

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

1 February 2019 – At a meeting of the Panel held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Cllr Bill Bentley (Chairman)	East Sussex County Council	Cllr Christian Mitchell (Vice-Chairman)	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 Norman Webster	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Tony Nicholson	Lewes District Council	Cllr Michael Jones	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Claire Dowling	Wealden District Council	Mr Peter Nightingale	Independent member
Miss Susan Scholefield	Independent member	Cllr John Ungar	Eastbourne Borough Council
Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green	Rother District Council		

Apologies were received from Cllr Karen Harman (Worthing Borough Council), Cllr Brenda Smith (Crawley Borough Council), Cllr Val Turner (Worthing Borough Council), Cllr Tricia Youtan (Horsham District Council).

Part I

25. Declarations of Interest

25.1 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	Lead Member for Communities and Safety Chairman East Sussex Safer Communities Civil Military Partnership 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 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

26. Minutes

26.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 October 2018 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

27. Public Question Time

27.1 Mrs Knowles asked the following question of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):

Have Sussex Police any plans to put in place deterrents to deal with the increasing incidence of speeding within areas such as Burgess Hill?

27.2 The Commissioner gave the following response to Ms Knowles' question:

I understand the importance that the residents of Sussex place on road safety and I remain fully supportive of the work carried out by Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) to tackle and prevent the main causes of serious injuries and deaths on the county's roads. I also acknowledge that safer roads and communities can be created by working together and sharing the roads responsibly.

Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative run by Sussex Police and the SSRP which provides the communities of Sussex with an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving and enables Sussex Police to develop intelligence regarding repeat offenders, vehicles, times and locations which can then be used to plan, target and deploy police resources.

If you have any specific information about anti-social driving, including speeding, in and around Burgess Hill, please visit the Operation Crackdown website (www.operationcrackdown.org) to report this. Alternatively, you can call 01243 642222 during office hours to speak to an operator.

I meet regularly with the Chief Constable to improve local policing issues which includes scrutinising the performance of the Road Policing Unit. Road safety is also a theme that I have challenged the Chief Constable about during monthly webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings.

These sessions are archived and can be viewed on my website using the following link:
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/

27.3 The Commissioner added that issues regarding speeding were prevalent in many communities alongside Burgess Hill, and that this problem was raised frequently by residents of rural towns and villages. The proposed increased precept includes that some of that uplift would be specifically for the roads policing unit to respond to this issue.

27.4 Mrs Knowles asked the following supplementary question of the Commissioner:

Operation Crackdown is an excellent initiative, and one that I have used several times, however it does require the registration number of the offending vehicle. In our residential road the speed of the traffic, particularly motor cycles, makes it almost impossible to see the registration number. Would Sussex Police consider making a site visit at night, or at the weekend, when the majority of speeding offences occur?

27.5 The Commissioner gave the following response to Mrs Knowles' supplementary question:

I cannot speak from an operational decision-making perspective, however you are right to reflect about Operation Crackdown as a really good initiative, I have both supported and invested in it. As far as speeding incidents are concerned, unless the police receive reports and intelligence,

they are unlikely to put resources there. I recommend that local communities come together to form a community speed watch initiative. If you create a speed watch initiative I would be delighted to put you in touch with the roads policing unit. That in itself is a really good way to catch the data that is needed if you cannot obtain a speeding number plate, and I recognise that for the reasons you've said.

27.6 Mr Phillips asked the following question of the Commissioner:

I understand that Sussex Police intend to employ several hundred more police officers. I realise we do need some police officers in Sussex but before spending valuable tax-payers money could proper checks be put in place that future employees are not:

1. Thieves
2. Liars
3. Can they read and write
4. They have the intellect to know what day it is
5. Would the Panel underwrite and be responsible for bad debts the police run up.

If this cannot be guaranteed could the funding to the police be withdrawn.

