You indicated a projected reduction of 476 fewer officers over the next four years, however, by 2022 you state there will be 200 more officers. Please could you clarify the numbers, and tell me the net reduction in officers since 2010? Please could you also advise how many more officers there will be in Horsham if there is going to be a rise of 200 police officers?

19.4 The Commissioner gave the following response to Ms Symes' supplementary question:

Prior to the precept increase and cap being lifted back in December, the PCC was looking to take £26.5m from the budget. This would have meant losing a further 476 police officer posts, and those would have come out of neighbourhoods.

Because the precept cap has been lifted and allowed PCCs to raise this by a maximum of £12 per annum, per household, this has enabled the

protection of 476 posts – there will not be 476 fewer officers. This is however predicated on the precept rise at £12 for this year and next, and then 2 years at £5.

In addition, having released a further £17m from the reserves has meant being able to recruit on a scale Sussex Police hasn't been able to do for the last ten years. By 2022, there will be 200 more officers than we currently have. Where those officers are situated is an operational decision and not one I am permitted to take. The Transformation Strategy document however does show where the precept is being spent and outlines that this is in neighbourhood policing.

19.5 The Chairman added that the Transformation Strategy document was available to the public and could be accessed and downloaded from Sussex Police's website.

19.6 Members noted that Gypsy and Traveller incursions were particularly challenging for Sussex Police in terms of cross-border working, with reference to question 1 from the public. As a supplementary question, members asked if the PCC was satisfied all was being done to prevent future unlawful incursions, and if there was anything more district and borough councils could do in support of the police effort?

19.7 The Commissioner gave the following response:-

Travellers have a right to travel under human rights and European laws. The police's job is to balance their right with those of settled communities. Sussex Police work very hard in this area, however unauthorised encampments are not in the first instance criminal. Initially, incursions are the duty of the local authority (LA) to handle. The police are one partner that works closely with all the LAs across the county, and further partnership working is being established with local town councils and districts.

19.8 Members endorsed the answer given by the Commissioner to Question 9a from the Public Questions document, and agreed that the priority at any road traffic accident should be as stated in the Commissioner's answer. Traffic should not be rushed through at a time when evidence is necessary to be collected.

19.9 The Chairman thanked Ms Symes for attending the Panel and asking her question, and encouraged members of the public to pose their questions to the Commissioner.

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

20.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The report was introduced by Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, who highlighted the following:

- As part of the Local Policing Programme, Prevention Youth Officers (PYOs) were introduced as part of the precept rise. There were 20 of these roles dedicated to developing and maintaining strong relationships between the police and educational establishments.
- The PYOs have been in place for 11 months, and play a central part in the neighbourhood policing team.
- PYOs were spending 25% of their time actually in schools and educational establishments, the remainder of their time was used building relationships with partners and other agencies with regards to diversion and safeguarding, and where necessary, enforcement.
- The emphasis of the PYOs was to avoid the criminalisation of children. Operation Stepping Stone was the template for how the police were working with schools in ensuring the right response was given where police were involved.
- Youth Ambassadors, a concept which emerged from the Youth Commission, have a particular passion for developing and maintaining relationships with young people across the County.
- Sussex Police was working with the Office of the PCC to bid for part of £22m that has been made available through the Early Intervention Youth Fund, to provide preventative and diversionary measures. This was particularly key for those young people drawn into organised crime and the impact of County Lines.
- The continuing challenge was the intervention in and around schools as this was not a single agency approach. The new structure of contact with the police and schools was however showing dividends.
- The Commissioner oversaw investment and how the Community Safety Partnerships were operating.
- The Transformation Strategy shows further investment in neighbourhood policing, investigation and prevention around schools.

20.2 A summary of the Panel's questions and responses is as follows:

- Members queried whether Sussex University was included where police constables had been situated to provide a visible support to students, as had happened at campuses at Brighton. Mr Streater advised that Sussex was not currently part of this scheme. The Commissioner advised she believed that conversations may be happening to explore a police presence at this university as well as Brighton, and welcomed members support in this area.
- Members sought clarification on the role of the Youth Ambassadors and how this linked with the PYOs. The Commissioner advised that the Youth Ambassadors were provided with additional training and became a point of contact within their communities for other officers to understand young people's relationship with the police. The Commissioner added that the Youth Ambassadors worked closely with the PYOs, and this role was designed following a direct recommendation from the Youth Commission.
- Members asked for the definition of low level crime, and how that related to the table of offences in the report at Appendix A. Members also noted the absence of seizure of weapons from the table and requested the Commissioner's comment as to why this didn't appear in the list of offences. The Commissioner advised she did not have the answers to hand but that she would pursue this.

