

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 September 2021** at **County Hall, Lewes**.

Tony Kershaw

Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

16 September 2021

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. Due to the pandemic, seating in the public gallery is limited. Members of the public are invited to instead view the meeting webcast. Those wishing to attend in person should email pcp@westsussex.gov.uk to book a place. The webcast will be available via the link below: <http://www.eastsussex.public-i.tv/core/>.

Agenda

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|----------|----|--|
| 10.30 am | 1. | <p>Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 10.32 am | 2. | <p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 14)</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting on 25 June 2021 (cream paper).</p> |
| 10.34 am | 3. | <p>Urgent Matters</p> <p>Items not on the agenda which the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p> |
| 10.35 am | 4. | <p>Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner (Pages 15 - 16)</p> <p>The Panel is asked to raise any issues or queries concerning crime and policing strategy in Sussex with the Commissioner.</p> <p>There will be one question per member only and one</p> |

supplementary question; further questions allowable only where time permits. The Chairman will seek to group together questions on the same topic.

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).

A single question has been received from one correspondent. The Panel is invited to note the response and pose any supplementary questions.

11.00 am 5. **Police & Crime Plan Public Priority 3 - Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable** (Pages 17 - 26)

The report by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner sets out progress made by the Commissioner and her office against Public Priority 3 of the Police & Crime Plan.

The Panel is asked to:

1. Review the appended report and puts questions to the Commissioner on any areas of concern.
2. Identify any areas which merit further scrutiny, and the format and timing of that scrutiny.

The Police & Crime Plan 2021/24 can be accessed here:
<https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/media/5768/sussex-police-crime-plan-2021-24-web.pdf>

12.00 pm 6. **The Commissioner's Role in Sussex Police's use of Stop and Search Powers** (Pages 27 - 32)

The report by the Police and Crime Commissioner sets out the Commissioner's role in respect of Sussex Police's use of Stop and Search powers.

The Panel is asked to:

1. Review the appended report and puts questions to the Commissioner on any areas of concern.

1.00 pm 7. **Working Group Appointments**

The Panel is asked to note the proposed membership and chairmanship of the Budget and Precept Working Group to act as a critical friend in development of the Precept.

The proposed membership is as follows: Mrs Scholefield, Cllr Denis, Cllr Webster, Cllr Briscoe, Cllr Rogers, Cllr O'Quinn and Cllr Boram.

Mrs Scholefield has been nominated to continue as Chairman.

The Working Group will meet informally twice, on 26 November 2021 and 14 January 2022.

1.01 pm 8. **Quarterly Report of Complaints**

No correspondence has been received since the last meeting of the Panel.

There are no ongoing matters to report.

1.02 pm 9. **Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 28 January 2022 at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Lewes.

Future meeting dates below:

- 14 February 2022 (provisional, to be cancelled if not required)
- 25 March 2022

To all members of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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Sussex Police and Crime Panel – 24 September 2021

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	
Alison Cooper (Substitute)	
Andrew Mier (Substitute)	
James Walsh	
Steve Murphy	
Jackie O'Quinn	Lead Member of Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership
Jacky Pendleton	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership
Michael Jones	
Kevin Boram	
Sean McDonald	
Judy Rogers	Member of Safer Hastings Partnership
Claire Vickers	
Lizzie Deane	
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. Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal and Competition Service. 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 Council. Member of Eastbourne Borough Council Joint Action Group. Member of Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch. CEO of Embrace East Sussex. Independent SEND Litigator.
Philip Lunn	Chair of Safer Wealden Partnership. Member of Sussex Safer Communities Board.
Brian Drayson	Co-Chair Safer Rother Partnership

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

25 June 2021 – At a meeting of the Panel held at 10.30am at County Hall, Lewes.

Present:

Cllr Christian Mitchell (Chairman)	West Sussex County Council	Cllr Bob Standley (Vice Chairman)	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Johnny Denis	Lewes District Council	Cllr Jacky Pendleton	Arun District Council
Cllr Philip Lunn	Wealden District Council	Cllr Norman Webster	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Carmen Appich (Substitute)	Brighton & Hove City Council	Mrs Susan Scholefield	Independent Member
Cllr Karen Harman (Substitute)	Worthing Borough Council	Cllr Lizzie Deane	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Judy Rogers	Hastings Borough Council	Cllr Roy Briscoe	Chichester District Council
Cllr Claire Vickers	Horsham District Council	Cllr James Walsh (Observer)	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Colin Swansborough (Substitute)	Eastbourne Borough Council		

Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Boram (Adur District Council), Cllr Brian Drayson (Rother District Council), Cllr Sean McDonald (Worthing Borough Council), Cllr Jackie O’Quinn (Brighton & Hove City Council), Cllr Rebecca Whippy (Eastbourne Borough Council), Cllr Michael Jones (Crawley Borough Council) and Mr Keith Naphthine (Independent Member).