27.7 The Commissioner gave the following response to Mr Phillips' question:

I can confirm that the eligibility criteria for any individuals wanting to apply for the role of police constable are set out on the Sussex Police website, as follows:

- be aged 18 years or over (on the day you submit your application);
- have lived in the UK for three continuous years (immediately prior to application);
- have leave to enter or leave to remain and work in the UK for an indefinite period;
- have achieved a standard of education equivalent to Level 3;
- have a full manual driving licence (by the time of appointment);
- not be a member of the British National Party (BNP) or other relevant organisations, such as Combat 18 or The National Front;
- not have tattoos which could cause offence; and not have motoring offences.

Further information is available through the following link:

www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/police-officers/

Any successful candidate is subject to a vetting process as set out in the national 'Vetting Code of Practice'

(<http://library.college.police.uk/docs/appref/C553I0117-Vetting-Code-of-Practice-online-04.10.17.pdf>) and the 'Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for Vetting' (<http://library.college.police.uk/docs/appref/C666I0917-Vetting-APP-22.10.17.pdf>).

The minimum checks and enquiries that are completed for all police officer, police staff and special constable applicants during the vetting process are set out in section 6.13 of the APP.

I hope the above information provides you with reassurance that the vetting processes used by Sussex Police during recruitment comply with national policies and standards.

27.8 The Panel provided the following response to Mr Phillips' question:

Sussex Police and Crime Panel exists solely to provide checks and balances in relation to the performance of the PCC, and is funded by the Home Office in support of this specific role. It has no duties or liabilities in respect of Sussex Police, or its finances.

27.9 Mr Phillips set out some issues he alleged to have experienced in the course of dealing with Sussex Police.

The Chairman advised Mr Phillips that his comments portrayed as a complaint between himself and Sussex Police, and not a matter for the Panel. The Commissioner advised Mr Phillips she would look into the history of the case, and the Chairman suggested she refer the matter to the Chief Constable.

28. Final Report of the Precept Working Group

28.1 The Chairman thanked Iain McCulloch, Chief Finance Officer, on behalf of the Panel for his insight and hard-work at the meetings of the Working Group. The Chairman added that he would encourage members to take part in future Working Groups.

28.2 The Panel considered a report by Christian Mitchell, Chairman of the Working Group. The Chairman of the Working Group highlighted the usefulness of visiting police estates in order to see first-hand the investments made, and identify where further investment might be required. The Chairman of the Working Group drew members' attention to paragraph 2.8 of the report and reiterated that both confidence in the 101 public contact service, and ensuring a visible community policing presence were issues that should be urgently addressed, should the Panel be persuaded to agree the theoretical increase of £24 in 2019/20 for a band D equivalent.

28.3 The Chairman of the Working Group reiterated the requirement to see the investment that the Panel had called for over the last 12 months, and that the next Working Group would monitor this closely. The following point was considered in discussion:

- Members discussed the possibility that a certain age group (55-65) could have been over-represented as part of the PCC's consultation process, or that there could be an over-reliance on those responses. Members of the Working Group advised the Panel they were assured by the Office of the Sussex PCC that the responses represented a fair sample of the demographic.

Resolved – That the Panel notes the recommendation of the Working Group.

29. Proposed Precept 2019/20

29.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The report was introduced by Katy Bourne, the Police and Crime Commissioner, who welcomed the recommendation from the report of the Working Group, and thanked them for recognising the hard work of her officers. The PCC recorded specific thanks to the following people; Iain McCulloch, Pete Gillett, Miranda Cadwell, Adrian Rutherford, Dennis Ord and Adam Smith. The PCC took the Committee through the proposed precept for 2019/20. The following key points were highlighted, in addition to those presented in the report:

