

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, 26 April 2019** at **County Hall, Lewes**.

Tony Kershaw

Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

16 April 2019

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. **Declarations of Interest**
- 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.
- 10.35 am 2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 14)
- To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting on 1 February 2019 (cream paper).
- 10.40 am 3. **Urgent Matters**
- Items not on the agenda which the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
- 10.40 am 4. **Public Question Time** (Pages 15 - 16)
- Members of the public wishing to ask a written question of the Commissioner or the Panel will need to submit their question no later than two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Responses will be tabled at the meeting.
- 10.55 am 5. **The Role of the Commissioner in Ensuring Sussex Police Provide an Effective Response to the Possession and Use of Offensive Weapons in Sussex** (Pages 17 - 22)

The report provides an outline of the Sussex Police response to the possession and use of offensive weapons in Sussex, with a specific focus on knife-enabled crime. The report also sets out how the Chief Constable is held to account to ensure that the Sussex Police response is both efficient and effective.

11.55 am 6. **Quarterly Report of Complaints** (Pages 23 - 24)

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.

12.00 pm 7. **Commissioner's Question Time**

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

There will be one question per member only and one supplementary question; further supplementary questions allowable only where time permits. The Chairman will seek to group together questions on the same topic.

12.30 pm 8. **Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 28 June 2019 at 10.30am at County Hall, Lewes.

Future meeting dates below:

27 September 2019

31 January 2020

17 February 2020 (to be cancelled if not required)

To all members of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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

Present:

Cllr Bill Bentley (Chairman)	East Sussex County Council	Cllr Christian Mitchell (Vice-Chairman)	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Dave Simmons	Adur District Council	Cllr Mike Clayden	Arun District Council
Cllr Mo Marsh	Brighton & Hove City Council	Cllr Joe Miller	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Eileen Lintill	Chichester District Council	Cllr Carolyn Lambert	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Colin Fitzgerald	Hastings Borough Council	Cllr Norman Webster	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Tony Nicholson	Lewes District Council	Cllr Michael Jones	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Claire Dowling	Wealden District Council	Mr Peter Nightingale	Independent member
Miss Susan Scholefield	Independent member	Cllr John Ungar	Eastbourne Borough Council
Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green	Rother District Council		

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

Part I

25. Declarations of Interest

25.1 In accordance with the code of conduct members of the Panel declared the personal interests contained in the table below.

Panel Member	Personal Interest
Bill Bentley	Lead Member for Communities and Safety Chairman East Sussex Safer Communities Civil Military Partnership Board
Mike Clayden	Chairman of Safer Arun Partnership
Claire Dowling	Chairman of Safer Wealden Partnership
Colin Fitzgerald	Employed by Solace Women's Aid Charity Chairman of Safer Hastings Partnership
Eleanor Kirby-Green	Member of Safer Rother Partnership

Carolyn Lambert	Member of East Sussex Fire Authority
Eileen Lintill	Member of Chichester Community Safety Partnership
Mo Marsh	Lead Councillor for Community Safety (BHCC) Deputy Chair of the Neighbourhoods Inclusion Communities and Equalities Committee (BHCC)
Tony Nicholson	Co-Chairman of Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Susan Scholefield	A serving Magistrate Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal and Competition Service Non-Executive Director of Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Dave Simmons	Chairman of Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors.
Val Turner	Member of Safer Communities Partnership, Adur and Worthing
John Ungar	Co-Chairman of Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership
Norman Webster	Member of Mid Sussex Community Safety Partnership Stakeholder Governor of Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust East Grinstead.
Tricia Youtan	Member of Horsham Community Safety Partnership Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Horsham District Council

26. Minutes

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

27. Public Question Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27.6 Mr Phillips asked the following question of the Commissioner:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information is available through the following link:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28. Final Report of the Precept Working Group

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

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

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

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

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

29. Proposed Precept 2019/20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30.2 Resolved – that the Panel note the report.

31. Quarterly Report of Complaints

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

31.2 Resolved – that the Panel note the update.

32. Commissioner's Question Time

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

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

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

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

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

33. Date of Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates

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

The meeting ended at 14.10pm

Chairman

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

26 April 2019

Public Questions to the Commissioner and Panel

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

The table below provides 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 2 weeks before a meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner or Panel Chairman is invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting.