Present from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPPC): Commissioner Katy Bourne (PCC), Mark Streater (Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer), Iain McCulloch (Chief Finance Officer) and Mervin Dadd (Chief Communications and Insight Officer).

Part I

1. Appointment of Independent Members

1.2 Resolved - that the Panel:

1. Confirm the appointment of Mr Keith Naphthine as an Independent Co-Opted Member of the Panel, to take effect immediately.

2. Renew the appointment of Mrs Susan Scholefield, Independent Co-Opted Member, to take effect immediately. Mrs Scholefield will be the proposed candidate for a further five-year term when her current terms expires in summer 2022.

3. Confirm the appointment of Mrs Sarah Peacock as a substitute Independent Co-Opted Member of the Panel, to take effect immediately.

2. Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman

2.1 Councillor Briscoe proposed Councillor Mitchell as Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The proposal was seconded, and the appointment was agreed by the Panel.

2.2 Resolved – that Councillor Mitchell is elected as Chairman of Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

2.3 Councillor Lunn proposed Councillor Standley as Vice Chairman of the Panel for the forthcoming year. The proposal was seconded, and the appointment was agreed by the Panel.

2.4 Resolved – that Councillor Standley is elected as Vice Chairman of Sussex Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members of the Panel declared the personal interests in the table below.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Jacky Pendleton	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership
Judy Rogers	Member of Safer Hastings Partnership
Colin Swansborough (Substitute)	Lead Member for Place Services at Eastbourne Borough Council Member of East Sussex County Council
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 Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal and Competition Service 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 Council Member of Eastbourne Borough Council Joint Action Group Member of Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch CEO of Embrace East Sussex Independent SEND Litigator
Philip Lunn	Chair of Safer Wealden Partnership Member of Sussex Safer Communities Board
Brian Drayson	Co-Chair Safer Rother Partnership

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

5. Urgent Matters

5.1 None were raised by the Panel for the Chairman’s consideration.

6. Annual Review of Membership and Proportionality

6.1 The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Sussex Police & Crime Panel which set out the political makeup of the Panel’s constituent authorities.

6.2 Resolved - that the Panel:

- i. Agree that Brighton & Hove City Council be invited to appoint a Labour second representative to the Panel.
- ii. Appoint Councillor Jackie O'Quinn as second representative for Brighton & Hove City Council, to take effect immediately.
- iii. Agree that both East and West Sussex County Councils should each be invited to appoint an additional local authority member, for a one-year period of office; and
- iv. Subject to agreeing recommendations 1 and 2, agree the appointment of a Liberal Democrat councillor from East Sussex County Council and a Liberal Democrat councillor from West Sussex County Council, to take effect immediately.
- v. Councillor James Walsh was welcomed in an observer capacity, prior to his appointment as second representative being formalised by West Sussex County Council.

7. Public Questions to the Commissioner

7.1 The Panel noted a published version of written public questions with answers from the Commissioner and Sussex Police (copy appended to the signed minutes).

8. The Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2020/21

8.1 The Panel considered a report by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner which was introduced by Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.

8.2 The Commissioner commended the Force's "Four E's" approach (Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked the majority of Sussex residents for their cooperation and compliance.

8.3 Commissioner Bourne informed the Panel that the Chief Constable of Sussex Police, Jo Shiner, is now supported by an all-female command team, one year on following her appointment.

8.4 The Commissioner highlighted the progress made against the previous Police & Crime Plan's (2017/21) policing and crime objectives:

1. Strengthen local policing

- The Force recruited 129 police officers in 2020/21 as part of the Government's Operation Uplift campaign, in addition to more staff and PCSOs.
- Improvement in public contact received via the Force's contact centre – non-emergency call handling times have more than halved since 2019/20 to 3 minutes and 25 seconds in 2020/21.
- The Force created a countywide Rural Crime Team (RCT) consisting of 18 officers in June 2020.
- High profile success achieved by the Force's expanded Tactical Enforcement Units, introduced in December 2019, to deliver high profile disruption and enforcement activity across Sussex. A Specialist Enforcement Unit was also launched in January 2021 to target complex issues and serious, organised and violent crime taking place on Sussex roads.

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

- Continued commission of high-quality support services for victims of crime and prioritising access for the county's most vulnerable victims.
- A Sussex-wide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme was rolled out in October 2020, financed by the Home Office and local match-funding.
- Four new remote witness suites for vulnerable victims and witnesses are now in operation with the aim of reducing the need for vulnerable victims and witnesses to travel long distances to give evidence at court.
- The installation of Covid-safe consultation booths in the Force's custody centres have facilitated 1,400 video remand hearings in the last year.