- This information would be provided on the Action List published on the website after the meeting.
- Members queried whether the 20 PYO posts were full time equivalent. The Commissioner responded that she was uncertain, but that the information would be made available on the Action List published after the meeting.
- Members asked about the way in which the inputs were agreed. The PCC advised that concerns were passed from the school to the PYO's and that active dialogues were open to tailor inputs to the schools needs and priorities.
- Members were keen to know whether PYOs engaged with students in Pupil Referral Units (PRU), and if the national Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) packages were available to students in Alternative Provision Colleges (APC). The Commissioner would provide this information after the meeting on the Action List.
- Members were concerned about criminal activity that took place outside of educational establishments, such as on the way to or from school. The Commissioner advised that PYOs, police officers and local intelligence were all involved in the wider community settings. The Commissioner added that Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) set plans for their own areas to target crime, and that the message for all was to take forward a child-centred approach. The Commissioner considered that LAs had a responsibility here too and that preventative measures were not a burden to be carried by the police alone.
- Members were interested to know what and how PYOs understood about the mental health of young people, and the effects of drug-use in this context. The Commissioner advised of ongoing conversations with Sussex Partnership Trust and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Members saw this as an opportunity for PYOs and teachers to be involved in these discussions to widen the net of understanding and support.
- Members asked for further detail in terms of localised data to identify where crime was coming from, and whether PYOs engaged with both mainstream and private schools. The Commissioner would provide this information following the meeting, and it would be published on the Action List.

20.3 Resolved – that the Panel note the report.

21. Quarterly Report of Complaints

21.1 The Panel considered a report from the Clerk to the Panel, providing an update on complaints received in the last quarter.

21.2 The Clerk noted that both positive and negative comments were captured within the Quarterly Report, and drew member's attention to point 1.6.8 which was a compliment for the Commissioner and her staff.

21.3 Resolved – that the Panel considers the complaints against the Commissioner.

22. Policing and Crime Act 2017 - Police Complaints Reform

22.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The report was introduced by Katy Bourne, the Police and Crime Commissioner. The following key points were considered:

- The Police and Crime Act 2017 introduced a change to the police complaints system. The legislation now allowed the PCC to decide how complaints were managed. The previous model did not permit PCCs to become involved in complaints against police staff.
- There were 3 models for consideration. The preferred model for Sussex determined that PCCs should take the role of the appellant, currently carried out by the Professional Standards Departments (PSD).
- The PCC pointed out to members that this new model for complaints was likely to see an increase in complaints against the Commissioner, and therefore more may come to the Panel.
- The new complaints system was likely to be implemented in 2019. Members agreed a clear and timely message should be delivered to the public and that the change would need to be managed to ensure inclusivity.
- Members questioned if the decision on appeal would be final. The PCC advised that she would be the end of the complaints route internally, but that the complainant could take the matter to court. The Panel noted that cost implications should be considered should such a complaint reach judicial review stage.

22.2 Resolved – that the Panel note the report.

23. Commissioner's Question Time

23.1 The Chairman invited questions from the Panel for the Commissioner. A summary of the main questions and responses are as follows:

- Following a visit to the Control and Command Centre by some members of the panel, it became clear there was a misconception about the difference between the 101 and 999 telephone numbers. Members asked the Commissioner what could be done to encourage the use of 101 and not 999 when their call did not relate to an emergency. The Commissioner advised that Sussex Police had opened up the Control and Command Centre to members of the public with a view of reinforcing this message. The Commissioner added that she hoped that Police and Crime Panel members who had visited would return to their districts and boroughs to share the understanding of the purpose of each number.
- Members were concerned about long call waiting times. The Commissioner advised she was very focussed on response and call-handling times for the 101, and encouraged the use of online reporting. A new, simpler to use reporting system was currently being trialled and would go live shortly. The Commissioner added that recent data from the Chief Constable indicated an average wait time of 9 minutes and 11 seconds.
- Members queried whether additional finances had been made available for recruitment to these Control and Command Centres as had been mentioned by the Commissioner at a previous meeting of

the Panel. The Commissioner responded that the Transformation Strategy, as part of the precept uplift, outlined additional funding for frontline policing, which included the recruitment of telephone call handlers.

- Members noted a number of operational matters regarding the Control and Command Centre, such as no triage system overnight and limited flexibility with telephony, which the Commissioner advised she would feedback to the Chief Constable.
- Members asked the Commissioner if she had any concerns about reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring forces in view of gypsy and traveller encampments. The Commissioner responded that Surrey and Sussex police had collaborative policing arrangements, which included unauthorised encampments. She advised there was increasingly more collaborative work and there were no issues with these arrangements currently.
- Members requested an update on the Capital Investment Programme, and in particular whether Hastings Custody Suite would be reopened. The Commissioner advised expenditure detail was in the MTFS which was available to view online from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner website. Ian McCulloch, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the PCC, advised that a decision had been made to refurbish and improve Hastings Custody Suite but that there was some technical work to be undertaken in the first instance.

23.1 The Chairman advised the Panel that the Working Group visited the fleet centre for Sussex, Surrey and Fire and Rescue to look at the development of the precept, and the investment made into policing.

24. Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates

24.1 The next meeting of the Panel would take place on 1 February 2019 at 10.30am at County Hall, Lewes.

The meeting ended at 12.31 pm

Chairman