- The proposed precept increase for 2019/20 was £24 for a band D equivalent property, an extra £2 per month on last year. For A to C banded properties this would be less, and for E to H banded properties this would be higher.
- Throughout the year, the PCC had closely scrutinised the spending of the 2018/19 increased precept through various performance meetings and monitoring schemes.
- The increased intake of officers formed the most important element of the investment plans last year. By the end of this financial year, Sussex Police will have recruited 270 police officers, including 50 transferees.
- Through community engagement, focus groups and consultations, the PCC reported the receipt of unanimous support to pay a higher precept in order to deliver a more visible policing cohort. Other common themes and concerns arising from this engagement included difficulty in reporting crime, particularly via 101, no local police contact point, speeding and anti-social behaviour.
- The PCC presented the Chief Constable's resource plan which identified where the further £12 investment was needed. The first priority recognised the requirement for 100 more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) with more powers, skills and training. Additional PCSOs would proactively respond to the key concerns as highlighted from the PCC's community engagement by delivering the following:
 - 50% more PCSOs out in communities, increasing visible policing support, including rural areas
 - Greater capacity to work with partners and leverage their support to address local issues and an increased capability to gather community intelligence
 - Better engagement through social media with dedicated 'digital' PCSOs
 - More capacity to support vulnerable people and minority communities, addressing hidden crime
 - Improved ability to solve problems, deterring crime and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- The second priority of the Chief Constable's plan was to recruit additional police officers and specialist staff in the following ways:

- Roads policing and collision investigators to prevent deaths and serious injuries
- Improve public contact in the command and control centre for both 101 and 999 calls, and online engagement
- Recruit specialist police investigators for public protection, serious violence, high harm and digital crime.
- The Commissioner advised the Panel she was confident the Chief Constable's requests met the demands on Sussex Police and the expectations of residents. By 2023 there would be an increase of 400 officers and staff above current establishment.
- The Commissioner provided the following statistics to the Panel to set the context of what the force is challenged with managing on a daily basis:
 - On average in a 24 hour period, Sussex Police will receive 2689 contacts from members of the public. This would include 678 emergency calls (999), 1524 non-emergency calls and 487 non-voice contacts such as emails and letters.
 - They record on average 979 total incidents in a 24 hour period, of which 313 are crimes.
 - Of those crimes, on average 104 are violence against a person, 67 are thefts, 36 are criminal damage and 4 are serious sexual offences.
- The Commissioner reiterated that the daily statistics outlined were new contacts or crimes on top of existing caseloads.
- The Commissioner summarised that she hoped it was clear the additional funding was required in order to meet the growing demand and complexity of cases, and adequately resource Sussex Police, and asked the Panel to consider the request for the increased precept.

29.2 The Chairman thanked the PCC for a thorough and detailed presentation on the proposal. A summary of the Panel's questions, and responses from the PCC, were as follows:

- Members asked if the PCC could foresee asking for a further increase over the next 3 years, or whether this was a one-off. The PCC advised she didn't know what the government's decision would be around the policing grant next year.
- Members noted that 14.5% was an enormous increase for residents, particularly for those on lower incomes. By collecting police funding from non-means tested local taxation, residents are paying this element of council tax in a disproportionate way. What was the PCC doing to discourage the government from doing this? The Commissioner recognised that for some the precept represented a significant increase, however, despite the rise, Sussex would still have the 5th lowest precept in England and Wales. The Commissioner added that 75% of residents would pay the £24 or less.
- Members noted the reference to an ageing population in the report and asked if the PCC was confident and reassured that the additional money would address areas such as anti-social behaviour and county lines. The PCC advised she had undertaken a lot of work with focus groups to understand local issues. She stated she understood the increase in vulnerability as people age and how they

may look to the police for protection; it is those groups that have indicated a willingness to pay more. County lines has become an increased priority locally, for the government and the National Crime Agency (NCA). The increased number of PCSOs will assist with prevention work in local communities.

