

# Public Document Pack

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Members are hereby requested to attend the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel, to be held at **10.30 am** on **Friday, 24 June 2022** at **County Hall, Lewes**.

### Tony Kershaw

Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

16 June 2022

#### Webcasting Notice

Please note: This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via East Sussex County Council's website on the internet – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm that the meeting is to be filmed. Generally the public gallery is not filmed. However, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. The webcast will be available via the link below: <http://www.eastsussex.public-i.tv/core/>.

#### Agenda

##### 10.30 am 1. **Appointment of Independent Members**

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Panel to have a minimum of two Independent Co-opted Members. Independent Co-opted Members have one-year terms and can be re-appointed annually for up to five years.

At last year's annual meeting of the Panel (25 June 2021), the Panel noted that, following an appointment process, Mrs Susan Scholefield was recommended as the proposed candidate for a further five-year term once her current term expires in summer 2022.

In line with the recommendations of the interview panel, the Panel is asked to:

1. Confirm the appointment of Mrs Susan Scholefield, Independent Co-opted Member, for a one-year term, renewable for up to five years.
2. Renew the appointment of Mr Keith Napthine, Independent Co-opted Member, for a one-year term.

##### 2. **Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

The Panel will be invited to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the 2022/23 municipal year.

##### 10.40 am 3. **Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)

Members and officers must declare any pecuniary or personal

interest in any business on the agenda. They should also make declarations at any stage such an interest becomes apparent during the meeting. Consideration should be given to leaving the meeting if the nature of the interest warrants it. If in doubt contact Democratic Services, West Sussex County Council, before the meeting.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 7 - 16)

The Panel is asked to approve the draft minutes of the previous meeting on 25 March 2022 as an accurate record (cream paper).

10.45 am 5. **Annual Review of Membership and Proportionality** (Pages 17 - 24)

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel.

The Panel is required to undertake an annual review of proportionality to take account of any changes to the political composition of constituent authorities during the course of the previous year. The attached report provides the latest political composition of local authorities in Sussex and a calculation of proportionality of the Panel.

10.55 am 6. **Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner** (Pages 25 - 26)

The Panel is asked to raise any strategic issues or queries concerning crime and policing in Sussex with the Commissioner.

Written questions may be submitted by members of the public up to two weeks in advance of a meeting. The Commissioner or the Chairman (as appropriate) will be invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting. Questions, together with as many responses as possible, will be published on the Panel's website ([www.sussexpcp.gov.uk](http://www.sussexpcp.gov.uk)).

Two questions have been received from two correspondents. The Panel is invited to note the responses and pose any supplementary questions.

11.25 am 7. **The Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2021/22** (Pages 27 - 72)

The Police & Crime Panel is required to scrutinise the Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report.

The report provides an update on performance against the Public Priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan 2021/24 – and the policing and crime objectives contained within – for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The report also presents the draft revenue and capital outturn position for the overall police budget under the direction of the Police & Crime Commissioner for 2021/22, ahead of the audited accounts being published.

12.40 pm      8.      **Annual Report from the Host Authority** (Pages 73 - 76)

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel.

The Host Authority is required to submit to the Panel an annual budget report detailing income and expenditure of the Panel during the previous year. The report also includes a summary of the main achievements of the Panel over the last year.

The Panel is asked to note the report.

9.      **Opportunity to Feedback on the Strategic Review of Policing Briefing** (Verbal Report)

Members are invited to provide verbal feedback following their participation in a virtual briefing session on 'Strategic Review of Policing', delivered by Dr Rick Muir, (Director of The Police Foundation) on 17 May.

1.00 pm      10.      **Formation of the UK Prosperity Fund Working Group**

The Panel is asked to note the proposed membership of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Working Group, to act as a critical friend as plans are developed to allocate and spend arising grants.

Panel members are invited to express any further interest in joining the Group.

The proposed membership is as follows:

Cllr Boram  
Cllr Denis  
Cllr Mitchell  
Cllr Standley  
Cllr Webster  
Mrs Sarah Peacock  
Cllr Pendleton

The Working Group will twice meet virtually on 21 June and 13 July 2022.

11.      **Correspondence Since the Last Meeting** (Verbal Report)

Members will be invited to verbally report any responses received from Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs, in respect of the [Chairman of the Panel's letter challenging CSPs to improve their public profile](#) (dated 1 March).

12. **Quarterly Report of Complaints** (Pages 77 - 80)

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel.

The report provides details of the correspondence received and the action taken.

The Panel is asked to consider the report and raise any issues or concerns.

1.15 pm

13. **Work Programme Planning and Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 23 September 2022 at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Future meeting dates below:

- 27 January 2023
- 20 February 2023 (provisional, to be cancelled if not required)
- 24 March 2023.

**To all members of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel – 24 June 2022

The Panel is asked to agree the table of personal interests below.  
Any interests not listed which members of the Panel feel are appropriate for declaration must be declared under agenda Item 1, Declaration of Interests, or at any stage such an interest becomes apparent during the meeting.

### Table of standing personal interests

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Christian Mitchell	
Bob Standley	
Tricia Youtan	Member of Horsham Community Safety Partnership Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection
James Walsh	
Jacky Pendleton	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership
Kevin Boram	
Judy Rogers	Member of Safer Hastings Partnership
Keith Napthine	
Roy Briscoe	Member of Joint Arun and Chichester Community Safety Partnership
Johnny Denis	Co-Chair of Lewes and Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership Lead Member for Community Safety at Lewes District Council Member of Lewes District Council – Community Safety Partnership – Joint Action Group
Susan Scholefield	A serving Magistrate Senior Independent Director of Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Norman Webster	Member of Mid Sussex Community Safety Partnership
Rebecca Whippy	Co-Chair of Lewes and Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership Lead for Community Safety at Eastbourne Borough

### Agenda Item 3

	Council Member of Eastbourne Borough Council Joint Action Group Member of Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch CEO of Embrace East Sussex Independent SEND Litigator
Brian Drayson	Co-Chair Safer Rother Partnership

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

25 March 2022 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Cllr Mitchell	West Sussex County Council	Cllr Bob Standley	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Kevin Boram	Adur District Council	Cllr Roy Briscoe	Chichester District Council
Cllr Lizzie Deane	Brighton & Hove City Council	Cllr Johnny Denis	Lewes District Council
Cllr Brian Drayson	Rother District Council	Cllr Philip Lunn	Wealden District Council
Cllr Sean McDonald	Worthing Borough Council	Cllr Steve Murphy	East Sussex County Council
Mr Keith Naphine	Independent member	Cllr Jackie O'Quinn	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Pendleton	Arun District Council	Cllr Judy Rogers	Hastings Borough Council
Mrs Susan Scholefield	Independent member	Cllr James Walsh	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Norman Webster	Mid Sussex District Council	Cllr Tricia Youtan	Horsham District Council

Substitutes:

Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Jones (Crawley Borough Council) and Cllr Rebecca Whippy (Eastbourne Borough Council)

Also in attendance:

### Part I

#### 31. Declarations of Interest

- 31.1 No interests were declared in addition to the table of standing personal interests, as published in the meeting's papers.

#### 32. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 32.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2022 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **33. Correspondence Since the Last Meeting**

- 33.1 The Panel noted items 4a and 4b.
- 33.2 In reference to item 4c, members fed back that the letter was well-received by their local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and that Chairs of East Sussex and Hastings CSPs agreed for it to be included as a standing agenda item to help raise awareness.
- 33.3 The Commissioner welcomed the letter and acknowledged that a recent survey found that Sussex residents lack an understanding of CSPs' role in society and encouraged any proactive measures to improve their public profile. Commissioner Bourne added that the Government will carry out a review of CSPs and their effectiveness, after the recommendation was agreed at Part 2 of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review.
- 33.4 The Chairman agreed that written responses received from CSP Chairs will be shared with the Panel at its next meeting.
- 33.5 The Chairman confirmed that an item on the Force's Recruitment and Retention Strategy, as arising from the most recent Budget and Precept Working Group, will be added to the Panel's 2022/23 work programme.
- 33.6 Resolved – that the Panel noted the completed actions from the meeting on 28 January 2022.

### **34. Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner**

- 34.1 No written questions were received from members of the public.
- 34.2 The Chairman invited questions from the Panel to the Commissioner. A summary of questions and responses were as follows:
  - Q1. Has the Contact Centre's improved performance through reduced waiting times been sustained since it was last reported, and has there been a reduction in emergency telephone calls following an uptake in the 101 service?
    - A. The Commissioner recognised the significant £1 million investment, including part-precept funding, made by the Force and expressed her pleasure that performance levels have been maintained. As a result, there has been a considerable decrease in the volume of complaints regarding the Contact Centre, submitted by members of the public. Last year, the number of 999 calls increased by 4%, but it's forecast that 101 calls will slightly outnumber emergency calls in 2022/23. There has been a shift towards online reporting and one third of all police contact in 2021/22 was digital. By 2025, it's predicted that the ratio of telephone to online contact will be 58:42.
  - Q2. Following a recent, rapid rise in public concern, can the Commissioner provide an update on enforcement, seizures and



prosecutions in relation to the dangerous use of e-scooters in Sussex?

- A. The Commissioner clarified that the Force has the authority to prosecute the illegal use of e-scooters in public spaces, but not on private land. In February, the Force's Roads Policing Unit ran a 3-week action campaign across the county, this resulted in 109 returns from police officers and 90 seizures. The number of seizures has increased from 19 in 2020, 98 in 2021 and 126 in 2022 (up to 16 March). Members of the public were encouraged to report recurring sightings of illegal use in public spaces to aid Force intelligence.
- Q3. Does the Force have the resource to develop a countywide communications strategy to educate and deter illegal e-scooter use?
- A. The Commissioner reminded members that she cannot influence the direction of the Force's operational matters. She added that the Force is fully aware of the issue and that the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP), within their remit, could be more proactive to improve their educational offering. Commissioner Bourne appealed directly to Panel members to raise this with SSRP.
- Q4. Is there anything that can be done to forewarn e-scooter manufacturers about their usage in society?
- A. The Commissioner re-affirmed that the actual production and sale of the product itself is not illegal and that users must take full ownership and responsibility for their usage.
- Q5. Can the Commissioner offer an update or reassurance regarding the unanticipated negative impact of national inflation, as a result of the Russian-Ukraine war?
- A. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the impact on Sussex Police is shared by other public sector organisations. The Force has carried out a recent review of its contracts to determine where supply chains have been affected. BlueLight (a commercial company) has delivered a similar service on behalf of national policing to highlight current pinch points. The main cost pressure felt by the Force at present is the increasing price of liquid fuels, an unforeseen extra expense in terms of running its fleet vehicles.
- Q6. Can the Commissioner offer an update on the Force's training programme for new recruits, amid reported high drop-out rates at national level?
- A. The Commissioner said that the attrition rate is not causing concern at present and is relative to the large-scale Operation Uplift recruitment drive, launched in April 2021. The Force's Head of HR Services at Sussex Police, Mr Adrian Rutherford, is alert to the matter and it is being closely monitored in liaison with the Chief Constable. The ratio of staff leaving the Force is split 50:50 between student officers and those serving or having completed their probationary period. Commissioner Bourne added that every year the Force accounts for expected reasons for leaving such as retirement, transfers and career re-evaluation. The pandemic was highlighted as an example which has prompted these factors.

- Q7. Reports of rape increased by a third in 2019/20, of these only 2,747 reports were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, (40% reduction) - can the Commissioner confirm if she is holding the Chief Constable to account and what role she has in preventing a "decriminalisation of rape"?
- A. The Commissioner gave firm assurance that police officers continue to work tirelessly to ensure victims are emotionally supported in the aftermath of rape, and through their decision whether or not to appear and give evidence in court. She revealed that the Force has been working with local Crown Prosecution Service partners in running a local pilot programme called the Early Advice Protocol. The newly developed initiative is designed to create an end-to-end collaborative prosecution team to speed up the process in a certain amount of time, from when a case comes forward to when it is charged. In the current year to date, this has led to a 300% increase in pre-charge submission decisions and reduced the length of rape investigation time from 148 to 109 days. The average investigation time to solve rape cases has also reduced, from 284 to 114 days. The Force has also reported a near 25% increase in rape being reported across the county which is indicative of growing public confidence.
- Q8. A large loading unit recently travelled from Shoreham to Ninfield via Polegate high street during a public event - how much did it cost and do Sussex Police have to fund the cost of policing?
- A. The Commissioner offered to provide the answer as an action.
- Q9. Are there any plans to re-introduce a police station in Hove, given that John Street Police Station in Brighton is not local for residents?
- A. The Commissioner highlighted that the Force does provide a front counter walk-in service within shared premises at Hove Town Hall. She added that this arrangement with Brighton and Hove City Council is currently under review and will be addressed as part of the Commissioner's new Estates Strategy, due to be published in summer 2022.
- Q10. How confident is the Commissioner in relation to the Force's proper handling of evidence, following media reports of internal fraud and corruption at the Metropolitan Police?
- A. The Commissioner gave reassurance that the Force uses a smart system to track evidence and that all evidence is held securely within newly refurbished stores. She gave further reassurance that Sussex Police does not share the same issue as documented within the Metropolitan Police. A regular internal audit is due to be carried out on the smart system in the next few months.
- Q11. What are the Commissioner's views on reducing or merging select forces within England and Wales, based on learnings from collaborative policing during the Covid pandemic?
- A. The Commissioner acknowledged that the reasons for any large-scale merger must be fully understood and be outcome driven, in order to deliver significant improvement. She then expressed her satisfaction with Sussex and Surrey Police's long-term collaborative

partnership. It was explained that the joint working personnel split between both forces is 55:45 in favour of Sussex Police. The collaboration accounts for nearly 30% of the Force's services, including frontline duties such as Major Crime, Joint Roads Policing and Firearms Units, in addition to back-office functions such as finance and transport. The Commissioner explained that the considerable variance between each of the Force's precept levels, set by Government, would prove a difficult obstacle to overcome when debating a future merger.

Q12. Does the Commissioner believe that the Russia-Ukraine war will have a strategic impact on Sussex Police going forwards?

- A. The OSPCC Chief Executive, Mark Streater, commented that the structure of the British policing model enables forces to operate at local, regional and national level under the Civil Contingencies Act and to flex resources as required to provide mutual aid. Mr Streater and the Commissioner expressed confidence in forces' ability to fulfil local responsibilities and contribute to wider-reaching humanitarian efforts when called upon. The Commissioner added that Local Resilience Forums around the country will have gained significant experience while operating during the pandemic and providing Covid-19 relief.

### **35. Police and Crime Plan Public Priority 2 - Relentless Disruption of Serious and Organised Crime**

35.1 The Panel considered a report from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The report was introduced by Mark Streater, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, who outlined the content and specific areas which were covered within Public Priority 2 of the Police and Crime Plan – relentless disruption of serious and organised crime.

35.2 The Chairman invited questions from Panel members. A summary of those questions and their responses were as follows:

- Is there a link between school exclusions leading to involvement with County Lines and vice versa? Is there a strategy in place to deal with it?
  - A. Vulnerability is a common theme among excluded school pupils and therefore means they are more susceptible to being intimidated and exploited. Organised crime groups are known to target young people, importing and exporting them from nearby big cities, and use them as drug traffickers. The Force's CSE officers (Child Sexual Exploitation) work closely with local authorities and alternative provision colleges to monitor signs of CSE.
- Can the Commissioner give examples of the reported immediate impact had by precept-funded Digital Investigation Support Unit, in collaboration with Surrey Police?
  - A. The Unit utilises its specialist training and capabilities to support police officers with recovering electronic devices and aid

investigations into cases involving a large volume of 'digital crime scenes.'

- To what extent do victims of modern slavery and its ring leaders escape prosecution for offences due to the difficulty faced by the Force in tracing their whereabouts?
  - A. Modern Slavery is a complex crime and the Force has a duty of protecting vulnerable people. Once identified, victims are added to the National Referral Mechanism framework in order to receive the support they need. As an action, the Commissioner offered to provide contact details for the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM.
- Does the Commissioner believe that the diversity and variance in modern-day policing is a factor contributing to the exit rate of trainee police officers?
  - A. Exit interviews are carried out with probationary police officers to understand their reasons for leaving the Force and these are many and varied, depending on personal circumstances. The physical nature and physical demands of the role was given as one example that did not meet expectations. Sussex Police is one of a few remaining forces who conduct a final interview process following the training programme as a further opportunity for new recruits to discuss whether or not they still wish to join the Force.
- Can the Commissioner clarify whether catapult ammunition is classed as a serious weapon by the Force? And what weapons comprise the 135 surrendered, described as 'other weapons?'
  - A. The Commissioner offered to provide the answer as an action.
- Are you satisfied with the Force's ability to keep pace with modern-day policing through growing types of crime?
  - A. Policing is a matter of prioritisation, and our police officers are trained to assess the threat, harm and risk of all reports at an early stage before passing judgement and deciding which aspects to prioritise. CSE is high on the agenda as an area of concern for local authorities with vulnerable children in their care. The Force is in constant contact with Border Force and other agencies to build intelligence.
- Is the Force's approach to fraud and cyber-crime to disrupt illegal activity, in some cases influenced from abroad, or is the Commissioner confident of making prosecutions?
  - A. Romance Fraud has led to some successful prosecutions in recent times in Sussex. Broadly speaking, it is a difficult area to police when crimes cross boundaries and jurisdictions vary among authorities. Government investment was welcomed in developing the National Cyber Resilience Centre Group (NCRCG) in recognition of this serious form of crime and the sophisticated methods employed by criminals. Online fraud is the fastest-growing type of crime and accounts for one third of reported crime nationally.