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

Question	Response
<p>1. I have received the following data as a result of a Freedom of Information Act request from Sussex Police which is correct as at the 18th March 2019.</p> <p>Since the 1st April 2018:</p> <p>Number of police officers recruited 267</p> <p>Number of police officers retired 133</p> <p>Number of police officers resigning 83</p> <p>That means that in terms of additional police officers for that period (1.4.2018 – 18.3.2019) the total is 51.</p> <p>1. In light of this does the PCC wish to re-consider her target of an EXTRA 200 police officers being in place within Sussex by 2020?</p> <p>2. What does she intend to do regarding the high numbers of police officers resigning from the force?</p> <p>Mr Moore, Seaford.</p>	

<p>2. I am aware that Sussex Police have taken steps to encourage more Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) applicants to redress the under-representation of this group in the police force.</p> <p>How confident is the PCC that BAME residents are treated fairly and with appropriate cultural sensitivity by Sussex Police?</p> <p>What measures (other than those to encourage BAME applicants) is the force undertaking to achieve this?</p> <p>Mr Jacklin, Norman's Bay.</p>	
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No background papers.



To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Subject:	The role of the Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police provide an effective response to the possession and use of offensive weapons in Sussex
Date:	26 April 2019
Recommendation:	That the Police & Crime Panel notes the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The report sets out the role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in ensuring that Sussex Police provides an effective policing response to the possession and use of offensive weapons in Sussex.
- 1.2 This report also provides an outline of the Sussex Police response to the possession and use of offensive weapons in Sussex, with a specific focus on knife-enabled crime, and how the Chief Constable is held to account to ensure that the Sussex Police response is both efficient and effective.

2.0 Role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

- 2.1 It is the role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering policing in Sussex that is efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the public.
- 2.2 The Commissioner attends an internal bi-monthly Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Board to scrutinise the performance of Sussex Police, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable. The Commissioner is represented by another member of the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner if she is unable to attend the PEEL Board.
- 2.3 The Commissioner also holds the Chief Constable to account at her weekly meetings and webcast monthly Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAMs). During this current term in office, the Commissioner has held the Chief Constable to account for the Sussex Police response to the possession and use of weapons in Sussex at the following PAMs:
- 2017 – Theme at 2 meetings (27 January and 19 May)
 - 2018 – Theme at 2 meetings (23 February and 20 July)
 - 2019 – Theme at 1 meeting (15 March)
- 2.4 This challenge has been made under a number of different themes including: Possession of Weapons; Knife-Enabled Crime; Operation Sceptre; Violent Crime and Homicide. These sessions are archived and can be viewed on the Commissioner’s website through the following link: www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/

Agenda Item 5

- 2.5 The Commissioner remains the only Police & Crime Commissioner in England and Wales to hold monthly accountability meetings with the Chief Constable and his senior officers, and one of only a small number who webcast them. This highlights the Commissioner's belief in the importance of transparency of the role for members of the public.

3.0 Accountability

- 3.1 The Serious Violence Strategy was published in April 2018. The information contained within the Strategy suggested that Sussex appeared to be an anomaly in terms of the level of knife crime recorded by the Force.
- 3.2 The Commissioner challenged the Chief Constable regarding Force performance in this area at her webcast Performance & Accountability Meeting (PAM) on 20 July 2018. The Chief Constable acknowledged that Sussex Police needed to understand better the reasons for the apparent lower levels of knife crime recorded in comparison to the other police force areas in England and Wales.
- 3.3 The Commissioner was not satisfied with this response and asked the Force to look into this matter further. As a result of this scrutiny, Sussex Police undertook a significant amount of work to gain a greater understanding of the reasons behind the apparent lower levels of crime recorded.
- 3.4 This work subsequently revealed that a systems and process issue existed in respect of the marker for this type of crime and its prominence on the crime recording system. This meant that some crimes involving knives and sharp instruments were not included in previous submissions to the Home Office.
- 3.5 The Commissioner scrutinised further the knife crime figures recorded by Sussex Police at her PAM on 15 March 2019. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the number of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded in Sussex had actually increased year-on-year across each of the past three calendar years (see section 5.0 Performance information relating to knife crime offences).
- 3.6 It is a direct result of the Commissioner holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police in this area that has contributed to an improved accuracy in the recording of knife crimes by Sussex Police.
- 3.7 In addition, Sussex Police previously received gradings of 'good' in the crime data integrity inspections carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) and the Commissioner is now looking at the recording of all other crime types to ensure that these are accurate too.

4.0 Summary of the threat and scale of the problem in Sussex

- 4.1 Knife crime continues to remain a national issue and focus. There were 39,818 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded in England and Wales in the 12 month period ending September 2018.

- 4.2 This was a two-thirds increase from the low-point in the year ending March 2014, when there were 23,945 offences, and was the highest number since comparable data was compiled.
- 4.3 The use of offensive weapons, including knives, are often linked to gangs and organised crime groups involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile telephone lines. This is also known as 'county lines'.
- 4.4 However, despite the increased national focus, it is important to emphasise that Sussex remains a safe place to live, work and visit. Sussex had the 11th lowest risk of experiencing any crime in comparison to the other 43 police force areas in England and Wales for the 12 month period ending January 2019.
- 4.5 The Serious Violence Strategy (launched in April 2018) and the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (launched in November 2018) both look to bring together effective interventions around enforcement, prevention and regulation to tackle the cause in the recent growth in violent crime.

