Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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

Present:

Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council	Cllr Mike Clayden	Arun District Council
Cllr Claire Dowling	Wealden District Council	Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green	Rother District Council
Cllr Carolyn Lambert	East Sussex County Council	Cllr Mo Marsh	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Joe Miller	Brighton & Hove City Council	Cllr Tony Nicholson	Lewes District Council
Mr Peter Nightingale	Independent Member	Cllr Dave Simmons	Adur District Council
Cllr Brenda Smith	Crawley Borough Council	Cllr Val Turner	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr John Ungar	Eastbourne Borough Council	Cllr Norman Webster	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Tricia Youtan	Horsham District Council		

Substitutes:

Cllr Andy Batsford, Hastings Borough Council (In place of Cllr Colin Fitzgerald)
Cllr Carol Purnell, Chichester District Council (In place of Cllr Eileen Lintill)

Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Fitzgerald (Hastings Borough Council), Cllr Eileen Lintill (Chichester District Council) and Miss Susan Scholefield (Independent member)

Also in attendance:

Part I

1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman

1.1 Cllr Purnell proposed Cllr Bentley as Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The proposal was seconded by Cllrs Nicholson and Simmons. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.

1.2 Resolved – that Cllr Bentley is elected Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

1.3 Cllr Webster proposed Cllr Mitchell as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Purnell. The appointment was agreed by the Panel.

1.4 Resolved – that Cllr Mitchell is elected Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

2. Declarations of Interests

2.1 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
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership
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
Tricia Youtan	Member of Horsham Community Safety Partnership Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Horsham District Council

2.2 In addition, Cllr Purnell declared a personal interest as a member of the Chichester Community Safety Partnership, Cllr Simmons declared a personal interest in respect of the item on the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report as Senior Adviser on Education and Special

Educational Needs to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills at West Sussex County Council and Cllr Bentley declared a personal interest in respect of the item on the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report as a member of East Sussex County Council's Cabinet that took the decision to make cuts to its housing support services.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel held on 27 April 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. Annual Review of Membership and Proportionality

4.1 The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Sussex Police & Crime Panel which set out the political makeup of the Panel's constituent authorities (copy appended to the signed version of the minutes).

4.2 Resolved – that the Panel: -

i. Renews the appointment of Mr Peter Nightingale, Independent Co-opted Member, to take effect immediately.

ii Renews the appointment of Miss Susan Scholefield, Independent Co-opted Member, to take effect immediately.

iii. Notes the appointment of Councillor Joe Miller as second representative for Brighton and Hove City Council.

iv. Agrees that either East or West Sussex county councils should be invited to appoint an additional local authority member (see para 2.10), for a one-year period of office; and

v. Appoints Councillor Carolyn Lambert from East Sussex County Council to take effect immediately.

5. Public Question Time

5.1 Mr Nixon asked the following Question of the Commissioner:-

Any person who has had any interaction with Sussex Police as a victim, witness or suspect of crime is entitled to make subject access request for all information held in police reports on themselves. Any police reports sent by the data protection department are redacted to remove information on any other people. Reports being received in 2018 are know redacting the names of police officers on grounds that police officer names are their personal information when police officers are public servants. While we would all agree redacting the name of police officers may be okay when they are working in sensitive police departments like armed police or special branch this process is being extended to redacting of names of police officers working in neighbourhood policing. Example of this new approach occurred when a DASH risk assessment was done with myself on 8th Nov 2017 by my family liaison officer based at Crawley Police Station where his name was redacted from the DASH despite me

knowing he had completed the DASH risk assessment with me as it had been recorded on body worn camera.

Secondly instead of providing police reports, DASH/HARA risk assessment with appropriate reactions of other peoples information they are know cutting and pasting information from a police report, DASH into word document to the extent that the applicant person does not know what information has been redacted and therefore is not in a position to apply for a disclosure order from a court for un-redaction if they do not know what information needs un-redacting as it is not being shown anymore.

Can the PCC please advise what she thinks about this new approach being taken by her data protection department and whether we should return to the old system of disclosing the names of police officers and disclosing redacted police reports?

5.2 The Commissioner gave the following response to Mr Nixon's question:-

5.3 These were the rules of the Information Commissioner's Office – Sussex Police wants to be transparent and act within the law. A police officer's name was personal information and there was no legal requirement for it to be supplied without the officer's permission.

5.4 The PCC offered to pass the question to the data protection department of the Chief Constable's office for a response to the questioner.

5.5 The Chairman encouraged more members of the public to either ask questions at Panel meetings or send them in by writing.