- How confident is the Commissioner that the Force's communications with Sussex residents is doing enough to encourage them to report mobile phone scams received via text and email?
  - A. There is confidence in Sussex and Surrey's joint Cyber Crime Unit's performance at local level, since it was established soon after the Commissioner first took office in 2012. Originally published by the Metropolitan Police, the Unit has re-produced localised digital resources containing updated advice and reporting methods made available on the Force's website, such as 'The Little Booklet of Phone Scams' and 'The Little Book of Cyber Scams'. The Force has introduced a Banking Protocol as part of their work with high-risk victims of scams, since adopted by other forces. It involves the bank reporting a vulnerable individual's account withdrawals to the Force for safety measures to be put in place. Operation Signature is an awareness campaign ran by the Force, targeted at vulnerable and elderly residents, to highlight the warning signs of fraud and scams and other further advice. Residents are encouraged to access the Government's National Cyber Security Centre website as a central hub for all cyber-crime reporting advice and guidance.
- What impact did the various enforced lockdowns and restrictions brought about by the pandemic have on the 4% reduction in serious violence recorded in Sussex? (1 April 2021 to 31 January 2022).
  - A. Post-pandemic the Force has witnessed an increase in volume of this type of crime and is something the Chief Constable is regularly challenged on at the Commissioner's Performance and Accountability Meetings. During the height of the pandemic, cyber stalking increased by 72% and reports of domestic abuse rose. There is confidence that extra recruitment in officers will make a positive difference and frontline officers and senior staff were praised for their continued hard work for policing during unprecedented times. Recognition was given to the difficult situation and confidence expressed in the Chief Constable's leadership.

35.3 Resolved – that the Panel noted the report and did not identify any elements for further scrutiny.

### **36. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' Inspection Report - Police response to Violence Against Women and Girls**

- 36.1 The Panel considered a report by HMICFRS, of which the Commissioner gave an overview. It was highlighted to Panel members that the Commissioner was part of the expert reference group which wrote the report and fully endorses the recommendations.
- 36.2 The Panel was presented with publicity materials from Safe Space Sussex's 'Do the right thing' campaign, in partnership with the

Force, which challenges men to call out misogyny, violence and abuse.

36.3 The Chairman invited questions from Panel members. A summary of those questions and their responses were as follows:

- To what extent has bystander training been embedded within the Force's culture so far?
  - A. A lot of the work delivered to date has been made possible through the award of just under £1million, by the Government's Safer Street Fund. The Chief Constable is in the process of agreeing a training package, covering standards and behaviour, to be delivered to all police officers and members of staff across the Force. The OSPCC has recently funded a superintendent to solely lead on the internal delivery of bystander training within the Force.
- Does graffiti vandalism containing derogatory language in a public place constitute sexual abuse or hate crime, and does the Force take reports of this seriously?
  - A. This example is likely to be regarded as conduct lending itself to harassment due to the naming of the individual targeted and could be linked to other offences involving the same victim. All incidents are taken seriously when reported and consideration is given to potentially vulnerable victims.
- If an applicant withdraws from the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law), does the Force keep a record of it should the individual or their family/friend re-apply at a later date?
  - A. The Force holds information on all disclosure applications, including those which are withdrawn, and has the ability to track the location of its highest-harm perpetrators using technology.
- Are the Force's officers trained to deal with false claims of rape and the negative psychological impact had on both alleged offenders those claiming to be victims?
  - A. The Force can refer both parties to support services if required. The Sexual Offence Investigation Trained team (SOIT) is specially trained to initially work with individuals in the aftermath of an incident. The Survivor's Network work with rape victims across the county, while Mankind exclusively support men - both organisations are funded by the OSPCC.
- In reference to Appendix 1, page 51, is the high use of outcomes 15 and 16 for VAWG offences prevalent in Sussex Police?
  - A. The Commissioner offered to provide the answer as an action.
- How does information and data fed back from longstanding individual cases of VAWG get fed back into designing prevention programmes?
  - A. SOIT officers are trained to put safeguarding measures in place around an individual's home and the Force partners with support

services to educate vulnerable people and victims about how they can protect themselves, including provision of online cyber training.

- Can you explain the purpose of the different reporting processes in place for both current and historic cases of rape and child abuse?  
A. The call handler initially judges the threat and risk of the report before progressing it as an emergency call or referring it to 101. The service provided to both current and historic cases is treated equally, but the Force cannot guarantee the length of time to investigate a historic case given the complexity involved and the large workload managed by its dedicated team.

### **37. Quarterly Report of Complaints**

- 37.1 The Panel noted that no complaints had been made against the Commissioner which fell within the Panel's statutory remit.
- 37.2 Resolved – that the Panel noted the report.

### **38. Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates**

- 38.1 The next meeting of the Panel would take place on 24 June 2022 at 10.30am, at County Hall, Lewes.

The meeting ended at 1.08 pm

Chairman

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## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**24 June 2022**

### **Annual Review of Membership and Proportionality**

#### **Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

##### **Recommendations**

That the Panel:

1. Agrees that Brighton and Hove City Council be invited to appoint a Conservative second representative to the Panel (2.5), for a one-year period of office.
2. Agrees that both East and West Sussex County Councils should each be invited to appoint an additional local authority member (see para 2.7 and 2.8), for a one-year period of office; and
3. Subject to agreeing recommendations 1 and 2, agrees the appointment of a Liberal Democrat councillor from East Sussex County Council and a Liberal Democrat councillor from West Sussex County Council (see 2.8 and 2.9), to take effect immediately.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Constitution of Sussex Police and Crime Panel requires it to review its political make-up and size once a year, at its annual meeting.

To inform this consideration, following May's local authority (LA) elections, officers in each of the 15 local authorities in Sussex provided the host authority with details of the political make-up of their authority, summarised in Appendix 1. For comparison, Appendix 2 gives the equivalent data from June 2021, when proportionality was last considered by the Panel.

## **2. Discussion**

- 2.1 The Panel at its annual meeting must consider the political composition of borough, county, district and unitary authorities across Sussex to ensure that the political proportionality of the Panel mirrors (as closely as is practical) the political make-up of Sussex as a whole. During the review of the membership the Panel must agree: if it approves the reappointment of the independent co-opted members (see item 1 of this agenda); the political affiliation of the second Brighton and Hove City Council representative, if the county councils

In Sussex should provide a second representative; and the political affiliation of any second county council members.

### **Additional Local Authority Members**

- 2.2 Schedule 6, paragraph 31 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Panel to consider ("from time to time") whether available seats could be assigned to additional local authority (LA) members to enable the balanced appointment objective to be met, or more effectively met. If so, the Act requires the Panel to exercise this option. The balanced appointment objective is that the LA Members of the Panel (when taken together) represent the political make-up of the 15 Sussex local authorities (when taken together).
- 2.3 The Panel can have no more than 20 members. Given that two must be Independent Members, the Panel can have a maximum of 18 LA Panel Members.
- 2.4 The Constitution grants Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) an additional seat, to address geographical imbalance. The additional seat needs to be re-appointed by BHCC annually, but must be used, as far as possible, to redress any political imbalance within the Panel.
- 2.5 Referring to appendix 1, BHCC having no Liberal Democrat councillors, the allocation of the second BHCC seat to a Conservative councillor for 2022/23 is the most effective means of contributing towards the balanced appointment objective.
- 2.6 For clarity, (including an additional Conservative member from BHCC, based on the recommendation set out in para 2.5) the resulting 16-councillor Panel (15 principal members + the second BHCC appointment) for 2022/23 would comprise:
 

Conservative:	9
Labour	3
Liberal Democrat:	1
Green	2
Association of Independents	1

Total "core" LA members: 16
- 2.7 The Panel's Constitution states that additional Local Authority Members may be appointed from each of the county councils on the agreement of the Panel, to address any perceived imbalance in political proportionality. Such members will have a one-year period of office. The Panel should today review its proportionality against the political make-up of Sussex and determine the arrangement it wishes to operate for 2022/23.
- 2.8 In 2021/22 both West and East Sussex County Councils were invited to appoint an additional Liberal Democrat councillor each. Considering the data in appendix 1, and assuming under recommendation 1 that the Panel agrees that the additional member from BHCC for 2022/23 be a Conservative councillor, the most politically proportionate Panel would arise if both of the county councils were to each again appoint a Liberal Democrat councillor.
- 2.9 For clarity, make-up of the resulting 18-councillor Panel, by political party, will be as below:

	2022/23	2021/22
Conservative	9 (8.79)	9 (9.32)
Liberal Democrat	3 (3.24)	3 (3.18)
Labour	3 (2.88)	3 (2.68)
Green	2 (1.52)	2 (1.30)
Association of Independents	1 (0.33)	1 (0.33)

Note:

1. Shown in parenthesis is the politically proportionate aspiration
2. Data for the 18-councillor Panel in 2021/22 shown too, for reference

### 3. **Resource Implications and Value for Money**

- 3.1 For 2022/23, the Home Office grant allows for up to £920 per Panel Member for travelling expenses.

### 4. **Risk Management Implications**

- 4.1 The Panel must strive to be politically and geographically proportionate. Failure to adequately do so risks breaching the relevant terms of the Act.

### 5. **Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

#### **Tony Kershaw**

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

#### **Contact:**

Ninesh Edwards  
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#### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Political Make-up of Sussex Local Authorities (22/23)

Appendix 2 - Political Make-up of Sussex Local Authorities (21/22)

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**Political Make-Up of Sussex Local Authorities (May 2022)**

Authority	Principal Member's Party	Con	LD	Lab	Green	AOI <sub>2</sub>	Arun Ind Group	Ind Dem	CDC Local Alliance	LDC Ind Group	Ind <sub>1</sub>	Shoreham Beach Residents' Assoc	Vacancy	Total
Adur	Conservative	16		9	2							2		29
Arun	Conservative	24	16	1	2		4				7			54
Brighton & Hove	Green	12		16	20						6			54
Chichester	Conservative	17	11	1	2				2		3			36
Crawley	Labour	17		19										36
East Sussex	Conservative	27	11	5	4			2			1			50
Eastbourne	Lib Dem	9	18											27
Hastings	Labour	12		15	5									32
Horsham	Conservative	30	14		3						1			48
Lewes	Green	18	9	4	8					2				41
Mid Sussex	Conservative	33	13		4						4			54
Rother	Association of Independents	14	7	2	1	12					1		1	38
Wealden	Conservative	29	6		3			4			3			45
West Sussex	Conservative	47	11	9	1						2			70
Worthing	Labour	13	1	23										37
<b>Total</b>		<b>318</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>28</b>			<b>651</b>
<b>Proportionality</b>		48.85%	17.97%	15.98%	8.45%	1.84%	0.61%	0.92%	0.31%	0.00%	4.30%	0.00%	0.00%	
<b>Seats</b>	<b>16</b>	7.82	2.88	2.56	1.35	0.29	0.10	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	
<b>Seats</b>	<b>17</b>	8.30	3.06	2.72	1.44	0.31	0.10	0.16	0.05	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00	
<b>Seats</b>	<b>18</b>	8.79	3.24	2.88	1.52	0.33	0.11	0.17	0.06	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.00	

**Summary of 15 Principal Members:**

Conservative	8
Labour	3
Liberal Democrat	1
Green	2
Assoc of Independents	1

**Notes:**

Ind<sub>1</sub> Proportionality calculated for a group. However, since this category comprises several separate independent members, the actual proportionality is lower

AOI<sub>2</sub> Association of Independents

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**Political Make-Up of Sussex Local Authorities (May 2021)**

Authority	Principal Member's Party	Con	LD	Lab	Green	AOI <sub>2</sub>	Arun Ind Group	Ind Dem	CDC Local Alliance	LDC Ind Group	Ind <sub>1</sub>	Shoreham Beach Residents' Assoc	Vacancy	Total
Adur	Conservative	19		7	1						1	1		29
Arun	Conservative	24	16	1	2		4				7			54
Brighton & Hove	Green	13		17	20						4			54
Chichester	Conservative	17	10	1	2				2		3		1	36
Crawley	Labour	18		17							1			36
East Sussex	Conservative	27	11	5	4			2			1			50
Eastbourne	Lib Dem	9	18											27
Hastings	Labour	12		19	1									32
Horsham	Conservative	32	13		2						1			48
Lewes	Green	19	9	3	8					2				41
Mid Sussex	Conservative	34	13		3						3		1	54
Rother	Association of Independents	14	7	3	1	12					1			38
Wealden	Conservative	32	5		2			4			2			45
West Sussex	Conservative	48	10	9	1				1		1			70
Worthing	Conservative	19	3	15										37
<b>Total</b>		<b>337</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>651</b>
<b>Proportionality</b>		51.77%	17.67%	14.90%	7.22%	1.84%	0.61%	0.92%	0.46%	0.31%	3.84%	0.15%	0.31%	
<b>Seats</b>	<b>16</b>	8.28	2.83	2.38	1.16	0.29	0.10	0.15	0.07	0.05	0.61	0.02	0.05	
<b>Seats</b>	<b>17</b>	8.80	3.00	2.53	1.23	0.31	0.10	0.16	0.08	0.05	0.65	0.03	0.05	
<b>Seats</b>	<b>18</b>	9.32	3.18	2.68	1.30	0.33	0.11	0.17	0.08	0.06	0.69	0.03	0.06	

**Summary of 15 Principal Members:**

Conservative	9
Labour	2
Liberal Democrat	1
Green	2
Assoc of Independents	1

**Notes:**

Ind<sub>1</sub> Proportionality calculated for a group. However, since this category comprises several separate independent members, the actual proportionality is lower

AOI<sub>2</sub> Association of Independents

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## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel – Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner**

**24 June 2022**

### **Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel**

Below is a schedule of the 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 two 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 relating to operational matters of Sussex Police are passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response, with a brief summary of such questions provided below. For the current meeting, two questions have been received for responses from the Commissioner.

#### **1. Written question from Paul Taylor-Burr of Crawley**

##### **Question:**

How many new officers have been stationed in Crawley, as myself and my store colleagues don't see any evidence of the so-called police officer uplift?

I and my colleagues would like to know just what is going to be done to put faith back into policing. I realise the PCC is not responsible for how officers are deployed, but after several precept increases we would like to understand when we can expect to see some improvement.

My colleagues work in local co-ops and have lost faith in the point of reporting issues to police as they don't get any response. I myself, when in store, have had serious issues (in the past) and this is causing a very big problem with under-reporting of offences.

##### **Answer:**

XXX – to be provided by OSPCC.

#### **2. Written question from Mr Jacklin of Rother**

On 16 May, The Times lead editorial stated "Thoughts are not Crimes: The new HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary (Andy Cooke) rightly insists that the police

must focus on catching criminals and not waste resources on non-crime hate reports". The article cites the often-repeated statistic that charge rates for burglaries and thefts are only 5% and 4% respectively. In reality, they are no doubt even lower as some people do not report such crimes.

The PCC's Annual Report to March 2021 contains little or no data on theft and burglary offences and charges.

Will such data be included in the new report; if not, can it be provided?

Where do burglaries and thefts rank in the priorities of Sussex Police and has this changed in light of the above statement by the new Chief Inspector?

Does the PCC regard increasing charge rates for theft and burglary as being a strategic priority?

**Answer:**

XXX – to be provided by OSPCC.



## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**24 June 2022**

### **Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2021/22**

#### **Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

##### **Recommendations**

That the Panel:

1. Reviews, puts questions to the Commissioner, and makes recommendations on the Annual Report and draft Financial Outturn Report for 2021/22.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Commissioner must provide the Panel with their Annual Report, and the Panel must question the Commissioner and review it.
- 1.2 Following the meeting, the Panel must make and publish a report to the Commissioner. The Commissioner must respond to the report and publish the response.

#### **2. Discussion**

- 2.1 The applicable Police and Crime Plan in place for the reporting period is that for 2021/24, which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3GWKfE1>
- 2.2 The three objectives (termed Public Priorities) set out in the Plan are:
  - Strengthen local policing, tackle crime and prevent harm
  - Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime
  - Support victims cope and safeguard the vulnerable
- 2.3 The content and structure of the Annual Report should be determined on the basis of local preferences and need, but might include:
  - How the PCC has exercised and fulfilled their statutory duties and functions in each financial year

- The progress that has been made in the year in meeting the objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan (see 2.2)
- End-of-year performance against any targets set, including exception reporting on any areas in which performance has substantially fallen short of, or exceeded, expectations
- Performance outcomes in relation to specific crime, community safety or criminal justice grants or feedback on delivery at a geographical area or departmental level
- End-of-year financial positions, including how resources have been allocated, details of any significant under or overspend and the decisions made with regard to council tax precept
- Aims and aspirations for the following year, based on any re-evaluation of local need.

2.4 Following the meeting, a report by the Panel will be prepared in consultation with the Chairman, and dispatched and published within two working days.

**Tony Kershaw**

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Covering Report for the Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2021/22

Appendix 2 - Annual Report 2021/22



<b>To:</b>	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel
<b>From:</b>	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
<b>Subject:</b>	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2021/22
<b>Date:</b>	24 June 2022
<b>Recommendation:</b>	That the Police & Crime Panel note the report

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on performance against the Public Priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan 2021/24 – and the policing and crime objectives contained within – for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 1.2 The report also sets out the draft financial outturn position for 2021/22, ahead of the audited accounts being published.