- Members asked if the PCC will continue to lobby on behalf of residents for a fairer share of the national funding. The PCC advised she would continue, and had lobbied successfully for the government to cover the increase in pension costs. The PCC also explained that the way the fair funding formula was applied, Sussex was better off finding the money locally, which guarantees it will be spent locally. The Chairman added that elected councillors should also be lobbying government for additional funding.
- Members noted the pressures on Sussex Police's Human Resources team, due to the unprecedented intake of officers. Members asked the PCC what consideration had been given to working collaboratively with neighbouring police authorities to build resilience and speed up the recruitment of these new officers. The PCC advised that Surrey and Sussex shared a Head of HR and a lot of collaborative work was undertaken between them. Other force areas have the same demands, however help is being drawn across the police to try and attract people to Sussex.
- Members asked the PCC about Sussex Police's partnership working. The PCC detailed a number of key partnerships and highlighted the value of sharing data for effective joint working. The PCC told members that she was continually seeking new sources of funding for initiatives to work with partners successfully.
- Members expressed concern about the length of time taken to train new recruits and the delay in those becoming "boots on the ground". The PCC advised that comprehensive training was required, which cannot be rushed. The PCC added that PCSOs and specials could undertake a fast-track programme and therefore those new proposed roles would come through much faster.
- Members asked about recruitment pay incentives. The PCC advised there was a national police negotiating body to which recommendations could be made, and that Sussex Police paid a South East allowance.
- Members asked if there were contingency plans for Brexit. Ian McCulloch, Chief Finance Officer, advised that a reserve of 4% was held for the Chief Constable for emergency situations. The PCC advised there were 2 steering groups established to consider the effects of Brexit. The International Crime Co-ordination Centre's purpose is to mitigate the increased risk resulting in a loss of EU policing, and the EU Exit Strategy steering group, which is attended by chief officers who represent all policing regions, the home office and border force.
- Members noted rural communities felt a lack of policing presence and a loss of local intelligence, and asked if the intention to employ 100 more PCSOs would be immediate or by staged recruitment. The PCC advised the intention was to begin the recruitment process as swiftly as possible.
- Members requested an assurance from the PCC that the proposed increase will meet the expectations of taxpayers for an ultimate reduction in crime, and confirmation that the PCC believed the Chief

Constable was the person to deliver these changes. The PCC advised it was difficult to say there would be a reduction in crime when there were declines in the budgets of partners, such as local authorities and youth services. The PCC anticipated an increased demand upon policing and indicated the help the police gave to other areas was quite significant. The PCC cited a constant and relentless demand upon the police and that expectations should be realistic and managed to help people understand the complexities. The PCC confirmed she had confidence in the Chief Constable to deliver the objectives.

- Members sought assurance that the top priorities would indeed be improvements to the Contact Centre (101) and the deployment of more PCSOs. The PCC advised she had assurances from the Chief Constable that these were the key priorities.

29.3 The Chairman thanked the PCC and her officers for the detailed responses to the Panel's questions. He hoped she had heard the concerns and expectations of the Panel about the ambitious plans going forward. The Chairman suggested that the Panel support the PCC's proposed precept of £24 per annum on a band D property, which was formally seconded.

29.4 Resolved – that the Panel supports the proposed precept 2019/20.

30. The Role of the Commissioner in Ensuring Sussex Police Provide an Effective Response to County Lines.

30.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. No additional commentary was supplied by the PCC and therefore the item was opened for questioning. The following points were discussed:

- Members of the Committee suggested that through the monitoring process, the PCC ensure that a heavy focus on county lines does not detract from other important work to do with both drug use in young people and wider criminality, and to keep a balance.
- The PCC advised that the early intervention funding they were to receive was designed to tackle those young people at risk of being pushed into county lines. If the team can prevent and deter in this area, this would have a beneficial effect elsewhere in the reduction of wider criminality.
- Members considered that ceasing the supply of drugs into communities was a high priority, and that lobbying should be undertaken both locally and nationally to support this issue. Members also noted that for as long as there was a market for drugs, it would be exploited, and this wasn't necessarily by young people alone.
- The PCC referred to a recent campaign which highlighted the severe criminality which occurs alongside drug culture. The PCC advised Sussex Police were the first in the country to use Drug Dealing Telecommunications Restriction Orders (DDTROs) in order to close down county lines, but reiterated the problem was a constant battle, citing a worrying increase in drug-driving.