8.5 The Chairman invited the Panel to ask questions. A summary of questions and responses were as follows:

- It was asked how the Force's recruitment drive in 2020/21 compared with staffing levels in 2012. The Commissioner assured the Panel that the Force met its recruitment target for the municipal year (129 new police officers) and placed emphasis on productivity over quantity of personnel. The Commissioner agreed to provide comparative officer numbers, in writing following the meeting, from when she first took office in 2012.
- The effectiveness of the Rural Crime Team (RCT) was questioned, one year after its inception in June 2020. The Commissioner explained that while the RCT leads on tackling rural crime they also serve to proactively link in with local Neighbourhood Watch groups and, for larger scale offences, the regional Organised Crime Unit. Commissioner Bourne referred the Panel to her report for examples of the RCT's notable successes to date.

- A request was made for a breakdown of victims of domestic abuse by; gender, age and ethnic backgrounds, in order to understand which groups of people are most affected in local communities and in turn identify how support services and education can be targeted effectively. The Commissioner agreed to consider on reflection and provide the requested data following the meeting.
- The Panel highlighted the omission of the Force's policy for spending proceeds of crime and the reinvestment of seized valuable assets in the Commissioner's report. It was suggested to include a section about the assets recovered from criminals through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in the annual report going forward. The Commissioner welcomed the suggestion and offered to arrange for Panel members to receive a briefing in respect of the legislative scheme for the recovery of criminal assets at a future meeting.
- It was asked whether the Force's investment in mobile data terminals has increased productivity. The Commissioner commented that smartphones' enhanced functionality has enabled police officers to; report sudden deaths and mental health crises, take fingerprints in real-time and issue Covid-19 fixed penalty notices. She added that the Force uses Microsoft Power BI software to develop analytics insights as an example of cross-border agile ways of working.
- It was questioned whether a resolution had been found in terms of agreeing an effective funding mechanism for domestic homicide reviews. The Commissioner clarified that no single body is responsible for funding domestic homicide reviews and disclosed that she is aware of some Community Safety Partnerships using funding (awarded by her for different projects) towards this cause in the last year. She added that conversations on this matter are ongoing between the OSPCC and East Sussex County Council.
- It was asked what actions are being taken to increase the representation of ethnic minorities in the Force. The Commissioner commented that workforce diversification is an ongoing process and a high priority for Sussex Police and national police forces across the country. Commissioner Bourne revealed that 8% detective recruits in the latest intake were from minority ethnicities and this is above the national average (6%). Mr Streater, OSPCC Chief Executive, confirmed that 11.3% of the Force's recruits appointed in the last three years are from a BAME background and is above the previous three-year average (5.9%).
- It was questioned whether there are plans to lower the threshold for investigating low-level crime and anti-social behaviour. The Commissioner clarified that there is no threshold but re-assured Panel members that the Force practices the THRIVE method (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement). She added that, last year, the Force recorded 18,500 anti-social behaviour (ASB) offences directly linked to Covid-19 breaches and that ASB was a subject of scrutiny at her recent

Performance and Accountability Meeting (PAM) with the Chief Constable. Commissioner Bourne offered to provide the questioner with a copy of the minutes from her PAM meeting on 18 June for their information.

- It was asked whether the Commissioner has a strategy for policing beaches across the county, in relation to ASB. The Commissioner acknowledged the operational question and confirmed the Force does not uphold a 'beach policy' and advised that this falls under the remit of the relevant District Commander and local policing teams.
- The Panel asked about the Force's strategic approach in response to rising levels of mental health crises at crime scenes, since the pandemic, and whether police officers are fully trained to provide support. The Commissioner acknowledged the growing issue and confirmed that police officers are not trained in mental health, however mental health nurses are deployed in police vehicles to response calls, if required. She reassured the Panel that the Chief Constable works very closely with the Chief Executive of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- It was questioned why third-party payments for policing services provided by the Force have increased from £2.7 million (2019/20) to £10 million in 2020/21. The Commissioner explained that this figure comprises of legal fees and that litigious behaviour means that the costs do fluctuate and are highly variable year-on-year. Commissioner Bourne assured Panel members that she scrutinizes all third-party payments on a quarterly basis at her Governance and Integrity Meetings.
- A concern was raised as to whether the 15% increase in OSPCC operating costs is justified. The Commissioner put this into context and commented that the cost of running her office represents 0.45% of the Force's overall budget (£310 million). She added her belief that the increased spend represents "good value for money" upon referring to the OSPCC's portfolio of work and the extra funding she's able to secure in her role.
- A request was made for a breakdown of categories for BAME and disabled people (in reference to page 65, the section on Workforce Diversity). The Commissioner agreed to address this following the meeting.
- Praise was offered to the positive impact made by the Rural Crime Team and an appeal was made to the Commissioner to ensure its continued strategic development. Commissioner Bourne acknowledged the comment and pledged to oversee its evolution.