5.0 Performance information relating to knife crime offences

- 5.1 The Home Office defines knife crime as any recorded offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument, including broken bottles and glass. There are two particular types of knife crime offences: knife-enabled crimes (involving either a knife or a sharp instrument) and possession of knives or sharp instruments.
- 5.2 Further to the scrutiny of the Commissioner in this area, Sussex Police identified an increase in the number of knife and sharp instrument offences recorded in Sussex across each of the past three calendar years, as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Offences involving a knife or sharp instrument</i>	<i>All offences</i>	<i>Percentage of all offences</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>733</i>	<i>15,619</i>	<i>4.7%</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>820</i>	<i>17,767</i>	<i>4.6%</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>979</i>	<i>18,793</i>	<i>5.2%</i>

- 5.3 The same trend was apparent for possession of weapons offences in Sussex too, as follows:

<i>Possession of weapons offences</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Possession of firearms with intent</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>Possession of firearms offences</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>Possession of other weapons</i>	<i>436</i>	<i>504</i>	<i>535</i>
<i>Possession of knife and sharp instruments</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>661</i>	<i>781</i>
<i>All possession of weapons offences</i>	<i>1,157</i>	<i>1,345</i>	<i>1,506</i>

- 5.4 These figures are in line with the number of knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by other police force areas in England and Wales and the numbers contained within the Serious Violence Strategy.

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- 5.5 It is important to emphasise that the risk of knife crime in Sussex remains low. The Sussex Police response to knives and other offensive weapons can be viewed in section 7.0.

6.0 Legal powers in place regarding offensive weapons

- 6.1 The law regarding offensive weapons falls into two categories of offences: possession and sale or trade.
- 6.2 Possession of offensive weapons, articles in public places and on school premises are covered by the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Offences of selling, lending or importing such weapons are covered by the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
- 6.3 As part of an enhancement to police powers the Government will also seek to amend the Offensive Weapons Bill to introduce Knife Crime Prevention Orders. This new deterrent is set to be imposed on any person (aged 12 or over) who the police believe is carrying a knife, are habitual knife carriers or people previously convicted of a knife-related offence.
- 6.4 This amendment also endeavors to prevent vulnerable young people from becoming involved in knife possession and knife crime by reducing a gap that is not covered by existing preventative orders such as Gang Injunctions and Criminal Behaviour Orders.

7.0 Sussex Police response to knives and other offensive weapons

- 7.1 Sussex Police is working hard to reduce the number of offensive weapons available in Sussex and to educate individuals about the possible consequences of carrying these weapons.
- 7.2 The Force uses three strands of policing to proactively reduce the number of knives and offensive weapons available in Sussex and to educate individuals about the possible consequences of carrying weapons. These strands are: prevention, education and enforcement.
- 7.3 This activity is carried out through the use of a range of available tools and policing powers, including proactive patrols targeting areas and locations where there is a propensity for individuals and groups to use and carry weapons, including knives. This is performed by a combination of uniformed and plain clothes officers to maximise its effectiveness.
- 7.4 Stop and search powers are also used where there is reasonable suspicion that individuals are carrying weapons. The Force targets habitual weapon carriers where lawful and proportionate grounds exist too. All of these activities are targeted based on intelligence and information that is received.
- 7.5 Sussex Police stopped and searched 6,177 individuals in the 12 month period ending March 2019. Of those individuals stopped, 1,113 individuals were subsequently arrested following the outcome of the search. This equated to an arrest rate of 18%, against a national average of 17% and demonstrates that the Force is getting better at targeting the right individuals with these powers.