- Members of the Panel suggested the PCC consider using Prevention Youth Officers (PYOs) to gain intelligence on the ground. The PCC informed the Panel the Serious Violence Strategy aimed to tackle county lines and misuse of drugs, and promote early intervention and prevention to deter young people from criminality.
- Members asked if the County Lines Coordination Manager post had been recruited to, and who funded this post. The PCC advised the post was not yet filled, and that this was not funded by her office.
- Members asked if the PCC planned to make any revisions to the county lines report and strategy in view of the recent NCA report on the same topic. The PCC noted that this report had been written specifically for this Panel, but that there would be little difference between this and the NCA report.
- Members of the Panel asked if Sussex Police had links with transport hubs. The PCC advised Sussex Police worked very closely with the British Transport Police (BTP) and other travel links. The PCC told the Panel the BTP run a successful campaign for reporting suspicious or criminal behaviour on public transport by a text message. Members asked for this text number and any other helpful links.
- Members expressed concern about the increasing number of young people buying and carrying knives, and asked what the police could do about this. The PCC advised there were clear laws and regulations around the sale of knives, and the police wouldn't tolerate any breaking of those, equally trading standards were alive to this problem.
- Members noted that Alternative Provision Colleges (APCs) were targeted to recruit for county lines, and asked the PCC if the Chief Constable was linking the PYOs with voluntary organisations and APCs. The PCC advised the PYOs purpose was to link with schools and that work was ongoing with APCs as well. West Sussex division were currently running a county lines intensive activity week where PYOs were going into schools to raise awareness about county lines, exploitation and drug use, and asking schools to share intelligence and submit information to the police.

30.2 Resolved – that the Panel note the report.

31. Quarterly Report of Complaints

31.1 The Clerk to the Panel advised that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting and there were no ongoing matters to report.

31.2 Resolved – that the Panel note the update.

32. Commissioner's Question Time

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

- Members asked the PCC if she felt the police's response to the recent drone incident at Gatwick was adequate. The PCC advised

the police gave a solid operational response to the incident given the difficult circumstances, and that the plans for dealing with such an incident were approved by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI).

- The PCC was asked what action she had taken in light of the reputational damage to Sussex Police caused by the handling of the drone incident, and should she have been firmer on the Chief Constable at the Performance and Accountability meeting? The PCC answered she felt she was professional and objective at the Performance and Accountability meeting. The PCC added she had full confidence in the Chief Constable and found some of the reporting distasteful. The PCC stated for the record that Sussex Police did not divulge information regarding arrests made and that arresting somebody doesn't imply they are guilty.
- Members of the Panel noted the receipt of some correspondence which indicated the Chief Constable's initial avoidance to address immediate questions and public concern about the incident at Gatwick, and asked the PCC if she accepted this did undermine confidence in the police's response. The PCC advised due to outstanding matters with the external questioner that she could not comment.
- The Panel asked the PCC what preparation had taken place for the UK to leave the EU, particularly at Newhaven Harbour. The PCC advised preparation for Brexit was done at a national level, and Sussex Police were involved with regional contingency plans.
- Members of the Panel asked the PCC her position and response to West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) decision to reduce and ultimately remove the housing related support fund; the impact this would have on monitoring sex offenders, and the risks posed to those who are vulnerable. The PCC advised WSCC were in an invidious position faced with making difficult funding choices, however were she not to point out the potential consequences these changes could have on monitoring serious sexual offenders, she would not be doing her job properly. Discussions will be had with Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to consider how this is handled going forward.
- Members of the Panel advised the PCC that social and domestic vehicles were apparently being used for takeaway delivery business purposes, without the correct insurance, deeming any claims resulting from accidents as invalid. Members asked if this was something the police could take up? The PCC advised she would raise this with the Motor Insurers Bureau (MIB). An update would be provided in the published action list following the meeting.
- The Chairman asked the PCC what rights a recipient of a Community Protection Notice (CPN) had, and the processes involved. The PCC advised she would look at the policy and processes of a CPN and report back. An update would be provided in the published action list following the meeting.
- Members of the Panel asked for the support of the PCC and MPs in managing the problems created by GDPR for businesses to share information in order to tackle crime, and requested the PCC write a letter to the Information Commissioner. The PCC advised she would consider and consult with the Strategic Lead for Business Crime. An

update would be provided in the published action list following the meeting.

33. Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates

33.1 The next meeting of the Panel would take place on 26 April 2019 at 10.30am at County Hall, Lewes. The Chairman requested members of the Panel were respectful at the April meeting in view of the upcoming district and borough elections.

The meeting ended at 14.10pm

Chairman