8.6 In summary of the discussion, the Chairman thanked the Commissioner, on behalf of the Panel, for answering members' questions and expressed appreciation of the extraordinary challenges faced by her office and Sussex Police over the course of the reporting year.

8.7 Resolved - that the Panel:

i) Noted the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2020/21.

9. Annual Report from the Host Authority

9.1 The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Sussex Police and Crime Panel.

9.2 Resolved – that the Panel notes its annual report and budget outturn for 2020/21.

10. Quarterly Report of Complaints

10.1 The Panel considered a report by the Clerk to the Sussex Police and Crime Panel.

10.2 Resolved – that the Panel note the update.

11. Working Group Appointments

11.1 The Chairman called for volunteers to form the ensuing year's Budget and Precept Working Group.

11.2 Resolved – that the following Panel members be appointed to the Budget and Precept Working Group: -

- Mrs Scholefield
- Cllr Denis
- Cllr Webster
- Cllr Briscoe
- Cllr Rogers

And that Ninesh Edwards, Senior Advisor to the Panel, ask Cllr O'Quinn if she would join the group so that it contained representation from Brighton & Hove City Council. (Post Meeting Note: Cllr O'Quinn agreed to join the group).

12. Date of Next Meeting

12.1 The next meeting of the Panel would take place on 24 September 2021 at 10.30am at County Hall, Lewes.

The meeting ended at 11.37am.

Chairman

Sussex Police and Crime Panel – Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner**24 September 2021****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.

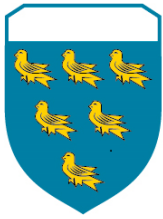
Questions relating to operational matters of Sussex Police are passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response, with a brief summary of such questions provided below. For the current meeting, one question has been received for a response by the Commissioner.

1. Written question from Ms Grier of Brighton & Hove.**Question:**

Can the Commissioner advise if she is content with Sussex Police's plans to tackle the perpetrators of child criminal exploitation in Sussex, and particularly Brighton & Hove? Specifically, what plans do they have to work with secondary schools and sixth form colleges to raise awareness of the risks and impact of drugs and drug dealing? I feel these efforts need to be renewed as weed in particular is now 'normal' for teens. Thank you.

Answer:

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SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

24 September 2021

Police and Crime Plan Public Priority 3 - Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable

Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Recommendations

That the Panel:

1. That the Panel reviews the appended report and puts questions to the Commissioner on any areas of concern.
2. That the Panel identifies any areas which merit further scrutiny, and the format and timing of that scrutiny.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Sussex Police and Crime Plan 2021/24 was published in early 2021, following Working Group engagement during the course of its development and formal scrutiny of the proposed final version by the Panel in January. The Plan is founded upon three Public Priorities.
- 1.2 At the suggestion of a Panel member, the Panel agreed that value could be added through Panel scrutiny of each Priority in turn.

2. Discussion

- 2.1 The Panel is due to scrutinise Public Priority 1 and 2 at its January and March meetings respectively. Consideration of performance against the Plan in its entirety is undertaken through scrutiny of the Commissioner's annual report (a statutory duty) in summer 2022.

Tony Kershaw

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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Appendices:

Appendix A – Progress made to deliver Public Priority 3 – Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable.

Mark Streater (Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer, OSPCC).



To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel.
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.
Subject:	Progress made by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to deliver 'Public Priority 3 – Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable'.
Date:	24 September 2021.
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel note the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) has developed three public police and crime priorities for 2021/24, as set out in the Police & Crime Plan:

Public Priority 1 – Strengthen local policing, tackle crime & prevent harm.

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

Public Priority 3 – Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable.

- 1.2 This report provides an update on some of the achievements, areas of work and progress made by the PCC and the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) against 'Public Priority 3 – Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable' across 2021/22 to date.

2.0 Public Priority 3 – Support victims and safeguard the vulnerable.

- 2.1 The specific areas covered within Public Priority 3 include: domestic abuse; rape and serious sexual offences; stalking and harassment; elder abuse; quality victim support services; safeguard the vulnerable and improve access to justice.

2.2 Domestic abuse

- 2.2.1 **Local Resolution Team** – In April 2020, Sussex Police introduced a Local Resolution Team (LRT) to respond exclusively to low-risk, non-urgent reports of domestic abuse. The team comprises 39 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.

- 2.2.2 Following triage, the LRT aim 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. The LRT conducted 2,930 appointments in the past six months, with appointments secured within the two-day timeframe on 93% of occasions. The victim survey is already demonstrating high levels of satisfaction [96%] for the LRT and the dedicated approach in Sussex.