## **2.0 Annual Report 2021/22**

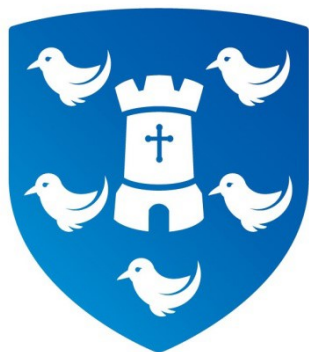
- 2.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) has a statutory duty to produce an Annual Report as set out in Chapter 3 – Section 12(1) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Act prescribes that the content of the Annual Report should include:
  - (a) the exercise of the elected local policing body's functions in each financial year; and
  - (b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the policing and crime objectives in the body's Police & Crime Plan.

## **3.0 Progress made in 2021/22**

- 3.1 The achievements, areas of work and progress made by the PCC and her office in 2021/22 are summarised in the Annual Report under each of the three Public Priorities contained within the Police & Crime Plan 2021/24.
- 3.2 The draft financial outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2022 is also included within the report, ahead of the audited accounts being published.

**Mark Streater**  
**Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer**  
**Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner**

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**Sussex  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner**

**2021/22  
Annual Report**

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## 1. Introduction

Welcome to my 2021/22 Annual Report.

November 2022 will mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) – one of the biggest changes to police governance for many years. In that time, PCCs throughout England and Wales have worked hard to re-establish a valuable connection between local people and their police force.

We have reached out to hear from all areas and sections of our communities and have built better channels and opportunities for people to tell PCCs what matters most to them. This year-round dialogue gives me the information I need to ensure that the Chief Constable and her officers deliver the most effective and efficient police service possible.

In May 2021, I was honoured to be elected by Sussex residents to serve a third term as your PCC. This is my 10th Annual Report highlighting the range of statutory activities and funding for which I am responsible, along with some of the achievements and progress made against these.

**More police:** The Government's Uplift funding will mean that Sussex Police can bring in an additional 163 police officers and a further 9 officers for the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit. With the extra funding from local taxpayers providing another 20 police officers, Sussex is on course to deliver 192 more officers by March 2023.

**Public contact:** After substantial investment, recruitment and training, 101 call waiting times are averaging 5 minutes [down from 14 minutes three years ago] and 93% of 999 calls are being answered within 10 seconds, the fourth best performing area in England and Wales for 2021/22.

**Crime gangs targeted:** Last year, the Specialist Enforcement Unit of 30 officers made 375 arrests, generated nearly 1,000 intelligence reports and seized almost £1m in drugs, cash and weapons. This is on top of 64 county drug lines being disrupted – as part of local and national operations – that identified residents being cuckooed and young people being forced to work for drug gangs.

**Reductions in burglary:** Residential burglary reduced by 21% and non-residential burglaries reduced by 8% over the past year, with the risk of being burgled in Sussex amongst the lowest of the 43 police force areas.

**Cracking down on rural crime:** The Rural Crime Team increased by four constables – following investment from the precept – bringing the team up to 22, the largest dedicated unit in the South East region. The team will work alongside a new Sussex Rural Partnership Network with those involved in managing, farming and land preservation.

**Increased detections for business crime:** In November 2021, the Force launched a dedicated Business Crime Team of nine specialist investigators and a police sergeant. The team had an instant impact on retail crime and helped businesses to submit digital evidence and intelligence to identify and target the most persistent offenders.

As this Annual Report goes to print, the next phase of One Touch reporting is due to be rolled out across more Sussex Co-op stores – following a successful pilot with 22 stores which saw reporting times slashed for businesses and the volume of reports increase.

**24% reduction in knife-enabled crime:** With £880,000 secured for the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership to continue its vital work, and an extra £600,000 in GRIP funding paying for 16,000 extra hours of policing, I am delighted that the risk of violence with injury in the county is amongst the lowest of all police force areas, with Sussex Police recording a 24% reduction in knife-enabled crime.

**£2.5m improvements to police buildings:** I have directed nearly £2.5m into improving the police estate over the past year, transforming custody blocks and Brighton Police Station, upgrading the Evidential Property Store and opening a new police station in Crowborough.

**Protected funding for community safety:** For the ninth year running, I have allocated £1.2m to our county and district level Community Safety Partnerships and I am making £200k available for local community projects to add to the £1.89m already awarded to 457 projects so far.

**£3.64m for quality assured help:** I have invested £3.64m into support services for 44,000 victims and have grown the Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network to 43 specialist providers.

**£1.3m to make night-time economy safer:** I secured £1.3m from the Home Office to help protect our high streets and public spaces and to encourage people – especially women and girls – back into shopping and the night-time economy. We have funded extra police patrols in town centres, street pastors and taxi marshal schemes, and I have distributed 250,000 'StopTopps' to prevent drink spiking in pubs and clubs.

**Calling out misogyny:** My office devised the unique behaviour challenge campaign – "Do the Right Thing" – to encourage men to call out sexist and aggressive behaviour.

**Signposting to safe spaces:** We developed a cutting-edge personal safety app that shows over 250 safe spaces in Sussex where people can go if they feel unsafe.

With the Government making more funds available to prevent violence against women and girls and to level up and protect our high streets from crime and anti-social behaviour, I can assure you that my office will make every effort to secure as much of this funding as we can to support Sussex Police and share with our partners.

I remain committed to delivering for all Sussex residents and making sure your concerns and ideas are heard and articulated. I look forward to continuing to build on our collective achievements over the next year and developing my effective working relationship with the Force further still to make Sussex an even safer place to live and work for all.

Thank you for helping me and Sussex Police to keep us all Safer in Sussex.

**Katy Bourne OBE**  
**Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner**

## 2. Progress Made Against Public Priorities

### ***2a. Public Priority 1 – Strengthen local policing, tackle crime and prevent harm***

#### **Local, Visible and Accessible Policing**

**Recruitment of more police officers** – Following a public consultation, the PCC was given public support to increase the policing part of the Council Tax for 2021/22. This added an extra £15 per year for an average Band D property and was supported and endorsed by the Police & Crime Panel at their meeting in January 2021.

This extra investment has ensured that Sussex Police was able to accelerate its local recruitment programme, improve outcomes for victims of crime and meet the expectations of residents, taxpayers and visitors to Sussex in response to any increased demand and emerging threats.

The Government also announced that Operation Uplift – the campaign to recruit 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales by the end of March 2023 – would continue as planned. During 2021/22, this included the recruitment of an additional 122 police officers for Sussex Police – from the 6,000 officers recruited nationally – and 30 officers as part of the precept increase for the year. A further six officers were also recruited to support the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU) during the year.

The PCC has also continued to work with the Chief Constable throughout the year to improve workforce diversity and ensure that this better reflects the demographics of Sussex, demonstrating a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity and promoting a culture that fully embraces this position.

The 2022/23 funding settlement has given the PCC additional ring-fenced investment to recruit a further 163 police officers in Sussex and 9 officers to support the SEROCU – as part of the national uplift programme – plus a further 20 officers through the precept.

LOOKING AHEAD: In 2022/23, the PCC increased the precept by £10 per year for an average Band D property. This extra investment will ensure that Sussex Police is able to meet the demands identified for local policing, investigations and the need for tougher enforcement to reduce criminality, building on and sustaining the investments made in previous years.

#### **Call Handling Times and Contact**

**Continued improvements to public contact** – The PCC has continued to support Sussex Police to improve the capacity of the Force to manage contact, reduce repeat calls and engage with members of the public.

The public are continuing to contact Sussex Police in different ways, with a distinct shift from telephone contact to non-voice demand and online digital. The further recruitment of more omni-competent call handlers, improved triage processes and the expansion of Single Online Home (SOH) capabilities – a common platform that allows the public to report, transact and contact the police online – contributed to improvements in public contact across all platforms in 2021/22.

Emergency contact [999] performance remained consistent with 93% of the 259,373 calls received answered within 10 seconds between throughout the year. This was achieved despite a 17% increase in the number of 999 calls offered which equated to >40,000 additional calls received compared to 2020/21. The Force was also the fourth best performing area in England and Wales for the emergency call response during the year.

## Agenda Item 7

### Appendix 2

Non-emergency calls [101] reduced by 9% across 2021/22 with >25,000 fewer calls received across the year. These reductions were attributed to a combination of COVID-19 [and the restrictions in place previously] and the greater availability of alternative channels through which members of the public could contact the police.

An average wait time of 5 minutes and 6 seconds was recorded for the 288,641 non-emergency calls received during 2021/22. This represented an increase of 1 minute and 41 seconds from 2020/21 and was attributed to the continued challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic in terms of the resources available to answer calls and respond to digital contacts and the adverse impact of external factors on the demand for police resources, including Storm Eunice [February 2022]. This continues to represent significant progress compared to the average wait time of 14 minutes and 16 seconds per call recorded in 2018/19, prior to the commencement of the Contact Transformation Programme.

The Force also recorded a 6% reduction in digital contact [emails, webforms and direct messaging] through SOH during the year, following a spike in reports received in April and May 2020 due to the introduction of COVID-19 webforms. Each of these digital contacts is triaged and graded to determine the most appropriate policing response and ensure that any potential risks or vulnerabilities are identified and prioritised.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** In 2022/23, Sussex Police will introduce a modern telephony and public contact communication system to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of call handling and dispatch processes, provide more channels for members of the public to contact the Force and increase the accessibility of policing services.

### Road Safety

**Making the roads in Sussex safer:** The PCC has continued to encourage communities, road users and partners to play a full and active part in making the roads of Sussex safer, working in partnership with the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, Operation Crackdown and Community Speed Watch groups to achieve this.

In 2021/22, there were increases in both the number of collisions and individuals killed and/or seriously injured. This comprised a 27% increase in collisions [from 11,851 in 2020/21 to 15,083 in 2021/22], with 21% more individuals killed and/or seriously injured on the roads in Sussex [412], compared to the 341 recorded during the same period last year.

Sussex Police has established two Forcewide operations – Operation Downsway and Operation Ride – to target those using the roads irresponsibly in Sussex, including speeding and anti-social driving/motorbike riding. These initiatives have focused on the provision of education and enforcement activity at locations identified by communities as having concerns for road safety with two main aims: to target offenders and to keep everyone safe on the roads of Sussex.

The Force has continued to tackle the most serious, organised and persistent criminals by targeting the road networks in Sussex. The Specialist Enforcement Unit (SEU) – launched in January 2021 – has carried out proactive countywide disruption and enforcement operations on the roads across the county. The SEU targets individuals using the road network for criminality, focusing on combatting organised acquisitive crime and providing dedicated resources to reduce those killed or seriously injured on the roads in Sussex.

## Rural Crime

**Expanding and enhancing the Rural Crime Team** – In 2021/22, the PCC continued to support the Chief Constable to maintain the dedicated Rural Crime Team (RCT) in Sussex, providing rural communities with greater protection from and swifter outcomes to rural crimes and incidents. The RCT was launched on 1 June 2020 to tackle crime, incidents and unlawful behaviour most affecting rural and isolated communities. This team was funded by an increase to the police precept in 2020/21 secured by the PCC.

The RCT provides specialist knowledge, engagement, intelligence gathering and enforcement activity across the county. The support and reassurance provided to individuals, rural communities and businesses is demonstrated through an increased visible policing presence, including a combination of officers and PCSOs targeting the crimes and offences that are either prevalent or a concern in these areas and generating community intelligence through proactive policing patrols.

During 2021/22, the RCT was expanded further still through the addition of four police constables to enhance the work of this unit. This investment from the precept increased the establishment of the team to 22 individuals, comprising: two sergeants; 12 police constables; six PCSOs and two special constables operating out of bases at Heathfield (East Sussex) and Midhurst (West Sussex).

Last year, the team was focused on establishing links and developing relationships with rural communities, businesses and other stakeholders to generate a collaborative approach towards information sharing, improving communication networks and working together to reduce rural crime. The additional investment has enabled the team to support a pursue element which includes proactive, targeted and intelligence-led policing. The use of technology and equipment has further assisted the Force to modernise its approach to rural policing through the provision of heightened response, search and prevention capabilities.

The RCT has continued to carry out significant operational activity in this area using intelligence reports received to provide a visible policing presence, tangible deterrence and reassurance to rural areas affected most by theft, poaching, hare coursing and livestock worrying. The team has also undertaken several joint operations with the RCTs within Kent Police and Hampshire Constabulary [targeting suspects responsible for rural break-ins] and collaboration between the Sussex Police Commercial Vehicle Unit, Environment Agency and local authorities to target the illegal dumping of waste. All operational activity in respect of rural crimes, incidents and offences is recorded and collated by Sussex Police through a marker called Operation Tracker.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** In 2022/23, a Sussex Rural Partnership Network will be created to provide a forum for those involved in the managing, farming and preservation of land in Sussex to understand issues, share solutions and develop best practice.

## Business and Retail Crime

**Dedicated Business Crime Team established** – In November 2021, Sussex Police launched a Business Crime Team to tackle business and retail crime, identify prolific offenders and provide support to business communities in Sussex. The team comprises 9 specialist investigators and a sergeant and will support the business community by working closely with partners, businesses and customers to generate better intelligence and ensure that a more focused police response is provided to reports of business crime.

## Agenda Item 7

### Appendix 2

The Business Crime Team will work more smartly to investigate business crimes, improve partnership working and tackle this criminality through a more innovative use of technology. This will include piloting more efficient reporting processes and technology which allow digital evidence, such as CCTV footage, to be shared with the Force directly for immediate access to evidence. The process will enable staff to continue serving customers, rather than waiting to talk to the police.

This approach will also include bringing together intelligence from across the county to provide crime prevention advice and catch the criminals who are targeting and affecting businesses large and small, leading to more positive outcomes and increased business confidence in police. This work has been commended by the Minister of State for Policing and Crime, with many PCCs in England and Wales now modelling their local policing response to business crime on the partnership approach initiated in Sussex last year.

The PCC has also continued to build on the initial success of the Safer Sussex Business Partnership (SSBP) in 2021/22 by focusing on demonstrating improved support for victims of business crime, providing a clearer picture of business crime in the county, and continuing to strengthen links between Sussex Police and the business community to improve confidence in the policing response to business crime.

The SSBP was established in 2019/20 to develop stronger links between the police and local businesses to make Sussex a safer place in which to shop and work. The SSBP provides Sussex Police with an advisory and resilience forum drawn from the business community and enables the Force to obtain feedback on the crimes most affecting businesses across both urban and rural locations.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** In 2022/23, the SSBP and Sussex Police will launch three new schemes to reduce shoplifting across the county. This will include diverting first time shoplifters away from crime, making offenders recognise the impact of their crimes and utilising civil and criminal enforcement orders for persistent offenders.

### **Burglary**

**Reductions in recorded crime** – The PCC and Sussex Police have continued to raise awareness of the significant impact that burglaries can have on victims, encourage members of the public to protect their homes from the threat of intruders and to detect these crimes by proactively targeting the offenders responsible. This has been supported by Operation Magpie – the dedicated Force response to burglary crimes – which delivers crime prevention initiatives throughout the year.

There was a 21% reduction in the number of recorded residential burglaries in Sussex in 2021/22. This equated to 674 fewer burglary crimes recorded compared to the 3,166 offences recorded the year before, with these reductions apparent across each of the three policing divisions.

There was also an 8% reduction in the recorded number of non-residential burglaries [including business premises] across the same period. These recorded offences reduced from 1,826 to 1,688 offences – a reduction of 138 non-residential burglaries compared to 2020/21. Again, these reductions were apparent across each of three policing divisions.

The risk of being burgled in Sussex continues to remain low, with the Force positioned 4<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 43 police force areas in England and Wales and 1<sup>st</sup> in their Most Similar Group of 8 forces, in terms of the risk of burglary per 1,000 population.

INFOGRAPHIC: 21% reduction in residential burglaries.

INFOGRAPHIC: 8% reduction in non-residential burglaries.



## Anti-Social Behaviour

**Increase in Community Trigger activations** – There was a 14% increase in the number of Community Trigger activations made in Sussex in 2021/22, in comparison to the year before – this equated to six more activations.

A Community Trigger empowers repeat victims of anti-social behaviour to request a review of the actions partner agencies have taken to resolve their concerns with the aim of finding a solution to the core problems causing the anti-social behaviour.

Year	Community Triggers	Adur & Worthing	Arun	Brighton & Hove	Chichester	Eastbourne	Crawley	Eastbourne	Hastings	Horsham	Lewes	Mid Sussex	Rother	Wealden	Sussex
2020/21	Received	2	1	13	2	0	2	10	1	3	1	3	5	2	<b>43</b>
	Met threshold	2	0	11	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>22</b>
2021/22	Received	3	2	22	2	2	2	7	1	4	1	4	1	1	<b>49</b>
	Met threshold	2	0	14	0	0	1	7	0	1	0	1	1	0	<b>27</b>

Of the case reviews received, 55% of these [27] met the threshold for activation in 2021/22 – with three separate incidents of anti-social behaviour experienced and reported in the last six months. This also represents an increase from 2020/21, with five additional activations having met the threshold.

**Tackling ASB through mediation:** The PCC has continued to fund the Sussex Mediation Alliance (SMA) to provide consistent mediation services in Sussex across four service providers: Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service; Hastings and Rother Mediation Services; Mediation Plus and West Sussex Mediation Service.

Anti-social behaviour is understood to be a 'crime of confidence', whereby the more confident members of the public are about the ability of the police to respond, the more likely they are to report incidents to the police. The Force has continued to encourage members of the public to report any incidents and offences, an approach that enables Sussex Police to develop information and intelligence regarding repeat offenders, times and locations which can then be used to plan, target and deploy police resources. The early identification of anti-social behaviour is recognised to be fundamental to prevent the conflict from escalating further and to decrease community tensions.