6. The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2017/18

6.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) , who told the Panel that the report was positive and that more graphics would be added to make it more user-friendly – a link to the new version would then be sent to the Panel. The PCC highlighted the following from the report: -

- The four policing and crime initiatives were: -

    1. Strengthen local policing

    2. Work with local communities and partners to keep Sussex safe

        - The PCC's Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) that brought together twenty organisations had won national recognition with all participating organisations seen as providing examples of good practice

- Over 28,000 victims and over 3,000 offenders had been offered a service from the SRJP in 2017/18 with 233 restorative outcomes delivered compared to 15 in the previous six years
- Funding for community safety partnerships had been protected for five years in a row

3. Protect our vulnerable and help victims cope and recover from crime and abuse

- The Drive Project was a three year initiative working with perpetrators to reduce incidents of domestic abuse in high risk cases
- In the first two years it had involved 169 perpetrators associated to 180 victims and 202 children with 71 cases being closed
- During this time there had been reductions in sexual abuse of 92%, physical abuse 84%, harassment 82% and jealous/controlling behaviour 59%
- Victim Support had contacted 45,000 people, 220% more than the previous year
- Over 3,450 victims were referred to the Local Support Service with nearly 3,000 getting face-to-face help and over 1,700 receiving specialist help
- The increase in precept meant that £1.25m could be invested in the Public Protection Unit so more officers and Crown Prosecution Services staff could be trained to deal with cases of stalking and harassment
- Reports of stalking had increased by 231% in 2017/18 and reports of harassment had gone up by 20%
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services had been commissioned by the PCC to inspect Sussex Police's response to stalking and harassment

4. Improve access to justice for victims and witnesses

- The PCC thanked all her officers for their hard work during the year

6.2 Summary of responses to the Panel's questions and comments: -

- The new Anti-Modern Slavery Delivery Manager would work across agencies and forces to raise awareness of this hidden crime and help identify where it was happening – the Hastings Discovery Hub was an example of good practice in this area and had made a number of recent arrests
- The SRJP only dealt with adults, youth offending teams handled restorative justice for children, but the PCC's office was looking at a model operated by Surrey County Council which did deal with young people
- The deployment of the extra police offers being recruited would be decided by the Chief Constable
- The PCC was holding the Chief Constable to account over police response times
- Evidence from the Drive Project may have an impact on how services were commissioned in the future

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy was flexible and could be reviewed to reflect increasing demand e.g. from new housing developments
- The PCC's office was working with councils to make use of S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy money
- The Youth Commission provided an opportunity to learn about young people's concerns over policing and had a big impact, but was only ever meant to be short-term
- Sussex Police had adopted some of the Commission's recommendations and had introduced child-centred policing and young people's advisory groups
- There were over 90 youth ambassadors
- The ambassadors had suggested changes to the Stop and Search video
- Money from reserves had been used for parts of the budget, both revenue and capital, with money from capital receipts going back into reserves
- The PCC regularly challenged the Chief Constable over crime-solving rates
- The PCC was not consulted on the cuts to East Sussex County Council's housing support services which would be mitigated for one year
- The PCC was on the Domestic Violence Oversight Group and co-commissioned domestic violence services with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council using a pooled budget for a three year contract
- Joint working could lead to more funding
- The length of the contract was good for both service providers and victims

6.3 Resolved – that the Panel welcomes the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report and looks forward to updates on the work around domestic violence and cross-boundary co-operation.

7. Financial Outturn Report 2017/18

7.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), who told the Panel that the audited accounts would be published by the end of July and highlighted the following: -

- The £3.7m underspend had been returned to reserves and then allocated to the 2018/22 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) – this still left emergency reserves at 4% of the budget
- £16.8m had been saved during the year and £3m had been raised through the increased precept – this enabled local policing to be strengthened and more police officers and specialist staff to be employed
- There was a small underspend on the PCC's office
- The investment interest gained of £0.560m was higher than expected due to better than anticipated interest rates
- £22.8m had been invested in new estate and vehicles
- The MTFS would be reviewed and brought to the Panel at its October meeting

- The audited statement of accounts can be viewed at https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/media/3463/pcc-group-final-signed-accounts-2017-18.pdf

7.2 Summary of responses to the Panel's questions and comments: -

- Sussex Police had a 30 year Public Finance Initiative contract for the provision of custody services which was being reviewed as better value for money could be achieved by doing things differently
- Better interest rates than expected were achieved by forecasting ahead and investing for longer periods
- Sussex Police achieved more savings than its target which showed the effectiveness of its change programmes
- Seized assets were split evenly between Sussex Police and the PCC's office which then gave funds to the safer Sussex community partnerships
- The team responsible for seizing assets was funded by the assets seized

7.3 Resolved that – the Panel notes the report.

8. Police Officer Recruitment Diversity Outcomes 2017/18

8.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Mark Streater, Chief Executive, Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, who highlighted the following: -

- 2.3% of the Sussex Police workforce was Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) and 45.4% was female
- A Positive Action Plan had been developed that supported recruitment campaigns in February and October 2016 with further campaigns in July 2017 and February 2018 – the progress of all BME and female candidates in the July 2017 campaign have been tracked through all stages
- Community representatives were used to reach BME groups in urban areas and engagement events were held in Crawley
- There was a dedicated team to support BME applicants
- As a result of the July 2017 campaign, five BME candidates were successful (16.7% of BME applicants) compared to 31.8% of white applicants
- There were encouraging signs from the February 2018 campaign
- 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.