- 2.2.3 **Operation Hope** – Sussex Police has invested in the development of data analytics to inform a proactive approach to tackling domestic abuse. At the start of the pandemic, Sussex Police 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. This operation involves joint visits between trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and police officers, to safeguard and support the most vulnerable victims.
- 2.2.4 **Sussex Perpetrator Intervention Programme** – On 1 March 2021, the Force established a Complex Domestic Abuse Unit (CDAU) to provide a tailored intervention for persistent perpetrators with multiple complex needs by supporting them to recognise and address their abusive behaviours through a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Programme. The funding of £642,000 required to deliver this unit for a year was secured by the PCC, including £402,000 from the Home Office following a successful bid.
- 2.2.5 The CDAU comprises 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: two police offender managers, an IDVA, 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.
- 2.2.6 To complement this high-harm provision, a rolling 12-week programme of perpetrator intervention for medium-risk individuals [and other agencies] to 'self-refer' themselves onto for help and support with challenging behaviour was also delivered by Cranstoun. This programme focuses on challenging attitudes and behaviours that are harmful and to support any associated victims.
- 2.2.7 **Super-Complaint Police Perpetrators** – As well as conducting its own internal review, Sussex Police has carefully considered the super-complaint submitted to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) by the Centre for Women's Justice and remains committed to addressing the issues raised. In response, the Force has launched the Sussex Police Domestic Abuse Pledge, setting out a commitment to improve the response to domestic abuse involving serving police officers and staff, together with providing an enhanced offer of support for those affected by any such abuse. Sussex Police has an established and robust process for overseeing and scrutinising these domestic abuse investigations, including independent scrutiny from individuals with expertise.
- 2.3 Rape and serious sexual offences
- 2.3.1 **Early Advice Pilot** – Sussex Police is part of an early advice pilot with Surrey and Kent Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The aim of the pilot is to reduce the length of time it takes for a case to progress from investigation to charge to court. This approach requires the collation and submission of evidence, suspect account and case file to the CPS within 42 days of the initial report. The provision of a named lawyer throughout the duration of the case provides continuous and consistent direction, monitoring and targeted lines of enquiry and ensures that the case can be expedited towards a charging decision more efficiently.

- 2.3.2 A total of 264 cases have been submitted for early advice to date, of which 125 cases have been put forward by Sussex [47%]. One successful charge has been delivered in the first six months of the pilot and, with the average length of an investigation taking a year, additional charges are anticipated throughout the remainder of 2021/22.
- 2.3.3 **Sexual Offence Investigation Team** – Sussex Police has a Sexual Offences Investigation Team (SOIT) within the Safeguarding Investigations Unit (SIU) – comprising individuals with enhanced training and expertise in vulnerability – who provide the first response to victims of these offences, together with responding to other child and adult protection matters. This enhanced support is offered to victims throughout the initial response, investigation and court process and seeks to build trust and confidence in reporting through a dedicated provision for sexual violence. The SOIT is supported by the Rape and Serious Sexual Offence (RASSO) team to obtain evidential accounts from victims that are passed to the SIU for investigation and progression through the early advice pilot.
- 2.3.4 **Operation Denver** – This is an initiative created to ensure that individuals who are identified as suspects in multiple reports of sexual abuse against children are assessed and, where necessary, ancillary orders are sought to mitigate the risk of future offending. Specifically, where an investigation is concluded and it has not been possible to secure a prosecution, the suspect can be referred to the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) team to consider the viability of applying for a Sexual Risk Order. These orders can be issued, without a conviction, providing the court is satisfied that the subject has engaged in a sexual act and that the order is necessary to protect individuals or members of the public from the risk of future sexual harm.
- 2.4 Stalking and harassment
- 2.4.1 **Stalking Protection Order Behaviour Change Programme** – Sussex Police continues to lead on the response to stalking in partnership with bespoke victim advocacy services and a newly designed Perpetrator Programme for those with Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs). The programme is delivered by trained professionals from Interventions Alliance through the provision of 12 intensive 1:1 therapy sessions which focus on compulsive and obsessive behaviour intervention. Perpetrators will be considered for the intervention through the 'positive requirement' element within any planned SPO application. Veritas Justice – a specialist service providing support, advocacy and advice for individuals affected by stalking – supports any victims of identified perpetrators.
- 2.5 Elder abuse
- 2.5.1 **Dedicated Fraud Caseworkers** – The PCC continues 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 several 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.

2.5.2 In May 2021, the PCC was successful in an application for funding from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to support older victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Hourglass [formally Action on Elder Abuse] has been commissioned to provide a tailored service in Sussex to support those experiencing domestic abuse. This service is anticipated to go live in September 2021 and will consist of three dedicated IDVAs.

2.6 Quality victim support services

2.6.1 **Victim Support Services** – 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.

2.6.2 From 1 April 2021, new domestic abuse, sexual abuse and stalking support services went live in Sussex to provide consistency across the county and allow more victims to access the support they need. These services have been co-commissioned by the PCC, in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council.