In 2021/22, the SMA received 191 referrals directly from Sussex Police for resolution through mediation to prevent the conflict from escalating any further, distributed across Sussex as follows: 56 in Brighton & Hove, 51 in East Sussex and 84 in West Sussex. Anti-social behaviour was the most common type of dispute and accounted for 85 cases (and 45%), followed by neighbour disputes (41 cases and 22%) and property disputes (27 cases and 14%).

The service has managed to secure engagement from both parties to attempt to find a resolution in around two-thirds of all cases, with every positive outcome – including successful mediation, conflict resolution coaching and/or improved communication skills [for either party] – reducing the demand placed on Sussex Police.

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### Appendix 2

The PCC has continued to encourage Sussex Police to work with schools and other educational establishments to engage with children and young people to build confidence in policing, promote positive behaviours and educate them about the impact their actions and behaviours can have on others within the local community, without unnecessarily criminalising them. This work is routinely undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Neighbourhood Youth Officers, supported by youth services within local authorities.

INFOGRAPHIC: 191 referrals for mediation services.

### Technology

**Increased capabilities for frontline officers** – The PCC has ensured that Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) – otherwise known as smartphones – have continued to be provided to all frontline police officers, staff and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to increase mobility, responsiveness and provide greater operational capabilities to fight crime. This platform maximises productivity and efficiency gains for policing by providing users with the ability to receive, retrieve, update and process greater information and intelligence straight from the MDT without the constraint of having to be at a single physical location.

During 2021/22, the capability and functionality of the MDTs was increased and enhanced further still. This included full deployment of 'images at the roadside', whereby officers can use their devices to check driving licence photos following any offences. This functionality, alongside the use of the mobile fingerprint readers introduced previously, means that there is a much greater likelihood of detection where offenders try to avoid identification.

The further deployment of the 'remote witness statement' functionality also means that it is now possible for officers to complete these statements by telephone before a copy is sent securely to the witness for digital signature. Once accepted, the statement is returned and automatically uploaded onto the police records management system, reducing the risk of any erroneous entries and data breaches, whilst allowing for full compliance with disclosure rules.

**Continued investment in Body Worn Video** – The PCC has continued to invest in the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) technology to ensure that all frontline officers and staff are also equipped with personal-issue cameras. The BWV cameras are an established way of capturing and securing real-time evidence in an easy to use and accessible digital format.

This technology is particularly useful for increasing the number of convictions for domestic abuse crimes (including victimless prosecutions where the victim does not want to support a prosecution) by using the evidence captured through BWV. This platform also ensures that interactions with members of the public remain professional and accountable and helps to safeguard officers and staff by reducing the number of assaults.

**Successful implementation of the Digital Evidence Management System** – Sussex Police and Surrey Police implemented a Digital Evidence Management System during 2020/21 that enables both forces to ingest and share video captured through BWV more efficiently, effectively and securely – removing the need for portable digital media. During 2021/22, the new solution was successfully integrated into all sites across the police estate.



## Sussex Police Estate

**Continued investment in the police estate** – A total of £2.480m was invested in the Sussex Police estate in 2021/22. The PCC has continued to ensure that the property used for policing is in the right place, is fit for purpose and is efficient. This approach means that no police facility with a public reception will be removed until a suitable local alternative is identified, examining options for sharing with partners and disposal for redevelopment wherever the police estate is under-used.

The PCC is responsible for the Sussex Police estate and, as the landlord, has developed an Estates Strategy 2022/27 to enable the effective governance of all land and property. The land and sites were valued at £173.1m on 31 March 2022.

During 2021/22, the £957,000 investment programme to deliver significant refurbishments to the police custody estate was completed. This programme resulted in the closure of each of the custody blocks for a period of 8 weeks, on a rotational basis, to allow for essential upgrades to be completed in line with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) requirements.

Other delivery highlights in 2021/22 included: the opening of a new fully refurbished police station in Crowborough [in September 2021] to provide a more convenient and visible policing presence in the town centre and to improve the working environment for the officers and staff using these facilities; further improvements to Brighton Police Station through the introduction of greater insulation and waterproof coverings for the main roof areas, together with enabling works to remove old and disused oil tanks from the basement areas; enhancements to the Evidential Property Stores throughout the Force which has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of this service and ensures that all criminal evidence is held safely and securely and can be readily provided to the courts as required, and further investment in facilities to support increased opportunities for agile working across the Sussex Police estate and from home as appropriate.

The PCC also worked closely with the Joint Commercial Planning Manager for Sussex Police to secure an additional £200,836 from district and borough councils across Sussex through Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This funding was used to support further investment and improvements in the Sussex Police estate and existing policing infrastructure. In total, £2.142m has been secured for Sussex Police through Section 106 Agreements and CILs since 2017/18.

The Force has also continued to work with the National Police Estates Group to ensure that the police and other emergency services are a primary consideration within the existing planning system for any new developments throughout the country.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** A new Estates Strategy for 2022/27 is currently in development and will be published in the summer of 2022.

INFOGRAPHIC 1: £200,836 secured from new developments.

## Partnership Activity to Reduce Crime

**Funding Protected for Community Safety Partnerships** – In 2021/22, the PCC protected community safety funding in Sussex for the 9<sup>th</sup> year running and allocated £1.215m to Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council and each of the 12 District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

The PCC continues to support fully the CSPs to address crime and anti-social behaviour at a district level, respond dynamically to emerging threats and issues, and implement local activity in line with their strategic objectives as required. This has included the delivery of several crime prevention initiatives and work to tackle violence against women and girls using combined funding worth nearly £1.3million received from the Safer Streets Fund [£976,782] and the Safety of Women at Night Fund [£300,000].

Many of the CSPs continued to explore opportunities to work more collaboratively during the year and it is evident that strong relationships exist with wider partnership members and the local communities.

INFOGRAPHIC: £1.215m in community safety funding allocated throughout Sussex.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The PCC has made a further commitment to protect community safety funding again in 2022/23.

**Ongoing support for the Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership** – The Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) continued to provide ongoing support to victims of crime seeking restitution, rather than a criminal justice outcome, by confronting perpetrators and describing the impact of the crime upon them and their families.

The SRJP – established by the PCC in May 2014 – comprises more than 20 statutory and voluntary sector organisations across Sussex and continues to be recognised as good practice nationally. Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime and those responsible for the harm into communication with each other, enabling all parties affected by an incident to find a positive way forward and repair the harm caused.

During 2021/22, the PCC worked with Sussex Police to develop the range of Out of Court Disposal options available in Sussex to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system by considering alternative approaches to prosecution. This included referrals to a range of services that tackle substance misuse, anger management and hate crime, together with activities focused on acquisitive crime, fraud, fire safety and wildlife crime. Many perpetrators were also offered the opportunity to attend victim awareness programmes supported by the CSPs.

The SRJP continues to support the disposals delivered through the Community Remedy process, with 484 cases resolved through this option during the year – representing a 24.7% increase compared to 2020/21. In addition, 75 referrals were made to the SRJP and taken forward by the three Restorative Justice Hubs in Sussex in 2021/22, with a further 385 referrals received through the Youth Offending Service (YOS).

The Hubs delivered 33 restorative outcomes throughout the financial year, with the YOS contributing a further 150 outcomes. Across the SRJP, there were 12 direct and 21 indirect outcomes delivered through shuttle mediation and the exchange of letters between victims and offenders – with satisfaction levels remaining at 100% throughout.

INFOGRAPHIC: 75 referrals made to the Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership.

**Improved information sharing via ECINS** – The PCC continued to jointly fund the Empowering Communities Inclusion & Neighbourhood management System (ECINS) with Sussex Police through 2021/22.

ECINS is a multi-agency case management system which facilitates real-time information sharing between police and local authority partners in a secure and General Data Protection Regulation compliant way. ECINS provides a central hub where practitioners can task and inform one another, dramatically speeding up processes and enabling support to be quickly and effectively offered to victims. Last year, the PCC made the decision to extend the funding for ECINS until March 2023.

**Continued funding for the Sussex Hate Incident Support Service** – The PCC has continued to encourage and enable victims and witnesses to report hate crime and ensure that offenders are brought to justice.

During 2021/22, the Sussex Hate Incident Support Service [delivered by Victim Support] supported 528 complex, high-risk and vulnerable victims of hate crime in Sussex through the provision of immediate emotional support, advice and coordination with partner agencies. These victims were targeted because of a prejudice towards their disability, gender identity, race or ethnicity, religion or belief and/or sexual orientation.

INFOGRAPHIC: 528 victims supported by the Sussex Hate Incident Support Service

**Further funding awarded through the Safer in Sussex Community Fund** – The PCC allocated £181,385 from the Safer in Sussex Community Fund (SiSCF) in 2021/22 to support 56 local projects across Sussex to tackle crime and improve community safety.

The SiSCF provides financial support (grant awards up to £5,000) to a diverse range of local organisations and community projects that aim to reduce crime and improve community safety.

In total, £1.897m has been allocated to support 457 community projects since the SiSCF was created. This has included support for young and older people, homelessness, scams and fraud awareness and businesses affected by crime. A list of each of the successful applications to the SiSCF can be viewed through the following link:

<https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/apply-for-funding/>

INFOGRAPHIC: £1.897m for 457 community projects.

**Coordinated the activity of the Sussex Criminal Justice Board** – The PCC continued to chair the Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB) to coordinate the activity of local criminal justice agencies to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for Sussex through two overarching priorities: improving justice outcomes for victims, witnesses, suspects and offenders, and reducing re-offending and transforming rehabilitation.

The SCJB approach to reducing crime and reoffending remains focused on better use of Integrated Offender Management and tackling the acute shortage of accommodation for offenders. In 2021/22, housing, homelessness and rough sleeper initiatives were expanded in Sussex to include additional capacity for homeless offenders and prison leavers to support further offender management. The electronic monitoring and mapping of offenders has also been improved locally with Sussex taking part in the second phase of the national enhanced system; local crime data is overlaid with Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking data of ex-offenders received from the Ministry of Justice on a 24-hour basis.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The PCC is currently in the process of developing an iterative Criminal Justice Visualisation Tool (CJVT) in Sussex that can link data from multiple sources to provide insights about the 'user journey' throughout the criminal justice system. It is anticipated that the CJVT will be delivered in 2022/23.

**Early Intervention Youth Programme transferred to Sussex Police** – On 1 April 2021, the PCC transferred the Early Intervention Youth Programme – REBOOT – to Sussex Police to lead and manage. REBOOT aims to divert away from crime young people at risk of becoming involved in serious violence, and those who have already come to the attention of the police through anti-social behaviour and low-level criminality. The PCC will continue to monitor the performance of Sussex Police in this area through informal weekly meetings and formal monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs).

In October 2021, REBOOT won a national Howard League for Penal Reform Community Award in the Policing and Children category for its work to strengthen protective factors around vulnerable young people [whilst it was under the management of the PCC]. This work sought to highlight the alternatives to crime for children and young people with a view to positively changing future outcomes and lives.

### **Public Engagement**

**Understanding priorities and concerns through #TalkSussex** – In May 2021, the PCC's extensive public engagement programme – #TalkSussex – was re-launched digitally to provide the residents of Sussex with the opportunity to inform local policing and budget decisions and to discuss any issues with the PCC directly.

This programme replaced attendance at physical events across the county, replicating the approach taken last year due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and took the format of a short questionnaire targeted at different areas of Sussex each month.

The #TalkSussex questionnaire received 1,333 responses from locations across Sussex. Each of the areas was also asked to submit three key policing priorities for their community, rate the effectiveness of the policing response [to those priorities] and confirm how safe they feel locally.

**Measuring public confidence through the Sentiment Meter** – The PCC continued to use a sentiment meter on her website during 2021/22 to provide a 'live' temperature test of public confidence. This platform – launched on 1 April 2020 – asks residents to rank their feelings of safety on a scale of 0 [very unsafe] to 100 [very safe].

The sentiment meter received 7,315 responses from individuals across Sussex during the year, with an average countywide sentiment score of 59 which equated to 'quite safe'. This represented an increase of 2,369 responses, compared to the 4,946 responses received in 2020/21, with the overall sentiment having remained consistent despite a two-point reduction [from 61].

LOOKING AHEAD: The PCC will continue to use the sentiment meter in 2022/23 to allow for the continued collection and collation of valuable information to provide a tangible measurement of public confidence in Sussex Police over time.

**Drilling down into local issues at focus groups** – In 2021/22, the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) carried out two separate rounds of online focus groups across the county, in conjunction with the Sussex Association of Local Councils. The focus groups were held in May and November 2021 and continued to provide a direct channel to receive feedback from town and parish councils about contact with Sussex Police and community satisfaction with the policing response provided.

97 town and parish councils in Sussex were invited to attend the focus groups, with elected members from 81 councils participating in these discussions which represented approximately 615,000 Sussex residents from the following areas:

#### **East Sussex**

- Lewes – including Barcombe, Iford, Lewes, Newhaven, Newick, Peacehaven, Rodmell, Seaford, South Highton, Telscombe and Wivelsfield.
- Rother – including Battle, Bexhill, Brede, Burwash, Camber, Etchingham, Icklesham, Ninfield, Peasmarsh, Robertsbridge, Rye and Sedlescombe.
- Wealden – including Buxted, Crowborough, Hailsham, Heathfield & Waldron, Maresfield, Mayfield, Polegate, Uckfield, Wadhurst, Westham and Withyham.

## West Sussex

- Adur – including Lancing, Sompting and Shoreham.
- Arun – including Aldingbourne, Angmering, Arundel, Bognor Regis, Clapham, East Preston, Littlehampton and Rustington.
- Chichester – including Chichester, Donnington, East Wittering, Fittleworth, Lynchmere, Midhurst, North Mundham, Petworth, Selsey, Singleton & Charlton, Southbourne, West Itchenor, Westbourne and West Wittering.
- Horsham – including Billingshurst, Bramber, Broadbridge Heath, Henfield, North Horsham, Pulborough, Rusper, Slinfold, Southwater, Storrington & Sullington, Upper Beeding, Warnham and West Chiltington.
- Mid Sussex – including Ansty and Staplefield, Ashurst Wood, Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Hassocks, Haywards Heath, Hurstpierpoint, Turners Hill and Worth.

The sessions focused on police engagement with local communities [highlighting the important role of PCSOs], contact with Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the quality of information fed back to local councils by the police. Additional points discussed included roads policing, the Rural Crime Team and the difficulties [and perceptions of difficulties] sometimes experienced by individuals when reporting crimes.

In November 2021, the focus groups also carried out an exercise to rank a list of policing priorities in order of importance. The aim of this task was to demonstrate the range of issues and responsibilities targeted and addressed by Sussex Police, together with the challenges faced in prioritising resources. The recommendations emanating from the focus groups held in November 2021 have since been shared with Sussex Police for progression.

LOOKING AHEAD: The online focus groups will be repeated in May and November 2022, with the remit of the discussions and the number of communities involved in the engagement exercise widened and expanded further still.

INFOGRAPHIC: 81 councils participated in online focus groups – representing 615,000 Sussex residents.

## Holding the Chief Constable to Account

**Regular scrutiny at the Performance & Accountability Meetings** – The PCC continued to use publicly webcast monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police.

The PAMs continue to provide scrutiny and transparency over a broad range of police functions, decisions and operational activity, together with any inspection reports that are published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service. In 2021/22, the PAMs included challenges around the police response to: violence against women and girls; stalking and harassment; anti-social behaviour; neighbourhood policing; call handling times and contact; road safety [including the use of electric scooters]; crime data integrity; collaboration with Surrey Police and police officer recruitment.

The PAMs continue to be recognised as good practice nationally by both the Home Secretary and the Minister of State for Policing and Crime. Each of the PAM sessions are archived and, together with the summary minutes from the meetings, can be viewed in full through the following link: <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/watch-live/>

## ***2b. Public Priority 2 – Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime***

### **Homicide, Serious Violence and Knife Crime**

**Consistently low homicides recorded** – The PCC has continued to support all available measures introduced by police and partners to reduce the number of people killed by homicide in Sussex.

The number of recorded homicides in Sussex remained consistently low in 2021/22, with 7 homicides recorded across the year. This was the same number of homicides recorded in 2020/21.

**More than £2m funding secured to tackle serious violence** – The PCC was successful in securing funding worth more than £2m during 2021/22 to tackle serious violence in Sussex, as follows:

**[SUBHEADING] GRIP funding of £601,965 secured** – The PCC successfully secured 'GRIP funding' of £601,965 from the Serious Violence Fund to tackle serious violence and knife crime in Sussex. This represented the third consecutive year that repeat funding was received from the Home Office to support, maintain and enhance the operational capacity and capability of Sussex Police in this important area.

This funding was used to enhance the operational policing response to incidents of violence across the county, after Sussex was one of 18 police force areas in England and Wales identified as having an increased risk of serious violence. These funds supported proactive police deployments, insight work [to understand better the root causes of the problems relating to serious violence in Sussex] and increased support for investigations activity to ensure crime reports were progressed to positive outcomes. All activity in this area was recorded as part of Operation Safety to monitor better the progress made and achievements realised.

During 2021/22, this activity equated to an additional 1,995 days of policing in Sussex [15,960 extra hours] and the successful delivery of 1,679 different police operations. The following outcomes were demonstrated through this proactive activity:

- Operation Safety engagement vehicle deployed 98 times within local communities.
- Knife crime education lessons delivered to 117 schools, colleges and other educational establishments across Sussex.
- 3,089 knives [and 147 other weapons] surrendered through the sustained provision of amnesty bins.
- 219 uniformed and plain clothed proactive police patrols to 'hotspot' locations which contributed to: 551 stop and searches undertaken, 819 intelligence logs submitted, 247 arrests made, and 183 weapons seized.
- 238 separate premises were visited to undertake test purchases, with advice and enforcement activity delivered to retailers as required.
- 147 knife sweeps of public places completed, with knife arches used on 15 occasions including partnership operations with British Transport Police.

INFOGRAPHIC 1: £601,965 to support enforcement activity in Sussex.

INFOGRAPHIC 2: 551 stop and searches, 247 arrests and 3,089 knives surrendered.

LOOKING AHEAD: The PCC has supported a supplementary application to the Home Office for repeat GRIP funding in 2022/23 to increase the operational capacity and capability of Sussex Police in this area further still.
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**[SUBHEADING] Maintained support for the Violence Reduction Unit** – The PCC secured a further £880,000 from the Home Office to continue to maintain and support a Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) in Sussex, supported by Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) on each of the three policing divisions [Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex].

The Sussex VRP was established in July 2019 to bring together specialists from police, local government, health, probation services and community organisations to tackle serious violence and the underlying causes of violent crime. The VRUs are responsible for coordinating the work, activities and interventions delivered in this area to reduce the risks to individuals and communities throughout Sussex.

The Sussex VRP defines serious violence as crime types that cause or intend to cause serious injury, including those crimes that involve the use of a firearm, knife or other bladed/pointed weapon and/or acid or corrosive substances in a public place and non-domestic-related. As such, serious violence includes homicide, grievous bodily harm and wounding, knife offences and robbery.

During 2021/22, there was an 8% increase in serious violence recorded in Sussex. This equated to 108 more serious violent crimes recorded compared to the 1,275 offences recorded across 2020/21. This comprised increases recorded for grievous bodily harm and wounding [+30% and 130 more offences] and firearms offences [+6% and 7 more offences], and reductions recorded for robberies [-12% and 86 fewer offences] and knife crime [-0.2% and one fewer offence]. There was no change in the public place and non-domestic-related homicides with two offences recorded across each year. However, there has been a 16% reduction in serious violence recorded in Sussex when compared to the baseline figures before VRP funding was received [March 2019] which equates to 257 fewer offences.

There was a 13% reduction in the number of possession of weapons offences recorded in Sussex across the financial year, which equated to 133 fewer offences in comparison to the 1,033 recorded in 2020/21. This comprised reductions recorded for possession of firearms [-22% and 25 fewer offences], possession of bladed and/or sharp instruments [-10% and 51 fewer offences] and possession of other weapons [-14% and 57 fewer offences], with these reductions apparent across each of the three policing divisions.

Sussex Police also recorded a 24% reduction in knife-enabled crime in the year ending September 2021, in comparison to the year before, with the Force recording the greatest percentage decrease within their Most Similar Group (MSG) of 8 police forces. Performance in this area far exceeded the -10% reduction in knife-enabled crime recorded by all forces in England and Wales across the same period.

The risk of 'violence with injury' in Sussex continues to remain low, with the Force positioned 31 out of 43 police force areas in England and Wales, and 4<sup>th</sup> in their MSG, in terms of the risk of violence per 1,000 population.

The reductions recorded in serious violence and possession of weapons offences in Sussex are attributed to the success of the VRP and the three VRUs, with available data highlighting that those police force areas with VRUs are demonstrating greater reductions in serious violence and knife crime in comparison to non-funded forces.

Early intervention and preventative work are recognised to be fundamental to violence reduction. Throughout the year, Sussex Police has continued to work with partners to deter young people away from serious violence and knife crime. More than 4,500 children and young people engaged in intervention activity across Sussex during 2021/22.

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The PCC also secured further Home Office funding of £518,862 for the VRP in August 2021. This funding was used to deliver two Sussex-wide projects: SWITCH mentoring programme [supporting care leavers and other vulnerable young people] and a trauma-informed training programme [offering training to police and partner organisations].

A Serious Violence Executive Board was also created in July 2021, following feedback received from the Home Office, to oversee the work of Sussex Police and partners in this important area with the Director of Public Health now added to the expanded membership.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The funding for the VRP has been extended for the next three years to 2024/25. This will enable Sussex Police to continue the work to tackle serious violence and to reduce further the risks to individuals and communities throughout Sussex.

**INFOGRAPHIC:** £880,000 to maintain a Violence Reduction Partnership.

#### **Maintained the Specialist Enforcement Unit and Tactical Enforcement Units –**

The PCC has continued to provide the Chief Constable with resources to reinforce the local capacity and national capability of Sussex Police to carry out high-profile disruptions and enforcement activities targeting serious and organised criminals.

The Force has sought to tackle the most serious, organised and persistent criminals by targeting the road networks in Sussex. The Specialist Enforcement Unit (SEU) – launched in January 2021 – has carried out proactive countywide disruption and enforcement operations on the roads across the county. The SEU targets individuals using the road network for criminality, focusing on combatting organised acquisitive crime and providing dedicated resources to reduce those killed or seriously injured on the roads in Sussex.

The SEU consists of three separate uniformed teams, totalling 30 police officers, and is led by one inspector. The unit also consists of an Investigative Team of seven police officers to support the policing divisions with investigations. The SEU is tasked by the Tactical Tasking and Coordinating Group based on information and intelligence received. This extends to the 'real-time' deployment of resources through the Force Contact Command and Control Department to provide a response to any crimes in action.

The individuals within the SEU have more advanced driving skills and safe stop tactics [such as tactical pursuit and containment] to support existing teams across the Force. The SEU also has dedicated support from the Dog Unit and the capability to move to locations based on threat, risk and harm and to provide an enhanced visibility on the roads, with the ability to target those offenders using them.

During 2021/22, the SEU carried out 455 stop and searches, made 375 arrests, generated 991 intelligence reports and submitted 75 referrals to safeguard vulnerable individuals through proactive policing patrols. The unit also demonstrated the following policing activity and interventions across that period:

- >20,600 hours spent delivering proactive policing throughout Sussex.
- £971,841 in commodities seized [including £733,771 of drugs, £238,070 in cash and 96 weapons].
- 348 traffic offences identified [including drink-and-drug driving and disqualified/uninsured drivers] and 206 vehicles seized.
- 56 pre-emptive vehicle tactics were also successfully deployed, reducing the risk to the public and increasing investigative opportunities.

The SEU is supported by the three TEUs who provide each of the policing divisions with additional capacity and capability to target criminality and capture some of the most serious, wanted and prolific offenders in Sussex.



The TEUs were launched by Sussex Police in December 2019 to carry out high profile disruption and enforcement activity across Sussex. The TEUs are tasked locally by the divisions and provide public reassurance through an enhanced and visible policing deterrent by tackling the offences that the communities want them to respond to through the execution of planned warrants and enforcement activity. Each of the TEUs comprises one sergeant and 8 police constables with specialist skills in proactive policing, equipped to carry out targeted disruption, enforcement and patrol activities to tackle the offences that communities want them to prioritise most.

INFOGRAPHIC: SEU made 455 stop and searches and 375 arrests.

### **Drugs and County Lines**

**Investment in a dedicated County Lines Team** – The PCC has continued to ensure that the Chief Constable has the resources required to tackle and disrupt the organised crime groups responsible for county lines drug gang activity in Sussex.

A dedicated County Lines Team was established in September 2020 to target, arrest and charge individuals running drug lines and safeguarding those individuals drawn into and exploited by criminality. This team was funded by investment from the police precept in 2020/21 and disrupted 64 county drug lines in Sussex across the year.

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams within each policing district in Sussex undertake regular visits to identified properties to safeguard and support vulnerable adults and tackle 'cuckooing' – a term used to describe the action of organised crime groups, gangs or other drug dealers taking over the property of a vulnerable adult with the sole purpose of using it as a local base to supply drugs.

Sussex Police has also continued to provide support to the Metropolitan Police Service to target offenders impacting on Sussex through Operation Centurion – an operation to share intelligence, investigate county lines and the dealing of controlled substances.

The exploitation of children and young people in relation to drugs and county lines and the inherent challenges associated with identifying and safeguarding those most at risk as part of the policing response are recognised by the Force. This is because the crime, by its very nature, is often hidden with victims unable to recognise and/or report the harm to which they are subject.

Sussex Police has taken a multi-layered approach to overcome these challenges at a strategic, tactical and operational level. The Force has embedded a series of multi-agency meetings – led by senior detectives – to review all exploitation-related intelligence received with partners to maximise the effectiveness of the response provided and ensure that no opportunities to safeguard victims and/or target perpetrators are missed.

The Force has also sought to improve police officer and staff recognition of exploitation, improve the effectiveness of the policing response provided, and to adopt any learning, tactics and best practice identified locally, regionally and nationally to tackle county lines drug supply and activity. Technology is now being used to support operational policing in this area, with guidance developed around a range of exploitation-related scenarios that is now accessible to police officers via their handheld Mobile Data Terminals.

Sussex Police has also worked with partner agencies to raise awareness of this type of criminality and share information around this area more effectively to strengthen the response provided to victims and survivors. Sussex Police is also in the process of creating a dashboard to identify those individuals most at risk of exploitation and those suspected of exploiting others, with a view to sharing this information with partners to develop further the collective response in this area and protect better the communities of Sussex.

**Review of drug intervention funding** – In 2021/22, the PCC undertook a review of drug intervention funding in Sussex to ensure that this remains appropriate because of the strong links between drug use and crime.

It is recognised that half of all homicides and half of all acquisitive crimes are linked to drugs, one in three individuals in prison are there because of crimes related to drug use, and that the drug supply chain is becoming increasingly violent and exploitative.

The comprehensive 'Review of drugs' – undertaken by Dame Carol Black – called for a whole-system approach to recovery. The Government has responded by launching 'From Harm to Hope' – a 10-year plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system.

The PCC found that the drug intervention and treatment services delivered across Sussex were performing well and maintained the funding for local authorities at £312,948 during 2021/22. This represented the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that this funding has been maintained locally, despite continued reductions in community safety grant funding from central Government. The PCC has made £2.8m available for drug interventions in Sussex across this period.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The PCC will maintain drug intervention funding for Sussex at the same level in 2022/23.

**Further criminal assets recovered** – Sussex Police secured £306,000 from the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 during 2021/22.

POCA is an asset recovery scheme to deny criminals the use of their assets, recover the proceeds of crime and disrupt and deter further criminality. A total of £3.012m has been secured by Sussex Police through this mechanism since 2013/14.

In 2021/22, the PCC and Sussex Police agreed to jointly fund posts in the Economic Crime Unit and invested a further £74,275 into community-based initiatives.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

**Increased awareness of criminal exploitation** – The PCC has continued to work with Sussex Police and other partner agencies to protect children from criminal exploitation by raising awareness and increasing the reporting of these offences against children.

In 2021/22, Operation Makesafe was launched to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and provide businesses with information, advice and guidance to assist them with identifying the signs of exploitation of children and young people, and the relevant contact details to report any suspicious circumstances and/or concerns identified. This included the provision of multi-agency briefings and training events to business leads, management and employees within these organisations.

There was a 27.1% increase in the number of offences involving child sexual exploitation in Sussex in 2021/22. This equated to 206 additional offences recorded compared to the 821 recorded across 2020/21 and is attributed to an improvement in the recognition and accurate recording of offences, rather than an actual increase in offending.

Throughout the year, the PCC has continued to ensure that child victims receive the support they need and that more offenders are brought to justice. This has included commissioning Barnardo's and YMCA DownsLink Group to provide a service to children who have been sexually exploited in Sussex, and Survivors' Network to provide a Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service to support children and young people [and their families] who have been raped or sexually abused. This provision includes dedicated one-to-one support to assist individuals with any journey through the criminal justice system and beyond as part of their ongoing recovery

## Fraud and Cyber-Crime

**Launched the Digital Investigation Support Unit** – In January 2022, a Digital Investigation Support Unit was launched across Sussex Police and Surrey Police to support investigations where physical and/or online digital evidence is involved.

The unit – comprising 14 officers and staff – was established following investment from the precept in 2021/22 and has had an immediate impact on crime investigation outcomes by supporting frontline officers and staff to obtain evidence that may have been beyond their capabilities previously.

The PCC has continued to seek to identify, understand and tackle fraud, cyber-crime and other emerging scams in Sussex. The Force, in partnership with Action Fraud [the national reporting centre for fraud and cyber-crime in England and Wales], has sought to provide help, support and advice to individuals and businesses who have been scammed, defrauded and/or experienced cyber-crime.

Sussex Police has also continued to ensure that police officers and staff have the capacity, capability, systems and equipment required to tackle the increasing volume and complexity of cyber-crime. This has included sustained investment in a collaborated Cyber Crime Unit – between Sussex and Surrey Police – to investigate cyber-dependant crime within the regional and national network. As the volume of cyber-crime continues to increase, there has been a renewed focus to enhance the skills of the wider workforce to meet this demand and maximise opportunities to develop this capability further still.

The joint Cyber Crime Unit has sought to raise awareness of cyber-crime with members of the public and local businesses in Sussex through the delivery of a series of online campaigns and engagement at community events to highlight the 'cyber protect' message. The unit has also moved quickly to respond to new and emerging threats and crime types, including crypto currencies, to design and develop guidelines and seizure protocols that have been shared and adopted locally and regionally.

The unit has a strong protect capability and provides all victims of cyber-crime with access to advice and guidance to reduce the risk of becoming repeat victims. The unit has developed and delivered a training package for partner agencies working with survivors of domestic abuse to ensure that these individuals have the skills and knowledge required to include digital safeguarding as a core element of the collective response provided to increase protection of vulnerable victims.

Despite the relatively small size of the Cyber Crime Unit, it has already developed a high level of capability that has contributed to the delivery of many successful outcomes in cyber-dependant crime investigations. The unit is leading on cases to tackle organised cyber criminality, with international partners, which has resulted in the seizure of assets and convictions. The team also remains focused on ensuring that opportunities to divert young cyber offenders to cyber prevent programs are maximised following several successful interventions.

The unit makes a significant contribution to both forces by supporting and improving the skills of all officers and staff [across each workforce] in this emerging area through interactive videos and training sessions. The increased prevalence of this crime type – heightened by the pandemic in the past two years – means that the team continues to flex its capacity to manage and respond to the volume and complexity of the investigations received and to prioritise the cases most in need of the specialist skills that the Cyber Crime Unit can provide.

LOOKING AHEAD: In 2022/23, Sussex Police will deliver further community engagement events to provide members of the public with access to advice and guidance to protect themselves most effectively.
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### Modern Slavery

**Protecting vulnerable people** – The PCC has continued to work with law enforcement agencies, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and charities to coordinate the local, regional and national response to modern slavery through the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN).

NATMSN brings together PCCs from across England and Wales, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Modern Slavery Unit within the Home Office to understand, improve and deliver a more cohesive response to all forms of modern slavery.

In 2021/22, an online hub for modern slavery was launched to support the policing response in this area through the delivery of seminars and workshops and the provision of a helpful resource for operational partners to refer to. This approach sought to develop and build on the Modern Slavery and Immigration Crime Scrutiny Panel that was introduced the year before to monitor and improve service delivery in this area.

Throughout the year, Sussex Police has continued to enhance its operational policing response to this complex area of criminality in line with the policing standards set by the NPCC, strategic priorities of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the national Strategic Policing Requirement. This has included the provision of integrated training for police officers and investigators to improve knowledge and understanding.

A significant proportion of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism are generated from the two Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) at Gatwick Airport. During 2021/22, Sussex Police recorded 170 modern slavery offences which represented a 28% reduction [and 65 fewer recorded offences] in comparison to the same period the year before. These reductions are attributed to reduced occupancy levels at the IRCs because of the travel restrictions imposed previously in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PCC continued to support the Sussex Anti-Slavery Network – comprising of key stakeholders – to ensure that victims are identified, offences are reported, and that enforcement activity is provided as part of any response, wherever appropriate. In 2021/22, the Network has invested further in enhanced training for its members to improve the capacity, capability and inter-operability of all partner agencies to respond.

Throughout the year, Sussex Police undertook the following policing activity in respect of modern slavery:

- ✓ three individuals have been charged with modern slavery and a Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order (STRO) was obtained against a car wash owner in Sussex.
- ✓ regular operations with the SEU and TEUs on the road network in Sussex to prevent, target and disrupt organised immigration crime.
- ✓ enhancements made to the policing response plans for organised immigration crime, including both inland and maritime offences.
- ✓ commenced work on a Sussex Modern Slavery Profile to understand better the scale and complexity of offending behaviour that will be used to inform future prevention, engagement and partnership activity.
- ✓ undertaken a Victim Service Assessment Audit into modern slavery and human trafficking in Sussex.
- ✓ investment in specialist training and continuous professional development around modern slavery and organised immigration crime – for critical incident managers, response and investigations teams and police officers and staff working within the Force Contact Command & Control Department.
- ✓ continued support provided to the national Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Operational Policing Team.
- ✓ participation in national campaigns and intensification periods for domestic servitude, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, child exploitation and criminal finances, including a range of operational, engagement and prevention activity with partners.

## ***2c. Public Priority 3 – Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls***

### **Domestic Abuse**

**Introduction of Victim Hubs** – On 1 April 2021, changes were made to the provision of victim services in Sussex. The introduction of four multi-agency Victim Hubs – comprising police and partners from commissioned support providers – has enabled the Force to tailor support to victims of domestic abuse in a more efficient and effective manner.

The hubs [in Eastbourne, Hastings, Horsham and Brighton] reduce duplication and provide an enhanced experience through the provision of a more coordinated and co-located approach to victim support.

In 2021/22, the Victim Hubs have triaged and assigned over 8,000 cases to ensure that the most appropriate offer of service is made to victims. These improvements to the safeguarding interventions delivered are anticipated to contribute to an increased number of victims of domestic abuse with the confidence to support prosecutions through the criminal justice system.

**Maintained the Local Resolution Team** – The PCC has continued to ensure that Sussex Police and partners offer quality services for victims of domestic abuse through the provision of independent advice and guidance, safeguarding from harm and supporting victims to cope and recover regardless of any criminal justice action.

Last year, Sussex Police introduced a Local Resolution Team (LRT) to respond exclusively to low-risk, non-urgent reports of domestic abuse. The team comprises 40 specialist officers who have each received enhanced training in victim safeguarding, support services and evidence-led prosecutions to try and improve criminal justice outcomes for victims. Following triage, the LRT aims to contact victims of domestic abuse within 24 hours and to make appointments – either in person [at a location of their choice] or online [via a virtual video call accessed through a secure 'one-time' link sent to their digital device] – within 48 hours of initial contact. The team then investigate the allegations, provide safeguarding advice, and signpost individuals to specialist agencies, as appropriate.

During 2021/22, the LRT conducted 6,377 appointments, with appointments secured within the two-day timeframe on 93% of occasions. Victim satisfaction for the LRT and the dedicated approach in Sussex demonstrated satisfaction levels of >90% for the year.

**Using data to tackle domestic abuse:** – Throughout the year, Sussex Police has continued to invest in the development of data analytics to inform the approach taken to tackle domestic abuse. At the start of the pandemic, the Force initiated Operation Hope – a proactive policing response to target repeat and high-risk victims of domestic abuse to review and discuss their safeguarding arrangements and plans for the challenges presented by the lockdown.

During 2021/22, >200 joint visits were carried out between trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and police officers – through Operation Hope – to safeguard and support the most vulnerable victims in Sussex.

### **Stalking and Harassment**

**Increased reporting of stalking and harassment** – The PCC has continued to ensure that Sussex Police remains funded, equipped and trained to recognise and respond to stalking and harassment. This improved position has only been made possible through previous increases to the precept.



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Last year, a new stalking screening tool was developed and piloted by Sussex Police, Surrey Police and Cheshire Constabulary, in conjunction with the College of Policing. This risk-assessment screening tool was made available to seven more police force areas in England and Wales during 2021/22, as a further extension of the pilot, with a view to this being adopted nationally in 2022/23.

Additional funding was also secured to provide multi-agency stalking risk profile training to enable greater understanding of stalking perpetrator behaviour and how to manage risk and safeguard victims more effectively. This training was delivered to 34 police officers and staff within the CDASU and 17 multi-agency staff throughout Sussex, including the Probation Service, victim advocacy services and social care staff.

As a result of this additional investment, the Force has seen a 344% increase in reports of stalking and harassment since 2015/16 – with 15,400 reports received in 2021/22. However, there was a 9% reduction in detections across the year, with 801 of these crimes solved, compared to 938 offences in 2019/20.

The PCC has continued to fund a local, specialist advocacy service – Veritas Justice – to assist victims of stalking in Sussex through the criminal justice process. This service also provides safeguarding advice for victims of cyber-enabled stalking and supports individuals through the criminal justice system and as part of their recovery.

In 2021/22, Veritas Justice provided intervention and support to 1,081 high-risk victims of stalking. This included advice and guidance about keeping safe online, safety planning and ongoing support through the police investigation and court appearances. A further 1,156 individuals benefited from a new online chat support service providing information, advice and tips about staying safe in cyberspace.

INFOGRAPHIC 1: 1,081 high-risk victims supported by Veritas Justice.

INFOGRAPHIC 2: 1,156 individuals used the online chat support service.

### Prevention and Perpetrator Programmes

**Complex Domestic Abuse and Stalking Unit established** – The PCC successfully secured funding of £642,000 from the Home Office Domestic Abuse and Stalking Perpetrator Fund to establish a Complex Domestic Abuse and Stalking Unit (CDASU) in Sussex. The CDASU was launched on 1 March 2021 to provide a tailored intervention for persistent domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators with multiple and complex needs by supporting them to recognise and address their abusive behaviours through either a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Programme and a Compulsive and Obsessive Behaviour Intervention (COBI).

The CDASU comprises a dedicated and specialist multi-agency team who work with a cohort of the most active and highest harm domestic abuse perpetrators in Sussex to deliver behavioural change interventions. These resources include Police Offender Managers, an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, a Substance Misuse Worker, a Mental Health Coordinator and behaviour change interventions delivered by Interventions Alliance. The programme is voluntary and, should any of the individuals identified not engage, Sussex Police will continue to use the robust disruption opportunities available to them.

Since 1 March 2021, the unit has assessed 136 offenders for the programme and worked with 68 of these individuals, with 57 offenders identified as having a drug and/or alcohol support need and 53 with a mental health requirement. Coercive and controlling behaviour was evident in all cases, with >80% of perpetrators using physical violence. Due to the complexity of their needs, 9 individuals have started the specific domestic abuse behaviour change programme, with further individuals expected to participate in this programme during 2022/23.

An additional £205,000 was secured from the same fund to create a Sussex Stalking Clinic. This funding has extended the multi-agency approach available for domestic abuse to stalking offences and includes other agencies such as Veritas Justice Stalking Advocacy, Crown Prosecution Service, housing and specialist information technology (IT) teams for cyber stalking. The clinic was launched in January 2022 and meets monthly to assess high-risk cases of stalking that are not considered to be domestic abuse. It has discussed 12 cases to date.

To complement this high-harm domestic abuse provision, a rolling 12-week programme of perpetrator intervention – onto which medium-risk individuals [and other agencies] can 'self-refer' themselves for help and support with challenging behaviour – was also delivered by Cranstoun. This programme focuses on challenging attitudes and behaviours that are harmful and supporting any associated victims. In 2021/22, the programme received 234 referrals, with 32 individuals having completed the intervention programme across the year.

### **Rape and Serious Sexual Offences**

**Continued investment in rape, sexual violence and exploitation** – During 2021/22, the PCC continued to invest in several organisations throughout Sussex to assist victims and survivors with their recoveries from rape, sexual violence and exploitation:

**[SUBHEADING] Lifecentre** – This service provides counselling support for victims of any age or gender who have experienced rape, sexual violence or abuse – whether non-recent or current. In 2021/22, 708 victims and survivors were provided with counselling support by Lifecentre, of whom 85% reported an improved quality of life and wellbeing following the conclusion of their intervention.

**[SUBHEADING] ManKind Initiative** – This service provides men who have suffered from rape or sexual abuse with the opportunity to receive advice, guidance and counselling. It is still recognised that far fewer men report these offences or seek help and support, in comparison to women. In 2021/22, ManKind Initiative supported 123 men in Sussex, with the majority requiring support for abuse suffered as children.

**[SUBHEADING] Survivors' Network** – This provider supports survivors of sexual violence and abuse in Sussex through several different projects. During 2021/22, the Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) received 1,879 adult referrals and supported 1,064 individuals. The Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CISVA) ensured that 239 children, young people and their families were able to receive counselling support throughout police investigations, court appearances and beyond to assist them in their recoveries – representing an increase of 38% from the previous year.

**[SUBHEADING] Streetlight** – This charity supports women who are sexually exploited through prostitution. With the use of an outreach worker, the charity's activity has contributed to an increase in the number of women engaging positively with police interventions and operations into suspected exploitation, thereby increasing the likelihood of a successful prosecution. During 2021/22, Streetlight supported 288 women in Sussex, including many women trafficked into the county from overseas.

INFOGRAHPIC 1: Counselling support for 708 victims.

INFOGRAPHIC 2: 123 male sexual abuse survivors supported.

INFOGRAPHIC 3: 1,064 adult victims and 239 children and young people supported.

INFOGRAPHIC 4: Support for 288 women subjected to sexual exploitation.

### Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

**Extra funding secured through Safer Streets 3** – The PCC successfully secured £1.321m of extra funding for local projects to tackle violence against women and girls in public places during 2021/22. Throughout the year, £27m was made available to PCCs in England and Wales to bid for through the Safer Streets Fund. PCCs were asked to work with partners to design and deliver local crime prevention plans with the outcome of reducing acquisitive crimes through situational prevention.

A significant proportion of this funding was allocated to Sussex Police to increase the number of police patrols – both on foot and in specifically branded patrol cars – to prioritise the safety of women and girls in public spaces in prominent locations throughout Sussex. Between November 2021 and March 2022, >1,200 dedicated patrols were deployed to locations within the night time economy [which represented more than 520 hours of dedicated police time] and resulted in proactive engagement with >3,800 women and girls and 44 arrests made. More than half of these interactions were recognised to include engagement with a vulnerable person and 45% with staff from licensed premises. A further 32% of the interactions resulted in safeguarding advice offered, 22% in enforcement action taken against a potential perpetrator and 12% generated referrals to another service provider.

The PCC used the funding to deliver bystander intervention training sessions to provide individuals with the skills to recognise and understand sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviour and to learn and develop tools and techniques to challenge this behaviour in a safe way. Two local services were commissioned to provide these interactive online training sessions and pre-recorded webinars. In 2021/22, the training sessions were delivered to >6,000 individuals, with 95% of attendees confident that they would be able to identify a situation requiring intervention and have the skills required to tackle this on completion of the courses.

Funding was also used to deliver training on healthy relationships in secondary schools across Sussex focused on children aged between 12 and 13 years old [Year 8]. These sessions aimed at identifying what healthy relationships look like, understanding coercive and controlling behaviour and addressing toxic masculinity and misogyny. Ahead of the sessions, 87% of the boys present admitted that they found it hard to challenge their peers when they behaved inappropriately. This reduced to 22% following the session. Other local schemes – including street pastors, street angels and Brighton Beach Patrol – were awarded funding to increase volunteer bases, deliver training and renew equipment.

The final allocation of the funding was used to create a unique campaign to encourage men to recognise sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviour and to give them the confidence and skills to tackle this behaviour when it is witnessed. The “Do the Right Thing” campaign – created in partnership with Sussex Police, Survivors’ Network and local authority partners – was launched in December 2021 and has the backing of local celebrities including musician Norman Cook [Fatboy Slim], actor John Simm, cricketer Tymal Mills and author Peter James. The following activity was delivered by the campaign in the three months to March 2022:

- >1m people reached through the radio campaign (via Heart, Capital and LBC).
- >2.5m people reached by the rail posters and electronic screen at Brighton Station.
- >387,500 people have used the electronic screens in supermarkets.
- >8,000 visitors to the Safe:Space Sussex website.
- >50,000 post views on Facebook, with an average 7.5% engagement through link clicks and people expanding the video [N.B. The average for Facebook is 0.09%].
- >30,000 impressions on Twitter, with an average 3.5% engagement [N.B. The average for Twitter is 0.045%].
- >2,900 views on Instagram
- Branded beer mats available in all 18 branches of Wetherspoons in Sussex and 30 Harveys pubs throughout Sussex.



**LOOKING AHEAD:** The PCC will support further applications to the Safer Streets Fund from other local authorities in Sussex in anticipation of delivering similar projects in 2022/23.

**Commissioned specialist support for diverse communities** – In May 2021, the PCC was successful in an application for funding of £960,291 from the Ministry of Justice to provide specialist domestic abuse support for diverse communities in Sussex. Hourglass [formally Action on Elder Abuse] has been commissioned to provide a tailored service in Sussex to support older victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

This service was launched in January 2022 and consists of three dedicated Independent Domestic Violence Advisors providing dedicated support for those aged 65 years and over who have experienced domestic abuse and are at risk of further harm. This provision was commissioned as older residents in Sussex were not accessing the existing services available to them because they did not identify with these or recognise their situation. The service received 22 referrals before 31 March 2022.

The same funding was also used to secure investment in specialist support services for victims of domestic abuse from specific communities in Sussex who are recognised to be under-represented within the support services. This includes a dedicated service for black and Asian women affected by domestic abuse, operated by Hersana – a 'by and for' service representative of the community they aim to support. Hersana has an active caseload of 41 women, with only five of these individuals ever having disclosed this abuse to anyone previously.

A dedicated Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) has also been established in West Sussex – working alongside My Sisters' House – to provide support to the Eastern European communities along the coast where domestic abuse is known to be prominent but is not reported to the police or support services. The IDVA is Polish speaking and October 2021 has worked with >50 members of the community to encourage them to come forward and receive support and guidance. This approach is already recognised to have resulted in one individual reporting abuse to Sussex Police for the first time.

Sussex is a diverse county and has a significantly higher than average LGBTQ+ community, particularly in Brighton & Hove. In January 2022, a new partnership was established with the LGBT Switchboard to provide a dedicated IDVA service for the LGBTQ+ community after it was recognised that few individuals from this group were reporting domestic abuse to the police. Since its launch, the service has supported 13 individuals to report offences of domestic abuse to Sussex Police.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** In 2022/23, the PCC will launch an awareness campaign about the specialist support available to victims of domestic abuse from within these communities. This is anticipated to contribute towards increased levels of reporting.

### **Elder Abuse**

**Continued investment in dedicated fraud caseworkers** – The PCC has continued to provide funding to support dedicated fraud caseworkers to tackle the financial, physical, psychological and sexual abuse of older people. These individuals provide one-to-one tailored support to those identified as being most vulnerable to repeat fraud – a demographic that includes older people.

This approach supports and raises awareness of Operation Signature – the nationally adopted Sussex Police campaign to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud – to recognise victims of all types of fraud as victims of crime and to provide preventative measures to support and protect them from further targeting.

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The Sussex Fraud Case Workers received 1,166 referrals during the year and supported 695 victims [and 60%], many of whom had experienced substantial financial loss and have additional needs – such as physical frailties and adult social care issues – which make them more vulnerable to becoming repeat victims.

In 2021/22, 'Romance fraud' continued to remain the most common fraud type in Sussex – with victims deceived into sending money to criminals who go to significant lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. This type of fraud represented 26% of all activity recorded during the year, followed by courier/impersonator fraud [13%] and financial abuse where the individual is known to that person [12%]. The Sussex Fraud Case Workers also helped victims to report and appeal these fraud losses to their banks and the Financial Ombudsman Service and recovered >£300,000 lost through fraud in 2021/22.

INFOGRAPHIC 2: Sussex Fraud Case Workers supported 695 victims.

### Quality Victim Support Services

**Range of services commissioned to support victims** – The PCC has a statutory responsibility to provide victim support services in Sussex and continued to commission a range of services to support victims throughout the county.

In 2021/22, 43,988 victims were referred to these commissioned support services in Sussex, with 10,091 individuals [23%] representing new cases [not known to the service already] and requiring one-to-one support. Of those individuals supported throughout the year, 5,378 victims received a single incidence of support, with a further 11,910 receiving ongoing emotional support and, in some cases, advocacy through associated criminal justice system processes.

As one of the commissioned support services, Victim Support hold the contract for providing multi-crime support in Sussex. During 2021/22, Victim Support received 22,531 referrals and contacted 19,301 of the aforementioned victims of crime to offer them support following referrals, with 874 victims receiving single incidences of support and 1,389 individuals receiving ongoing emotional support. Each of the other victims were referred to local specialist service providers to receive enhanced support, including victims of domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence.

INFOGRAPHIC 1: 22,531 referrals received, and 19,301 victims contacted.

**Maintained standards through the Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network** – The PCC continued to invest in funding projects to support some of the most vulnerable victims as part of an ongoing commitment to develop a diverse landscape of support services in Sussex.

During 2021/22, >£3.645m was invested into support services in Sussex. This comprised £747,087 provided to specialist support services through Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network – a competitive funding tranche – and a further £2.898m made available to specialist commissioned services.

The Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network was launched in 2017/18 and continues to grow and develop. There are currently 43 'approved' providers of specialist support services within the Funding Network who have each been able to demonstrate the high levels of quality standards and assurance required. Further information about the Funding Network can be viewed through the following link:

<https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/apply-for-funding/>

INFOGRAPHIC 1: £747,087 invested in the Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network.

## Safeguard the Vulnerable

**Enhancements to the Safe:Space Sussex online directory** – The PCC has continued to develop and enhance Safe:Space Sussex – the online directory of victim support services available throughout Sussex – to enable victims to find the most relevant support service for them, through a safe and confidential route.

Safe:Space Sussex provides a mechanism for Sussex residents to seek help and guidance and supports the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime which entitles all victims to receive appropriate support, regardless of whether they choose to report this to the police or not.

In 2021/22, the site received 5,885 new visitors – representing a 38% increase in activity compared to the previous year. The most visited pages on the site included information about different types of crime, support services available and access to these services.

INFOGRAPHIC: 5,885 new visitors to Safe:Space Sussex.

**Launched the Safe:Space Sussex App** – In August 2021, the PCC was one of only 109 national projects to be awarded Science, Technology and Research (STAR) Home Office funding to design and launch an app that allows users to locate designated safe spaces near to their current location.

The app was created in partnership with representatives from local victim support services and young people from schools and colleges and was launched in Sussex March 2022. The app is free to download on both Apple and Google stores and enables users to identify available safe spaces near to their location and provides directions to these. The safe spaces include Tesco, Costa Coffee and leisure centres across the county with over 260 locations trained and offering support.

The app allows users to send an automatic text to a named contact that will alert them that the sender does not feel safe, together with their current GPS and What3words location. The app also provides individuals with the facility to report non-emergency incidents to Sussex Police online and the ability to automatically turn on the camera and microphone to record, should this be required in an emergency situation, to capture evidence which is then stored securely within the device.

**Delivered trauma informed training** – In August 2021, the PCC successfully secured funding of £290,000 from the Home Office to provide training to 5,500 frontline staff, focused around working in a trauma informed approach. Two local services were commissioned to deliver these training sessions locally: Safe in Sussex and Oasis Project.