8.2 Summary of responses to the Panel's questions and comments: -

- New recruits were supported through their probation periods
- There were clear procedures on bullying and discrimination with any breaches likely to be picked-up in exit interviews if not before
- Diversity balance was also important for civilian police staff

- The recruitment experiences had been shared with the Fire & Rescue Service
- Further detail of the breakdown of applicants was available – **ACTION**: The office of the PCC to supply this information to the Panel via Ninesh Edwards
- Unsuccessful candidates for any role were given feedback
- Sussex Police operated a fast track entry system for graduates and direct entry for superintendents
- Sussex Police had an apprenticeship scheme through which apprentices could earn a degree after three years

8.3 Resolved – that the Panel notes the update.

9. Video Enabled Justice

9.1 The Panel considered a verbal update by Mark Streater, Chief Executive, Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, who told the Panel: -

- A Home Office grant of £11m was obtained last year that was used to partly pay for a £42m programme to make better use of video technology in courts – this would mean savings and better access to justice for victims and witnesses as they would not have to travel to court
- The programme involved Sussex, Surrey, Kent and London and created virtual courts initially dealing with remand hearings only
- The system was working efficiently in six custody centres in Kent meaning prisoners did not have to travel to court
- The system would go live in Sussex and Surrey in November with full regional implementation in the New Year
- It was hoped that hearings would become more effective and that there would be more guilty pleas
- It was estimated that 500 trials carried out this way would save 3,000 hours of police time
- The programme operated within the national courts reform structure

9.2 Summary of responses to the Panel's questions and comments: -

- Trials still involved people attending court – if they became more virtual the national courts reform structure would have to decide how the public could have access to them
- A vulnerable witness suite had been established in Sussex and it was hoped to add a second

9.3 Resolved – that the Panel notes the update.

10. Tactical Firearms Unit Tour Feedback

10.1 Those Panel members who took part in the tour found it extremely interesting and informative and were pleased to learn that there were plans to upgrade the firearms training facility in the future.

11. Annual Report from the Host Authority

11.1 The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Police & Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Ninesh Edwards, Senior Advisor, West Sussex County Council, who highlighted the proposed change to the Panel's constitution whereby the Police & Crime Commissioner had agreed that members of the public could attend Panel meetings to ask questions in person as well as in writing. A new mileage rate of 45p per mile for travel expenses had also been introduced.

11.2 Summary of responses to the Panel's questions and comments: -

- Panel members would receive performance management training after the October formal meeting
- A detailed breakdown of the Panel's expenses could be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk/pcp

11.3 Resolved – that the Panel: -

i. Notes the budget outturn for 2017/18
ii. Agrees to amend its constitution to allow questions from members of the public at the beginning of every formal meeting of the Panel
iii. Notes the new mileage rate of 45p per mile in respect of Panel members' travel expenses

12. The National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels

12.1 The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Police & Crime Panel (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by the Chairman who told the Panel that the constitution and work programme of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels would be agreed at its November meeting.

12.2 Resolved – that the Panel: -

i. Formally agrees to join the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels and agrees the annual fee of £500
ii. Agrees that the Sussex Police and Crime Panel is represented on the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels by the Chairman, with the Vice Chairman acting as substitute in the event the Chairman is unavailable

13. Written Questions

13.1 The Panel received responses provided to written questions received from members of the public prior to the meeting (copy appended to the signed minutes). The Panel had no further questions.

13.2 Resolved - that the Panel notes the report.

14. Commissioner's Question Time

14.1 The following responses were given to questions: -

- Terrorism –

- The Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) budget reserves would be used if needed as a result of any act of terrorism in Sussex
- 101 response times –
  - The PCC had raised this with the Chief Constable in May and learned that the Chief Superintendent was looking at staff rotas and recruiting more staff, but it was hard to predict busy times
  - More time spent on calls resulted in better outcomes for those reporting crimes
  - 40% of calls did not relate to police matters
  - Online reporting was increasing
  - A tour of the call centre was offered to the Panel
- No PCC representation at Worthing County Lines event and progress with County Lines –
  - The PCC would look into why no-one from her office attended the Worthing event
  - Sussex Police was the first force to use drug dealing telecommunications restrictions orders to close down lines
  - A lot of work was going on with partners regionally and further afield on County Lines
- Sufficient police officers in Brighton to deal with the expected influx of travellers over summer –
  - There were transit sites in the Brighton area that should be able to cope with any increase in travellers over summer
- The allocation of police officers
  - This was an operational matter to be decided by the Chief Constable

14.2 Resolved – that the Panel notes the Commissioner's responses.

15. Working Group Appointments

15.1 The Chairman called for volunteers to form this year's Precept Working Group.

15.2 Resolved – that the following Panel members be appointed to the Precept Working group: -

- Cllr Bentley
- Cllr Miller
- Cllr Mitchell
- Cllr Nicholson
- Mr Nightingale
- Cllr Simmons
- Cllr Webster

And that Ninesh Edwards ask Miss Scholefield if she would also join the group so that it contained both independent Panel members.

16. Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates

16.1 The next meeting of the Panel would take place on 5 October 2018 at 10.30 at County Hall, Lewes.

The meeting ended at 1.31 pm

Chairman