2.6.3 In addition, in May 2021 the PCC secured more than £2.5 million of additional funding to enhance the services made available to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Sussex. These new services will provide support to groups in Sussex that, historically, do not access these wider commissioned services, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women, those from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and the significant Eastern European population along the coast of Sussex. These services will be embedded across 2021/22 through existing offers that are not traditionally domestic abuse or sexual violence providers to remove any barriers and work with these harder to reach communities.

2.6.4 **Safe:Space Sussex** – The PCC has continued to develop 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 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.

2.6.5 The Safe:Space Sussex Funding Network [launched in 2017/18] continues to grow and develop. There are currently 34 'approved' providers of specialist support services within the Funding Network who have each been able to demonstrate the highest levels of quality standards and assurance required. The PCC has 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.

2.6.6 **Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership** – The Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP) – established by the PCC in May 2014 – continues to provide ongoing support to victims of crime seeking restitution, rather than a criminal justice outcome, by bringing 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. The SRJP comprises more than 20 statutory and voluntary sector organisations across Sussex and continues to be recognised as good practice nationally.

2.6.7 In 2021/22 to date, 37 referrals have been made to the SRJP, with 33 referrals taken forward by the three Restorative Justice Hubs [Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex] – involving 37 victims and 39 offenders – and 16 restorative outcomes delivered by the Hubs. A further 152 victims have been offered restorative justice by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) throughout the year, with 94 restorative justice outcomes delivered across the first quarter.

2.7 Safeguard the vulnerable

2.7.1 **Victim Hub** – From 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. 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.

2.7.2 **Lockdown Engagement** – Sussex Police, working in partnership with support services, sought to maintain a physical policing presence within the communities of Sussex throughout the enforced lockdown period introduced in response to the pandemic. The Force introduced specially trained officers into public places, including supermarkets, to facilitate engagement, raise awareness and support those individuals who are experiencing domestic abuse or violence. This approach was further supported by television and radio interviews, social media campaigns and printed articles in local newspapers.

2.7.3 The Force Contact, Command and Control Department (FCCCD) introduced trained social media users to scan networks and identify individuals at risk of abuse before proactively reaching out and engaging with them to understand whether help or assistance is required. A facility to report domestic abuse online was also added to the Single Online Home – a common platform that allows individuals to report, transact and contact the police.

2.7.4 Sussex Police used the national campaign materials available to develop and create bespoke information about the domestic abuse support services available in Sussex and proactively communicated these to members of the public to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to remind victims that the Force was still accessible during this time. Examples of these communications included leaflets in General Practitioner (GP) surgeries, printed messages on the bags used by pharmacies, advertising 'livery' on refuse trucks and support for 'Ask for ANI' [assistance needed immediately] – a scheme to alert staff that a victim needs immediate support or assistance through an emergency police response or contact with a domestic abuse specialist support service.

2.8 Improve access to justice

- 2.8.1 **Live Link Facilities** – The PCC has 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 now four 'Live Link' facilities established throughout Sussex for vulnerable victims and witnesses to provide evidence remotely and securely through video link without the need to physically attend court.
- 2.8.2 During 2021/22, Sussex Police took over responsibility for the administration, operation and facilitation of the Live Link trials, in partnership with the Young Witness Service and Citizens Advice. The three suites have supported 35 trials across the year to date: 9 in central Sussex, 18 in East Sussex and 8 in West Sussex.
- 2.8.3 **Young Witness Service** – The PCC also remains committed to ensuring victims and witnesses have the most positive experience of the criminal justice system and has supported 44 young people attending court at 30 separate trials this year, either as victims of crime or witnesses to it – through the Young Witness Service – with 83% of these trials (25) resulting in either a guilty verdict or guilty plea.
- 2.8.4 **Sussex Police Estate** – 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.
- 2.8.5 A total of £9.4m is set to be invested in the Sussex Police estate in 2021/22 as part of the capital programme. This has included the opening of a new police station in Crowborough [to provide a more convenient and visible policing presence in the town], together with ongoing refurbishment to Brighton Police Station and further investment in facilities to support increased opportunities for agile working across the Sussex Police estate.
- 2.8.6 **Operation Fanfare** – the £957,000 investment programme to deliver significant refurbishments to the police custody estate – will also be completed throughout 2021/22. This programme has resulted in each of the custody blocks being closed 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.
- 2.8.7 The PCC has continued to work closely with the Joint Commercial Planning Manager for Sussex Police to secure additional funding for the Force from district and borough councils across Sussex through Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A total of £1.94 million has been secured for Sussex Police through these tools since 2017/18, with this funding used to support further investment and improvements in the Sussex Police estate and existing policing infrastructure.

3.0 Annual Report 2021/22

- 3.1 A comprehensive summary of the achievements, areas of work and progress made by the PCC and the OSPCC against each of the three public priorities during 2021/22 will be included within the PCC's Annual Report.
- 3.2 This report will be presented to the Sussex Police & Crime Panel at its annual meeting in summer 2022.