- 7.6 Another initiative supported by the Force to reduce knife crime in Sussex is Operation Sceptre. This is a nationally coordinated campaign, launched by the Metropolitan Police Service in July 2015, which attempts to ensure that residents are safe from knife-enabled crime in their communities.
- 7.7 The campaign takes place twice a year and comprises of a combination of targeted operational and educational activities to remove unwanted knives off the streets and to provide proactive reassurance to children and young people that they are more likely to come to harm carrying a knife than walking away from threats of violence.
- 7.8 Sussex Police supported the most recent Operation Sceptre campaign which took place in March 2019. Amnesty bins were made available in police stations across Sussex for individuals to safely dispose of knives and any other offensive weapons without repercussions or reprisal. A total of 135 knives were handed in as part of this campaign.
- 7.9 The Serious Violence Strategy states that “tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone. It requires a multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors.” Sussex Police works in partnership with local authorities, Trading Standards, licensing and National Health Service (NHS) partners to tackle knife-enabled crime and crimes involving other offensive weapons, all year round.
- 7.10 There are 20 dedicated Prevention Youth Officers (PYOs) in Sussex who deliver educational presentations to young people in schools and other educational establishments. These inputs are targeted around specific policing priority areas for Sussex Police and highlight the risks of possessing and using knives and other offensive weapons. If an emerging issue is identified within a particular school or educational establishment, this will be managed through the Local Prevention Teams and other multi-agency partners. The PYOs engaged with approximately 3,000 students throughout Sussex as part of the recent Operation Sceptre campaign.
- 7.11 Operation Sceptre also sought to target the supply, access and importation of weapons, as well as those who carry and use knives. This planned enforcement action included Volunteer Police Cadets attempting to purchase knives whilst under age from shops and retailers.
- 7.12 Schools, colleges and other educational establishments have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18, and remain incredibly supportive of the Force’s approach in this area.
- 7.13 In addition, the Government recently announced that the police would be given an extra £100 million to help them tackle knife crime in England and Wales. Sussex Police will submit a bid into this additional funding in due course to protect better the communities in Sussex.

8.0 Funding provided by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

- 8.1 The Commissioner has provided funding to the Chief Constable, Sussex Police and other community safety partners to tackle the possession and use of offensive weapons in Sussex through the following: policing precept, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF).

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- 8.2 The Commissioner, with support from the public and the Sussex Police & Crime Panel, increased the policing part of the Council Tax for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 following proposals set out by the Chief Constable. The additional funding provided by the Commissioner has been used by the Chief Constable to modernise and strengthen local policing, as set out in the Sussex Police 2018/22 Transformation Strategy. This includes targeted activities to tackle knife-enabled crime and the possession of offensive weapons.
- 8.3 The Commissioner has allocated £1.215m to the CSPs in Sussex across 2019/20. This was the 7th year running that the Commissioner protected this quantum of funding despite national reductions. This funding has been used by each of the CSPs to tackle crime and local priorities, including possession and offensive weapon offences.
- 8.4 The Commissioner was also successful in an application to the EIYF after demonstrating that 'county lines', including knife crime, is one of the biggest emerging threats in Sussex. A total of £890,616 was secured from the Home Office and was the 7th highest award in England and Wales.
- 8.5 The funding is being used to establish a Sussex Early Intervention Youth Programme, called Reboot, with the aim of engaging positively with those under the age of 18 at risk of committing serious violence, and those who have already come to the attention of the police through anti-social behaviour and low-level crime.
- 8.6 Reboot will work with local authorities and statutory partners in health, police and probation, together with schools and other educational establishments, and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.
- 8.7 The Commissioner also attended a Ministerial Serious Violence Roundtable Event in March 2019. This focused on the importance of ensuring that there are sufficient police resources to tackle violence on the streets across England and Wales and to strengthen the national focus on prevention.

Recommended – That the Police & Crime Panel note the report.

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Sussex Police and Crime Panel

26 April 2019

Complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner

Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Recommendations

That the Panel considers the 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, the Sussex Police & Crime Panel (PCP) is responsible for the initial handling of complaints against 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). A sub-committee meets to consider complaints against the PCC requiring informal resolution (those considered "non-serious").

2. Correspondence Received from 22 January 2019 to 3 April 2019

1.4 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.

1.5 During the subject period, two people contacted the Panel to raise new issues (either directly, or via the IOPC).

Complaints

1.6 During the subject period no correspondents 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:

1.6.1 Concerning correspondence received and determined by the Clerk to the Panel not to be (within the terms of the Regulations) a complaint within the Panel's remit: none received

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

- 1.6.2 Concerning correspondence received and determined by the Clerk to the Panel to be (within the terms of the Regulations) a complaint within the Panel's remit: two received.
- 1.6.3 An individual contacted the Panel to raise complaints about Sussex Police's handling of allegations of mortgage fraud. The issues raised were operational policing matters which are legally the responsibility of the Chief Constable, and not the Police and Crime Commissioner. However, the complainant had submitted a number of complaints to Sussex Police over the course of time – although the Chief Constable is responsible for "managing all complaints against the force, its officers and staff", the [Policing Protocol 2011](#) also says that the PCC has a legal duty to "monitor all complaints made against officers and staff". Having made enquiries with the Commissioner's office, the Clerk to the Panel was satisfied with the manner in which the Commissioner undertook her monitoring duty, and the complainant was informed of this finding.
- 1.6.4 An individual contacted the Panel to raise numerous (non-specific) complaints. Enquiries by the Clerk to the Panel are in process.

Serious Complaints

- 1.6.5 None have been received, or are in process.

2 Resource Implications and Value for Money

- 2.1 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.

3 Risk Management Implications

- 3.1 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).

4 Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights

- 4.1 Not applicable

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Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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