

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

10 October 2014

Written Questions

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

The table below provides a schedule of the written questions received prior to this meeting and where possible responses have been included. Responses will be tabled at the meeting that were not available at the time of despatch. Written Questions must be received 2 weeks before a meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner or Panel Chairman is invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting.

Questions that relate to operational matters of Sussex Police will be passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response and a brief summary of the question will be provided below. For the current meeting three questions have been received for a response by the Commissioner.

Date received	Question	Response
19 September 2014	<p><u>The extent and quality of partnership working between Sussex Police and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</u></p> <p><i>This question has been deemed to be of an operational nature and has been forwarded to Sussex Police for a response. The answer and the full question will appear on the PCP website following this meeting at the address below:</i></p> <p>http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/pcp</p> <p>The question asks about the involvement of Sussex Police in the return of absconded patients detained under a section of the Mental Health Act. The effectiveness of cooperation and partnership working between hospital staff and the police is questioned.</p> <p>Questioner – wishes to remain anonymous</p>	<p><u>Response from Mental Health Liaison Officer for Sussex Police:</u></p> <p><i>The question raises several points around the return of missing or absent patients and s17 leave and I assume that they are asking about the general population in psychiatric hospital and not patients detained under restriction orders or who fall under the MAPPA process?</i></p> <p><i>For patients detained under a civil section, the responsibility for granting s17 leave lies fully with the Responsible Clinician, and the Police are never involved (nor should we be) as part of the multi-disciplinary team when deciding on the eligibility or conditions of leave.</i></p> <p><i>Sussex Police and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have a policy/agreement in place for Patients Absent Without Leave from Hospital. This policy/agreement is currently being reviewed and is very nearly reaching completion. I would be delighted to share a copy with the individual when it is ready. In summary, it clearly details the roles and responsibilities of the staff within the hospital and Sussex Police and what the process should be to return patients who are AWOL. I do agree that staff within the hospitals are not always able to follow the agreed protocol, usually for the reasons stated by the individual. Over several years we have worked closely with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to reduce the number of times that the Police are called inappropriately to return an AWOL patient and we have seen a</i></p>

		<p><i>reduction in this.</i></p> <p><i>The vast majority of patients who go AWOL do not need Police to be involved in their return, however there will be times when it is necessary but these should be the exception and not the norm.</i></p> <p><i>It would be inappropriate for me to answer for the Trust as to why their staff are unable to fulfil their roles and responsibilities on occasions, and I understand that this question has also been passed to them for a response too.</i></p> <p><i>As soon as the policy/agreement is complete I will ensure a copy is forwarded on to the individual.</i></p>
<p>23 September 2014</p>	<p>1. On 22 September the Commissioner posted a statement on her website arguing that the PCC system should not be scrapped because "under the Police Authority the target for solved burglary was just 17%. As PCC I have represented public opinion and challenged Sussex Police to improve on this. As a result, solved rates for burglary this year have increased across the county by 26%". How does the Commissioner feel that her intervention has contributed to this?"</p>	<p>1. The 2012 PCC elections were the first time that local people could voice their preferences about local policing and crime priorities. During my election campaign and since taking office I have worked hard to meet and listen to as many local residents as I can in order to understand their views and concerns, which have informed the priorities and objectives in the Police & Crime Plan. One of the biggest concerns that residents, particularly in Brighton & Hove, have brought to my attention is burglary.</p> <p>I do not set targets but I do set the bar high as far as standards expected of the force in all areas of operational performance, informed by a lively programme of public engagement and correspondence from Sussex residents, and their specific concerns.</p> <p>Under the Police Authority the target for solved burglary was just 17%. This meant that less than one in five burglaries were expected to be solved. As Commissioner, I have represented public opinion and challenged Sussex Police to improve on this, which has drove them to launch a dedicated campaign in summer 2013 to tackle burglary in the county. This was called Operation Magpie. As a result, solved rates for burglary this year have increased across the county by 26% and by 61% in Brighton and Hove compared to the same period last year. This clearly demonstrates how, as Commissioner, I can act on residents' concerns and, most importantly, means there are now fewer victims of burglary in Sussex.</p> <p>2. The Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner fully</p>

	<p>2. In the same statement the Commissioner claimed that Police Authorities would try to "hide from public scrutiny". How does the Commissioner reconcile this with her attempts to close down a satirical Twitter account?</p> <p>Questioner – Gabriel Webber</p>	<p>recognises and supports the right of individuals to use satirical comment about any public figure or office, provided that there is no attempt to mislead the public, to use abusive or inflammatory language or make unauthorised use of intellectual property or items subject to copyright. As PCC I am committed to demonstrating transparency in office and this is evidenced by my website and our communications.</p> <p>We were concerned by the creation of a Twitter account using our logo and publishing Tweets purporting to come directly from myself and my office. This matter was formally raised with Twitter as a breach of their rules regarding impersonation.</p>
<p>12 September 2014</p>	<p>Brighton & Hove City Council often finds that it is unable to collect parking fines from travellers and other van dwellers whose vehicles have been issued with Penalty Charge Notices in locations such as Preston Park and Hove Lawns because the Keeper of the vehicles isn't registered with the DVLA. In addition this means that these vehicles will not be insured or even have a valid MOT. As the Police & Crime Commissioner will know, failure to register a vehicle or have valid insurance or MOT for it are illegal, so could she please tell me where this sits within the Police and Crime Plan, and what is being done in Sussex to address this problem?</p> <p>Questioner – Geoffrey Theobald</p>	<p>I have set out my strategic aims in my Police and Crime Plan and this includes keeping Sussex a low crime area.</p> <p>The Roads Policing Unit in Sussex Police use various mechanisms for the identification of offenders.</p> <p>Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) assists Sussex Police in detecting vehicles without insurance. The Police proactively target these vehicles and this is also done nationally. The Police National Computer assists in any proactive vehicle stops as part of usual Police business and those who have no insurance may have their vehicle seized or reported for offences.</p> <p>In Sussex and Surrey the Police have launched Operation Stingray which tackles repeat offenders for speed and traffic light offences where the vehicles are either unregistered or foreign.</p> <p>Unregistered vehicles are also targeted by the Road Policing Unit (RPU) as this can often disclose other more serious offences.</p>

No Background Papers