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

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SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

24 September 2021

The Commissioner's Role in Sussex Police's use of Stop and Search Powers

Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Recommendations

1. That the Panel reviews the appended report and puts questions to the Commissioner on any areas of concern.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Panel recognises that Sussex Police's use of Stop and Search powers is an area of significant public interest and accordingly elected to scrutinise the Commissioner's work in holding the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of these powers in Sussex.

2. Discussion

- 2.1 Members may wish to consider any disproportionality in the way powers are applied towards the different races making up Sussex's population, whether the Commissioner's view on the justification for this is appropriate, and what the Commissioner might do in the light of any unreasonable imbalance in the application of powers.

Tony Kershaw

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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Appendices:

Appendix A - The role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police use stop and search powers effectively.
Mark Streater (Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer, OSPCC).



To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel.
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.
Subject:	The role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police use stop and search powers effectively.
Date:	24 September 2021.
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel note the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) in ensuring that Sussex Police use stop and search powers effectively, and how the Chief Constable is held to account for ensuring that the use of these powers is both appropriate and proportionate.

2.0 Use of Stop and Search in Sussex

- 2.1 Stop and search is one of several powers used by police forces to prevent and detect crime and to keep people safe. Police officers have the power to stop and search any individual if they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect that they are carrying illegal drugs, a weapon, stolen property or something that could be used to commit a crime.
- 2.2 The significance of using these powers responsibly – to build and maintain public trust and confidence in the police – is recognised by both the PCC and Sussex Police, including an ongoing commitment to review the Force's approach to this.
- 2.3 Between 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2021, Sussex Police carried out 7,509 stop and searches. This represented a decrease of 1,323 searches [and -15%] in comparison to the same period in 2019/20. This reduction is attributed to the national lockdown in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic and the enforced restrictions around social contact and public gatherings. As a result, events that traditionally report an increased number of stop and searches, including Pride and Halloween, were unable to take place as planned and featured within the search figures recorded in the previous rolling year period.
- 2.4 Of the 7,509 stop and searches conducted during the rolling year period to 31 July 2021, 5,379 searches [72%] had a police outcome, with no further action taken against the remaining 2,130 searches [28%]. The item found during the stop and searches was recognised to be linked to the outcome on 27% of these occasions [2,020 searches], with 5,489 searches not linked [73%]. A further 10% of searches resulted in another item being found, bringing the total percentage of items found to 37%.
- 2.5 Of all the individuals searched, those who identified themselves as 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic' (BAME) were 2.8 times more likely to be stopped in Sussex than those who identified themselves as 'White'. When these numbers are separated further still, those who identified themselves as 'Black' were 10.2 times more likely to be stopped than those identifying themselves as 'White'.

3.0 Transparency of Sussex Police

- 3.1 There is a comprehensive quality assurance system in place within Sussex Police to ensure that every stop and search carried out in the county is appropriate, proportionate and justified. The Force works towards the national 'Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme' to ensure greater transparency, accountability and community involvement, through an intelligence-led approach. All stop and search records in Sussex are assessed by supervisors, with additional 'dip checks' conducted by a central team at Police Headquarters to ensure they are justified and likely to have a positive outcome in reducing crime.
- 3.2 The overall governance in this area is provided through a quarterly 'Legitimacy Board', chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable, and attended by officers, staff and independent advisors. The Board provides an internal audit of the stop and search encounters looking at the proportionality of the searches conducted, compliance against the legislation and the supervisory measures in place around its use.
- 3.3 Sussex Police also has an external Stop and Search Independent Scrutiny Panel which aims to improve the trust and confidence of communities by providing members of the public [and a representative from the OSPCC] with the opportunity to quality assure the use of these powers in Sussex. The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Panel can be viewed through the following link:
www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/about-us/stop--search/stop-search-scrutiny-panel-terms-of-reference.pdf
- 3.4 The key functions of the Panel are to consider whether any disproportionality exists in terms of the individuals stopped and searched, assess the lawfulness of the grounds for the searches, outcomes of the stop and search encounters, any complaints received by the Force and training needs identified, with retrospective feedback provided to individual officers and supervisors as required. To maintain transparency, Sussex Police publish the minutes of the Panel meetings on their website, detailing the purpose and outcomes of this assessment. The Force also has a separate 'REWIND' campaign to inform young people about their rights when stopped by the police. Further information can be viewed through the following link:
www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/au/about-us/stop-and-search/
- 3.5 The use of stop and search is also scrutinised at the Divisional Accountability Meetings on each of the three policing divisions [Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex] and at monthly supervisor meetings to look at the quality of the grounds for each search, whether a 'receipt' is provided for any search carried out, the conduct of the searching officer and the use of Body Worn Video (BWV).
- 3.6 Sussex Police understand the significance that any negative perceptions around the disproportionate use of stop and search can have on members of the public, something that is recognised as an issue for policing locally and nationally. The Force is determined to ensure that each stop and search interaction is conducted fairly, lawfully and ethically. Sussex Police remains resolute in its commitment to build on the established engagement it has with local BAME communities and is examining its stop and search processes, alongside the use of other policing powers, to better understand the outcomes.