Safe in Sussex provides a two-hour interactive session and Oasis Project provides a longer and more detailed online session comprising a series of videos. Throughout the year, this training was delivered to 5,217 frontline staff from a range of multi-agencies [including schools, local authorities, probation services, youth workers] and included participation from nearly 2,000 police officers and staff.

Of those individuals who have attended this training, 74% reported an increased knowledge of trauma-informed working by at least one point, with several reporting an increase of more than two points, on a rating of 1-5. The remaining 26% of individuals reported that their knowledge had stayed the same, with 88% recognising the training to be 'highly' or 'very highly' relevant to their roles. A further 76% of participants also rated their confidence in applying what they had learned as 'high' or 'very high' and 91% reported that they would recommend the training to a colleague.

LOOKING AHEAD: In 2022/23, the number of available safe spaces will continue to develop and expand.
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### Improve Access to Justice

**Remote witness suites for vulnerable victims and witnesses** – The PCC continued to seek to reduce the risk of vulnerable victims and witnesses travelling long distances to give evidence at court and improve the overall experience of vulnerable victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system.

There are four remote witness suites in Sussex to enable more vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence through secure 'Live-Link' video facilities without the need to physically attend court and ensure that appropriate support is provided to vulnerable victims and witnesses who may otherwise find the experience of attending court intimidating. The four suites supported 77 trials during 2021/22: 24 Central Sussex, 34 East Sussex and 19 West Sussex.

The PCC also remains committed to ensuring victims and witnesses have the most positive experience of the criminal justice system and supported 50 young people attending court this year, either as victims of crime or witnesses to it, through the Young Witness Service.

INFOGRAPHIC 1: 77 'Live Link' trials supported in Sussex.

INFOGRAPHIC 2: Young Witness Service supported 50 victims and witnesses.

**Established Independent Custody Visiting Scheme** – The PCC continued to oversee an established and effective Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme. The Scheme has 32 dedicated volunteers who make unannounced visits to see the detainees held in each of the five police custody centres in Sussex: Brighton, Crawley, Eastbourne, Hastings and Worthing.

The scheme has continued to respond dynamically to the changes in threat, harm and risk presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach has ensured continuity of detainee welfare at a time when Sussex Police was under increased pressure from the unprecedented demands of the pandemic and challenges created by the heightened infection rates for the officers and staff working in police custody.

In 2021/22, the scheme established a hybrid model to scrutinise the custody environment and safeguard those individuals detained in police custody, in response to the easing and removal of national restrictions in place. This included a combination of physical visits in police custody and online audits, completed at a range of times during a 24-hour period, with inspection reports for both submitted to the ICV Scheme Manager for review and action as appropriate.

In addition to checking on the welfare, rights, entitlements and dignity of the detainees held in police custody, the ICVs also reviewed the timeliness of the booking-in processes [including access to solicitors, appropriate adults and healthcare professionals], adherence to social distancing requirements and stock levels of personal protective equipment held, and the effectiveness of quarantine systems in place for the provision of food, drink, books and other distraction items.

The safeguarding and welfare of detainees during the pandemic was further enhanced by the scheme through the introduction of custody record reviews to provide a complete overview of the custody experience. This approach presented the ICVs with additional opportunities to scrutinise record keeping, compliance and changes to processes.

During 2021/22, Sussex Police proposed several changes to the operating model for police custody to improve the effectiveness of the detention provision in Sussex. This has included an uplift in police officer and staff numbers in custody, the introduction of detention officers [to replace custody assistants and detention supervisors] and the formation of a Central Support Team to expedite the journey through the custody process in the interests of efficiency and timeliness of police investigations. All these changes will be formally introduced during 2022/23.

The ICVs will play an essential role in monitoring the implementation of this change programme through the independent review and inspection process to ensure that these changes are embedded expeditiously, whilst maintaining and upholding the high levels of safeguarding and welfare standards previously demonstrated for detainees.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** In 2022/23, the PCC will seek to secure the highest level of accreditation for the ICV Scheme in Sussex again through the Quality Assurance Framework awarded by the Independent Custody Visiting Association.

**New solutions implemented through the Video-Enabled Policing Programme** – In 2021/22, the PCC successfully secured funding from the Home Office and Police Digital Service to invest in innovation, technology and new ways of working to maximise productivity and efficiency gains for policing.

The Video Enabled Policing (VEP) Programme aims to transform the way police force areas in England and Wales engage with the courts as police witnesses and the way interviews are conducted in police custody by leveraging the existing Microsoft 365 infrastructure and tools deployed across police forces through the National Enabling Programme.

The VEP programme will realise significant cashable and non-cashable savings for police forces through the development of two solutions:

**[SUBHEADING] Police Witness Coordination** – provides a range of tools to coordinate police officers to give evidence in trials, whether in person or remotely, in the most efficient and effective manner. This includes timely notifications of trial updates to enable officers to return to frontline duties with minimal delay or disruption. Automating many of the administrative tasks associated with caring for and managing witnesses also reduces the demand placed on Witness Care Units, creating additional capacity to focus on civilian and vulnerable witnesses.

**[SUBHEADING] PACE Interview Coordination** – provides tools for interviewing officers to coordinate better the participants required to complete an interview under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. Accessing interpreters and defence solicitors efficiently and scheduling disclosures, briefings and interviews effectively reduces the costs of interpreters, manages better the risk in custody suites and reduces overall custody hold times.

The development of the two solutions has started, with 17 police forces confirming their intention to adopt the solutions to date. The initial planned implementation will commence across the model implementation forces of Sussex, Surrey, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire from September 2022, before the national rollout to all other confirmed forces from January 2023.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** In 2022/23, the two solutions developed by the VEP will be implemented within the other confirmed forces.

### 3. Managing Resources

#### 3a. Summary of financial context 2021/22

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 created two separate corporations' sole: the PCC and the Chief Constable.

The PCC is responsible for: all the finances; receiving all income and funding; making all payments from the overall Police Fund and control of all assets, liabilities and reserves.

The functions of the Chief Constable are fulfilled under this Act. The annual budget is set by the PCC in consultation with the Chief Constable. A scheme of delegation is in operation between the two bodies determining their respective responsibilities, as well as local arrangements in respect of the use of the PCC's assets and staff.

Financial planning sits at the heart of good public financial management. Alongside budget preparation, performance management and reporting, the ability to look strategically beyond the current budget period is a crucial process to support the PCC's resilience and long-term financial sustainability.

The four-year strategic financial planning tool – the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) – is one of the key planning tools that helps identify available resources and options for delivering the three Public Priorities within the PCC's Police & Crime Plan and the national Strategic Policing Requirements.

#### 2021/22 Budget

The PCC worked closely with the Chief Constable and her senior team to understand the operational needs of Sussex Police for the year ahead and the financial pressures on the Force. The decision to increase the police precept to fund operational policing was based on these extensive discussions and the results from the substantial online public consultation, including 64 focus groups with parish, town and district councillors.

The £15 a year increase per Band D property was supported and endorsed by the Police & Crime Panel at their meeting in January 2021.

These additional funds enabled the continuation of the Sussex programme to recruit an additional 250 officers through the multi-year precept investment. A further 30 officers were recruited during 2021/22. That investment programme will be completed in 2022/23 when the final 20 officers will be recruited.

The Government also continued to fund additional police officers through Operation Uplift – the campaign to recruit 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales by the end of March 2023. This included the recruitment of an additional 122 police officers in Sussex and 9 to the Regional Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU).

<b>Police Officers Increase Table</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>Total</b>
Operation Uplift – Local			129	122	<b>251</b>
Operation Uplift – Region				6	<b>6</b>
Precept	120	30	50	30	<b>230</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>487</b>

The precept investment in 2021/22 enabled the recruitment of a further 28 specialist police staff too.

The 2021/22 revenue budget was approved by the PCC in February 2021 at £329m. This consisted of the following:

- Government grant for Sussex in 2020/21 of £192.5m – increased from previous year's figure of £183.7m.
- The precept was increased by £15, generating £9.4m of additional income – the majority of this was invested into public protection, investigations, specialist crime, custody, contact, rural crime and roads policing.
- Provision for increases in pay and prices, including growth, inflation and cost pressures of £26.6m.
- The requirement to make a further £8m of savings.
- The PCC delegated a budget of £318.6m to the Chief Constable for 2021/22 to enable the discharge of operational activities under police direction and control.

<b>Revenue Budget</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>£'000</b>
Operational Delivery Budget	318,589
Office of the PCC	1,602
Community Safety	1,765
Victim Support, Restorative Justice	707
Other OPCC Financing Budgets including reserves transfers	6,302
<b>Total Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>328,985</b>

The capital and investment budget for 2021/22 was approved by the PCC in February 2021 at £10.8m. During the year, budget virements were agreed that resulted in a revised capital budget of £18.8m.

Throughout the year, the PCC has closely scrutinised the spending of the precept, delivery of the policing investment and performance. Scrutiny has been provided through a variety of publicly webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings, monthly Local Policing Accountability Board meetings, internal financial monitoring meetings and other monitoring within the scheme of governance.



### 3b. Summary of financial performance 2021/22

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Direct Operating Costs		Cost £	Total Cost £
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Direct Operating and Commissioning Costs	Democratic representation - <i>PCC salary and oncosts</i>	0.1m	
	Community Safety	1.7m	
	Victim Support & Restorative Justice	4.5m	
	Violence Reduction Programme	1.3m	
	Safer Streets	1.2m	
	Video Enabled Policing Programme	0.6m	
	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	1.4m	
	<i>Less Grant funding &amp; External Income</i>		
	Victims & Restorative Justice Grant	(4.7m)	
	Violence Reduction Programme Grant	(1.3m)	
	Safer Streets Grant	(1.2m)	
	Video Enabled Policing Programme Income	(0.6m)	
			3.0m
Policing services provided by Sussex Police	Police Officers	175.8m	
	Police Staff (including PCSOs)	101.6m	
	Other Employee Costs*	6.8m	
	Buildings	11.5m	
	Transport	6.5m	
	Supplies & Services	41.0m	
	Third Party Payments**	3.9m	
	<i>less Sussex Police income</i>	(37.5m)	
			309.6m
Capital Financing	Capital financing costs	1.3m	
	<i>Less interest income on balances</i>	(0.1m)	
			1.2m
Additional Grant Income			(0.8m)
Planned transfers to/(from) reserves			11.3m
Total Cost of Services			324.3m
Funded by	Funding from Government	(194.6m)	
	Council Tax	(134.6m)	
	Total funding		(329.2m)
Net revenue (surplus)/deficit			(4.9m)

\* Includes ill health pension payments, employee expenses, training and restructure costs

\*\* Includes third party payments to other government bodies, partnerships and external initiatives

The figures shown in the above table are as per the draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22. They include all office costs and services commissioned by the PCC and the cost of all activities carried out by Sussex Police.



### **3c. Summary of financial headlines 2021/22**

The key financial headlines from the revenue and capital outturn for 2021/22 can be summarised as follows:

- £4.9m (1.5%) underspend on the revenue budget of £329.0m, with £0.2m of the underspend relating to an over-achievement of funding from the Home Office for additional Operation Uplift grant.
- £3.4m (1.1%) underspend on the operational delivery budget delegated to the Chief Constable.
- A favourable variance of £1.3m on the OSPCC budget, as follows:
  - o £0.2m for the OSPCC office budget.
  - o £0.9m following receipt of significant grant awards [see 6. *Summary of Funding Allocated to Victims' Services and Others in Sussex* for more information]. The balance will be carried forward and spent in 2022/23.
  - o £0.2m net underspend on financing and reserves, including revenue to capital contributions and a transfer to the cost of change reserve.
- General reserves were maintained at 4% (£13.7m) in line with the Reserves Strategy.

The Statement of Accounts includes further details of the financial performance of 2021/22. The draft accounts subject to audit can be viewed here.

[LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN PUBLISHED]

### **3d. Financial outlook for 2022/23 and beyond**

The MTFS 2022/23 – 2025/26 continues the investment into the strengthening of Sussex Police that the PCC started in 2018/19 and has maintained to date. It also addresses the Public Priorities set out in the PCC's Police & Crime Plan 2021/24.

The Government expectation that local taxpayers contribute more to local policing continued into 2022/23 with the freezing of the grant sum.

The PCC scrutinised the Chief Constable's budget and listened carefully to what the residents of Sussex have been telling her. The PCC and the public, as we know from our survey and consultation results, want to maintain the investment that has been made to date in respect of police officers, staff, PCSOs, together with improvements to systems and capabilities. There is no appetite to go backwards.

The PCC considered the financial and other implications of inflation and other cost pressures against several budget scenarios as part of the financial planning process and determined that an increase in the precept was essential to sustain Sussex Police to meet the increased costs due to inflation, pay and the pandemic and preserve the improvements in capacity, visibility and accessibility built up since 2018, as well as to meet the target to recruit an extra 250 police officers by 2022/23.

The PCC approved an increase to the Band D precept by £10 for 2022/23 from £214.91 to £224.91. With 75% of council taxpayers in Sussex occupying a Band D property or below, this increase was the equivalent of an additional 19p per week or 83p per month.

The council tax precept for Sussex was still within the lowest quartile for precepts in England [31 out of 37] in 2021/22 and compared favourably to the median precept of £237.69 set across these police force areas.

In line with the three Public Priorities in the Police & Crime Plan 2021/24, the additional resources will be allocated as follows:

#### **Public Priority 1 – Strengthen local policing, tackle crime and prevent harm**

- Continue to invest in local policing, particularly in volume crime investigations.
- Increase the number of sergeants in the Sexual Investigation Unit and Violent Offender and Sex Offenders Register (ViSOR).
- Invest in youth engagement with an increase in Neighbourhood Youth Officers.
- Continue to extend the contracts for staff statement takers to reduce the pressure on investigators around case file disclosure and complexity.
- Continue to implement the public engagement tool across the Force with business change activity to maximise usage and engagement opportunities with local neighbourhoods.
- Increase the number of District Engagement Officers on each policing division.

#### **Public Priority 2 – Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime**

- Further investment in county lines disruption.
- Explore and embrace digital technology opportunities to improve investigative capabilities: for instance, specialist software for remote statement taking, using video conferencing and automatic transcription.
- Continued review of the impact of the new Digital Investigation Support Unit and explore further opportunities to nurture the culture of digital policing across the Force through upskilling and training opportunities.
- Investment in solving unsolved serious crime to try and bring closure to the families of victims.

**Public Priority 3 – Support and safeguard victims and tackle violence against women and girls**

- Continued design and implementation of the Improving Volume Crime Project to improve the timeliness and quality of investigations, maximise outcomes, and improve victim satisfaction – and therefore trust and confidence – in Sussex Police. This will include an increase in officers available to deal with crimes and incidents through the officer uplift.
- Further uplift to the ViSOR team, managing some of the highest harm perpetrators.
- Uplift to the Professional Standards Department in recognition of the challenges around policing legitimacy.
- Investment in the Firearms and Explosives Licensing Unit to manage the licensing of firearms, shotguns, firearms dealers, explosives, shooting/gun clubs, clay grounds and licensing of storage facilities for explosives.
- Uplift the number of researchers to support the Multi-Agency Referral Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, supporting the risk assessment and management of high-risk domestic abuse cases.

## 4. National Contribution

In addition to her work in Sussex, the PCC made the following contributions nationally in 2021/22:

- Board member for the Police Digital Service *[formally the Police ICT Company]*
- Co-Chair of the Home Office Law Enforcement Portfolio Technology Allocation Scrutiny Group *[until June 2021]*
- Board Member for the National Policing Board *[until June 2021]*
- Board member for the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners (APCC)
- PCC representative on the Home Secretary's National Oversight Board for Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment
- APCC Lead for Police Technology and Digital *[until June 2021]*
- APCC Lead for Business Crime
- Attends the APCC Criminal Justice System and Victims Standing Group
- APCC Police Technology and Digital Portfolio Group *[until June 2021]*
- Attends the APCC Technology and Reallocations Scrutiny Board *[until June 2021]*
- Attends the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) National Stalking and Harassment Offences Working Group
- Attends the NPCC Digital Policing Board *[until June 2021]*
- Member of the NPCC Audit and Assurance Board
- Chair of the Police Digital Service Audit and Risk Committee
- Attends Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) strategic briefings following inspections of Sussex Police
- Group Leader of the Conservative Police & Crime Commissioners

The PCC also attended the following national events throughout 2021/22:

**April 2021:** PCC participated in the Cityforum 'Articulating and communicating the plan for a digitally enabled police service – Launching the Police Digital Service' event and the Centre for Action Against Stalking 2021 International Conference and Summit – 'Dynamics between the stalkers and their victims'.

**May 2021:** PCC attended the Pet Theft Taskforce chaired by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and participated in the APCC induction for new PCCs.

**June 2021:** PCC attended the APCC 'Spotlight' Event on Rape and Sexual Violence and the Strategic Change and Investment Board and chaired the APCC Digital and Technology Portfolio Meeting.

**July 2021:** PCC attended the Ministerial Summit on Safety for Women on the Streets and in the Night-Time Economy and chaired the APCC Induction to Police Technology and Digital.

**August 2021:** PCC attended the HMICFRS Expert Reference Group – Police Engagement with Women and Girls Inspection.

**September 2021:** PCC hosted a Ministerial visit in advance of the launch of the Pet Theft Taskforce and attended the National Crime Agency (NCA) – Introduction to NCA capabilities event.

**October 2021:** PCC spoke at the DIY & Building Trade Forum and attended Stalking Risk Profile Training.

**November 2021:** PCC delivered input to the APCC/NPCC Summit on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and to a Counter Terrorism in Retail and Business Crime Event. PCC also chaired an APCC 'Spotlight' Event on Stalking.

**December 2021:** PCC attended an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Retail Crime.

**February 2022:** PCC participated in the APCC VAWG Summit and attended the Stalking and Harassment Conference and the NPCC Audit and Assurance Board.

**March 2022:** PCC attended the APCC Race Disparity Working Group, APCC VAWG Working Group and the National Retail Crime Steering Group, chaired by the Minister for Crime, Policing and Probation.

## 5. Sussex Police: Workforce Diversity

On 31 March 2022, Sussex Police comprised 3,021 police officers and 2,580 police staff (including PCSOs) – a total workforce of 5,601 individuals [headcount].

### Ethnicity

- 106 police officers identified as either Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnic (BAME) background (4%), 2,722 identified as white (90%), 121 preferred not to say (4%) and 72 individuals did not disclose their ethnicity (2%).
- 61 police staff identified as BAME (2%), 2,354 identified as white (91%), 67 preferred not to say (3%) and 98 individuals did not disclose their ethnicity (4%).

### Sex and Gender

- 1,083 police officers identified as female (36%) and 1,938 identified as male (64%).
- 1,597 police staff identified as female (62%) and 983 identified as male (38%).
- 11 police officers and staff identified their gender identity as trans, six identified as non-binary and 25 identified as other. A further 268 officers and staff preferred not to say, and 2,130 individuals did not disclose their gender identity [1,356 not applicable and 774 not disclosed].

### Religion

- 16 police officers identified as Buddhist (0.5%), 870 as Christian (29%), 6 as Hindu (0.2%), 6 as Jewish (0.2%), 13 as Muslim (0.4%), none as Sikh (0%), 69 as other (2%) and 1,293 as none (43%). A further 281 officers (9%) preferred not to say, and 467 individuals did not disclose their religion (15%).
- 10 police staff identified as Buddhist (0.4%), 893 as Christian (35%), 5 as Hindu (0.2%), 7 as Jewish (0.3%), 12 as Muslim (0.5%), 2 as Sikh (0.1%), 74 as other (3%) and 1,161 as not having a religion (45%). A further 182 staff preferred not to say (7%), and 234 individuals did not disclose their religion (9%).

### Age

- 224 police officers identified as being 16-24 years old (7%), 768 as 25-34 years old (25%), 1,129 as 35-44 years old (37%), 815 as 45-54 years old (27%) and 85 as 55-64 years old (3%).
- 154 police staff identified as 16-24 years old (6%), 610 as 25-34 years old (24%), 535 as 35-44 years old (21%), 638 as 45-54 years old (25%), 577 as 55-64 years old (22%) and 66 as 65 years and over (3%).

### Disability

- 259 police officers identified as having a disability (9%), 2,086 had no disability (69%), 152 preferred not to say (5%) and 524 individuals did not disclose (17%).
- 247 police staff identified as having a disability (10%), 2,002 had no disability (78%), 79 preferred not to say (3%) and 252 individuals did not disclose (10%).

### Sexual Orientation

- 68 police officers identified as bisexual (2%), 169 as gay or lesbian (6%), 2,105 as heterosexual (70%), 8 identified as other (0.3%), 230 preferred not to say (8%) and 441 individuals did not disclose their sexual orientation (15%).
- 55 police staff identified as bisexual (2%), 117 as gay or lesbian (5%), 1,998 as heterosexual (77%), 9 identified as other (0.4%), 160 preferred not to say (6%) and 241 individuals did not disclose their sexual orientation (9%).

## 6. Summary of Funding Allocated to Victims' Services and Others in Sussex

### Ministry of Justice – Funding Allocated to Victims' Services in Sussex

Name of Organisation	Name of Project	Funding
Barnardo's	Parental support for child sexual exploitation	£31,506
Barnardo's	Project SOLAR for children and online sexual images	£54,559
Brighton Women's Centre	Trauma first aid hubs	£30,000
Brighton Women's Centre	Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) support for trauma first aid hubs	£47,114
Child and Adolescent to Parent Abuse	Child to parent abuse support	£5,000
Cats Protection	Paws Protect	£10,000
Change Grow Live	High-risk domestic abuse service [East Sussex]	£131,000*
Change Grow Live	Three additional IDVA posts for high-risk service	£114,517
Counselling Plus Community	Domestic abuse and sexual violence counselling [East Sussex]	£40,000
Crimestoppers	Female Genital Mutilation awareness campaign for Sussex	£3,500
Friends, Families & Travellers	Domestic abuse support for Gypsies, Romas and Travellers	£20,000
Healing Together	Innovating Minds – Domestic abuse training for frontline staff to support children affected by domestic abuse	£40,000
Hersana	Domestic abuse and harmful practices service for Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) community in Sussex	£108,405
Home-Start East Sussex	Domestic abuse support	£45,066
Hourglass	Domestic abuse for older people in Sussex	£84,238
LGBT Switchboard	IDVA service for LGBTQ+ community in Sussex	£62,273
Lifecentre	Sexual violence counselling [West Sussex]	£91,007
ManKind	Sexual violence support for men	£63,000
My Sisters' House	Stronger futures and complex needs	£51,310
My Sisters' House	IDVA for Eastern European community in Sussex	£45,514
Oasis Project	Sex Workers Outreach Project	£20,000
Oasis Project	Complex needs outreach support worker	£38,412
Rise	Wellbeing support for domestic abuse [Brighton & Hove]	£51,438
Safe in Sussex	IDVA service	£56,630
Safe in Sussex	Adverse Childhood Experience recovery programme for domestic abuse	£28,059
StalkInc	Stalking risk profile training	£16,874
Streetlight	Sex worker outreach and exploitation service	£30,000
Survivors' Network	Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) for complex needs	£135,000
Survivors' Network	Sussex Rape and Sexual Violence Service	£124,000*
Survivors' Network	ISVA for children	£69,070
Survivors' Network	Additional ISVA posts	£156,810
Survivors' Network	East Sussex Outreach	£54,569
Sussex Community Development Association	Domestic abuse support for BAME	£23,058
The Daisy Chain Project	Pro bono legal advice for victims of domestic abuse	£86,000
Veritas Justice	Volunteering project	£20,000
Veritas Justice	Stalking Advocacy Service	£210,000
Veritas Justice	IDVA support	£39,306
Victim Support	Multi-crime type support provision	£450,000
Victim Support	High risk domestic abuse service [Brighton & Hove]	£80,000*
Victim Support	Additional IDVA posts for high risk and multi-crime service	£134,700
Victim Support	Young Witness Service	£75,589
Victim Support	Hate Incident Support Service	£98,247
Victim Support	Fraud caseworkers to support vulnerable victims	£57,745
West Sussex County Council	IDVA support	£100,000
West Sussex County Council	Additional IDVA capacity for children and young people	£44,673
Yada	Support for exploitation	£10,000
YMCA DownsLink Group	WiSE Project	£56,285
YMCA DownsLink Group	Project SOLAR for children and online sexual images	£54,559
You Trust	IDVA support for police investigations pilot	£76,367
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3,475,400</b>

\* This is co-commissioned with the local authority and represents the PCC contribution only.

Home Office – Safer Streets Funding for Violence Against Women and Girls

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Angmering Parish Council	Lighting for Mayflower Park	£41,500
Brighton & Hove City Council	Upgrades to lighting and CCTV at the war memorial on the Old Steine, Brighton	£162,811
Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council	Healthy relationship sessions in schools	£162,562
Eastbourne Borough Council	Lighting for Gildredge Park, Eastbourne	£14,825
Hastings Borough Council	Upgrades to lighting, CCTV and vegetation management in Alexandra Park, Hastings	£208,452
StopTopps	Purchase of drink spiking covers for night time economy throughout Sussex	£30,000
Street Pastors	Various schemes across Sussex	£45,862
Survivors' Network, Veritas Justice and Lifecentre	Bystander training for 7,000 people throughout Sussex	£83,230
Sussex Police	Three Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Community Navigator posts to support delivery in each local authority area	£104,800
Sussex Police	Purchase of 8 re-deployable CCTV units to be used in VAWG 'hot spot' locations	£29,200
Various	Creation, delivery and advertising for the "Do the Right Thing" campaign	£93,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>£977,042</b>

Home Office – Safety of Women at Night Fund

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Arun District Council and Chichester District Council	Pilot independent patrol scheme	£15,516
Brighton & Hove City Council	Women in the Arts – VAWG Safety Project	£20,450
Brighton & Hove City Council	Taxi Marshal Scheme	£12,441
Crimestoppers	VAWG campaign	£15,000
Survivors' Network	Sexual harassment training for venues in the night time economy	£25,000
Sussex Police	VAWG operational patrols	£112,897
Tender	Sessions with groups from colleges in Sussex about sexual harassment	£6,000
Various	Transport hub campaign	£74,279
West Sussex County Council	Training for fire service and VAWG	£10,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>£292,083</b>

Home Office – Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
BHT Sussex	Mental health and housing posts	£80,057
Change Grow Live	Drug and alcohol post	£44,750
Cranstoun	Domestic abuse group work programme for Sussex	£189,580
Cranstoun	Evaluation of the domestic abuse group work programme	£15,950
Interventions Alliance	Domestic abuse and stalking behaviour change intervention team	£215,976
Sussex Police	Offender Managers for the Complex Domestic Abuse and Stalking Unit and Sussex Stalking Clinic	£91,988
Veritas Justice	Victim Advocate for perpetrator programme	£28,800
Worth Services	IDVA post	£49,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>£716,601</b>

Home Office – Science, Technology and Research (STAR) Fund

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
OSPCC	Development of the Safe:Space Sussex App	£45,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£45,000</b>

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## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**24 June 2022**

### **Annual Report from the Host Authority for 2021/22**

#### **Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

##### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Panel incurred the costs below in respect of its operation in the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

- £67,973 for administrative expenses.
- £332 for members' expenses.

Total: £68,305

In line with the terms of the grant, the Host Authority (West Sussex County Council) will submit a claim for this amount before the 29 July deadline.

- 1.2 The Panel is required to publish a summary of its operating costs every year. A breakdown of expenses can be found on the Panel's webpage:  
<https://sussexpcp.gov.uk/about/>

##### **2. Discussion**

- 2.1 The Panel met formally four times in 2021/22. Following the lifting of pandemic restrictions, and the lapse of emergency regulations around formal meetings, the meetings were held in person, in public, at County Hall, Lewes. All meetings were webcast. The agendas were initially limited in length, to minimise the risk of contagion due to a large gathering in an enclosed space.
- 2.2 All statutory duties were fulfilled in 21/22, in particular, scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Annual Report, and scrutiny of the Commissioner's proposed precept. Both are deemed "special functions" within the relevant legislation.
- 2.3 Scrutiny of the PCC's Annual Report considered performance against the four strands of the Police and Crime Plan 2017/21, and delivery of initiatives funded by previous precept increases. Members also questioned the Commissioner about use of Stop and Search powers, equalities issues, and tackling rural crime.
- 2.4 The Panel worked with the Commissioner's officers, in three Working Group meetings, to consider development of the 2022/23 budget and precept.

2.4.1 In relation to development of a proposed precept, the Group examined issues including the following:

- How funds raised from previous precept increases had been spent, and the progress in implementing the associated plans/projects.
- 22/23 funding settlement
- Income generating opportunities
- Recruitment targets
- Potential changes to the funding formula
- Assumptions underlying the Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Council tax collection fund
- Council tax base
- Budget pressures
- Adequacy of reserves
- Progress against savings plans
- Financial impact of COVID 19
- The changing context of policing
- Impact of inflation and the end of the public sector pay freeze
- Precept consultation
- Precept options

2.5 The Group made comments to guide the Commissioner's office in their development of the precept, which were taken up as the work progressed.

2.6 Informed by the Working Group's final report, the Panel reviewed and supported the PCC's proposed precept in January 2022.

2.7 Members identified that value could be added through scrutiny of performance against each of the three strands ("Public Priorities") of the Police and Crime Plan 2021/24. This was undertaken in turn, at the September 2021, January and March 2022 meetings.

2.8 The Panel additionally scrutinised the Commissioner's role in specific areas of interest at its formal meetings. These were:

- Sussex Police's use of Stop and Search Powers
- HMICFRS report on Violence Against Women and Girls

2.9 Due to the pandemic, site visits could not be undertaken. However, a programme for 2022/23 is being developed, initially to include the Force Contact, Command and Control Centre, and the training facility at Kingstanding.

2.10 Learning from the pandemic, training and informal meetings will now continue to be undertaken virtually, delivering a saving in travel costs.

2.11 Following a significant turnover in membership (principally due to local government elections in May 2021) a training/induction session was held for new members in June, in time for the Panel's Annual Meeting.

2.12 At the Annual Meeting, following a recruitment process, a new independent member (Mr Keith Napthine) was appointed, the term of the previous incumbent having expired. In anticipation of her term expiring in summer 2022, a replacement for independent member Mrs Susan Scholefield was

also sought as part of the same process. The Panel's decision was that Mrs Scholefield be the preferred candidate to be re-appointed to the role, upon expiration of her term. A substitute independent member was also appointed (Mrs Sarah Peacock). The roles attracted a strong field of candidates.

2.13 The Panel's website continues to operate effectively. For example, for the period 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022:

- There were 7,139 visits to the site, with pages viewed 12,225 times in total.
- The average visits per day was approx. 33, however on 20 January 2022 there were 132 visits to the site (the day on which papers for the 28 January meeting were published).
- The most popular page is the homepage, as expected, with the "previous meetings" page the second most popular. This suggests the site is widely used to view archive minutes and webcast recordings, as well as access information on forthcoming meetings including meeting agendas.

### **Funding for 2022/2023**

2.14 It is assumed that the Home Office funding will remain unchanged for 2022/23, comprising £53,300 for Panel administration costs, and up to £18,400 (20 x £920), available for members' allowable expenses. The two sums are not ring-fenced, giving a total of £71,700 (unchanged since 2012).

2.15 The funding is normally paid in arrears, in six-monthly instalments. The PCP must publish details of all Panel expenditure, including administration costs and individual Panel member claims for expenses, on its website. Per para 1.2, the Panel has complied with this requirement.

2.16 It is anticipated that the staff costs of administering the Panel will be achieved within the envelope of funding provided by the Home Office for the forthcoming year.

### **3. Resource Implications and Value for Money**

3.1 The Constitution of Sussex Police and Crime Panel states that its total running costs shall be contained within the funding provided by the Home Office.

### **4. Risk Management Implications**

4.1 None

### **5. Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**

5.1 Not applicable

**Tony Kershaw**

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

**Contact:**

## Agenda Item 8

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## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**24 June 2022**

### **Complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner**

#### **Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

##### **Focus for Scrutiny**

That the Panel considers any complaints against the Commissioner, and any action that the Panel might take in respect of these.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2011, Sussex Police & Crime Panel (PCP) is responsible for the initial handling of complaints against the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 1.2 At its meeting of 26 November 2012 the Panel decided to delegate its initial handling duties to the Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel, and to consider a report of the complaints received, quarterly.
- 1.3 Serious complaints (those alleging criminal conduct) are referred automatically to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Regarding non-serious complaints, a sub-committee can meet to consider any of these which in the Panel's view require informal resolution.

#### **2. Correspondence Received from 10 March 2022 to 6 June 2022**

- 2.1 The Panel takes the view that all correspondence raising issues with policing in Sussex should be recorded, whether or not the issues fall within the Panel's statutory remit.
- 2.2 During the subject period, three people contacted the Panel to raise new matters (either directly, referred via the IOPC, or referred by the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC)).

##### **Complaints**

- 2.3 During the subject period no one raised issues which constituted a serious complaint, as defined by the Regulations (see 1.3).

**Correspondence Recorded, but not Considered by the Clerk to be a Complaint within the Panel's Remit:**

- 2.3.1 Three people contacted the Panel directly regarding matters outside the Commissioner's remit.

Of these, two concerned complaints about operational policing issues, which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable, and not the Commissioner. One of these two complainants, regarding complaints originally made to Sussex Police, had subsequently complained to the Commissioner (prior to contacting the Panel). The Clerk was reassured that the Commissioner, within the limits of her statutory remit, had satisfied herself that Sussex Police had correctly undertaken its duties in respect of the original complaints.

- 2.3.2 One of the complaints referred to in 2.3.1 was concerned with the outcome of a complaint review undertaken by the Commissioner's office. The Commissioner plays no role in such reviews, and the sole means of appeal is through a judicial review. In any case, the Clerk could identify no shortcomings with the investigation and outcome of the review.

**Correspondence Recorded, and Considered by the Clerk to be a Non-Serious Complaint within the Panel's Remit:**

- 2.3.3 None received

**Serious Complaints (allegations of criminal conduct)**

- 2.3.4 None received

**Updates from Matters Previously Reported.**

- 2.3.5 As reported at the 25 March PCP meeting, the Commissioner was approached for her views on any action taken by the Chief Constable in respect of lengthy waiting times for Right of Access requests submitted to Sussex Police. A full response was provided, and has been published on the Panel's website: <https://bit.ly/3xcxdxF>

**3. Resource Implications and Value for Money**

- 3.1 The cost of handling complaints is met from the funds provided by the Home Office for the operation and administration of Sussex Police and Crime Panel.

**4. Risk Management Implications**

- 4.1 It is important that residents can have confidence in the integrity of the system for handling complaints against the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and their Deputy (where one has been appointed).

**5. Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**

- 5.1 Not applicable

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