- 3.7 Sussex Police is continuously looking to improve its approach to stop and search. The use of these powers is reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain proportionate and fit-for-purpose. It is recognised that whilst more work still needs to be done in this area, the Force is well-positioned to build on the positive scrutiny and accountability arrangements that are in place locally around the use of stop and search powers in Sussex.
- 3.8 The Sussex Police policy for stop and search sets out a requirement that each interaction should be routinely recorded whenever police officers or PCSOs are equipped with BWV technology. As part of the quality assurance processes, supervisors are required to review, sample and sign-off BWV footage of stop and search encounters and to ensure that each of these interactions has been recorded accurately. Sussex Police also adheres to the Authorised Professional Practice (APP) developed by the College of Policing around the use of stop and search powers. Further information about the stop and search policy for the Force and the APP can be viewed through the following links:
www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/st-s/stop-and-search/stop-and-search-process/
www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/stop-and-search/?s=
- 3.9 A range of different training is provided to police officers in the powers of stop and search. For existing police officers, refreshed training is provided to them in the legitimate and fair use of stop and search powers, as well as practical guidance around its application through a dedicated input during annual staff safety training. New officers are taught all about the powers through a combination of classroom and online-based training, including a series of role play examples. These recruits are also required to carry out successfully several stop and searches before their Independent Patrol status is awarded.
- 3.10 Further training around equality and diversity and recognising better 'unconscious bias' and 'reflective practice' is provided to officers and staff through a combination of classroom and online e-learning courses delivered through the National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT). Any new and additional updates and learning is routinely shared with the workforce through the internal intranet. The Organisational Learning Board is used by Sussex Police to monitor and capture any trends or themes that are identified across the Force, including stop and search encounters. This learning is then shared with the other police force areas in England and Wales.
- 3.11 Sussex Police has produced a Stop and Search – Annual Report which provides a transparent view of the use of these powers in Sussex during 2019/20. The report also explains what Sussex Police is doing to improve the service it provides and ensure that police powers are used effectively, legally and proportionately. A revised Annual Report for 2020/21 will be made available from autumn 2021. Further information can be viewed on the Sussex Police website through the following link:
www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/about-us/stop--search/stop-and-search-annual-report-2020.pdf

4.0 Accountability Arrangements

- 4.1 The PCC continues to hold the Chief Constable to account for the use of stop and search powers by Sussex Police. This is demonstrated through a combination of weekly, monthly and quarterly meetings, together with judgements from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS).
- 4.2 The PCC has challenged the Chief Constable regarding the performance of Sussex Police in this area at informal weekly meetings and formal monthly webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) on 21 May 2021; 19 June 2020; 13 September 2019; 18 May 2018 and 19 May 2017. Each of these PAM sessions is archived and can be viewed on the PCC's website through the following link: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/watch-live/
- 4.3 The PCC also holds quarterly Governance & Integrity meetings with Sussex Police to review and scrutinise the complaints received by the Force. These meetings provide the PCC with the opportunity to seek assurances that the systems and processes in place to manage the integrity of Sussex Police are both robust and effective. Part of this process includes a 'dip check' of complaints – undertaken by staff within the OSPCC – looking at those complaints relating to stop and search; discrimination; use of force and abuse of position. Further information can be viewed on the PCC's website through the following link:
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/transparency/what-we-spend-how-we-spend-it/accountabilityexpenditure/
- 4.4 The Joint Audit Committee (JAC) provides the PCC with a further strand of scrutiny and challenge in this area. The JAC receive two summary reports from the Equality & Diversity Manager of Sussex Police each calendar year which sets out the activity undertaken by the Force to meet its equality and diversity responsibilities and provide updates around key risks or opportunities, including the proportionate use of stop and search powers. Most recently, the JAC was presented with a summary report at their meeting on 15 December 2020 which provided updates in respect of stop and search, workforce diversity and the equality and diversity framework used by the Force. The reports for each of the JAC sessions can be viewed on the PCC's website through the following link:
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/transparency/joint-audit-committee/
- 4.5 The PCC has continued to hold Sussex Police and the Chief Constable to account for police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) to improve the service provided to people in Sussex. In 2018/19, HMICFRS judged Sussex Police to be 'good' in respect of the legitimacy with which the Force treats the public and its workforce, including the use of stop and search and the reasonable grounds for the use of these powers. This is the most recently available inspection report from HMICFRS because all inspection activity was paused in 2020/21 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PCC will work with the Chief Constable to improve the grading of Sussex Police at the next PEEL inspection scheduled in 2021/22.

Mark Streater

Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer

Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner