



# Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

## 2012/2013 Annual Report

## Introduction the Annual Report 2012/2013



Welcome to my first Annual Report as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). The report sets out what I have achieved since my appointment on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to the financial year, ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

On becoming your PCC, I gave a commitment to do all I can to help drive down crime in Sussex and ensure our communities remain a safe place in which to live and work. In these early months, I have been working tirelessly to ensure the four priorities that residents of Sussex wanted me to focus on, begin to make a real difference in keeping us Safer in Sussex. Some of the key actions I have taken include: freezing the police element of the Council Tax and agreeing an affordable budget for policing in Sussex; launching the Sussex Police Domestic Violence and Abuse Campaign to encourage greater reporting and increase the prosecution of offenders; holding regular Performance and Accountability meetings with the Chief Constable; allocating funds to Community Safety Partnerships, ensuring they effectively tackle local matters of need and concern and guaranteeing continuity of service.

Much more exciting work is currently underway to increase a visible police presence across all Sussex communities - this includes opening the recruitment for new Police Constables for the first time in three and a half years and increasing the number of Special Constable volunteers. You can read all about the progress on this and other issues and view my Police & Crime Plan on my web site [www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk) and follow on twitter@Sussexpcc and [www.facebook.com/sussexpcc](http://www.facebook.com/sussexpcc).

It is a real privilege to represent the people of Sussex in this important role and I will continue travelling to the villages, towns and rural communities in Sussex to hear, firsthand, how I can help further. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many partnerships, volunteers and officers and staff of Sussex Police who are working hard to drive down crime, tackle anti-social behaviour, provide care and support for victims and keep us all Safer in Sussex.

## The Role of Police & Crime Commissioner

Until November 2012, Police Authorities were responsible for monitoring and overseeing policing in England and Wales. The Sussex Police Authority had responsibility for the governance of Sussex Police, setting targets and holding the Chief Constable to account.

The first ever Police & Crime Commissioner elections took place on 15 November 2012 and the PCC inherited the responsibility not only for the governance and oversight of Sussex Police but also a much wider and additional remit around crime and community safety.

The Police & Crime Commissioner also sets the revenue budget for Sussex Police, including the policing element precept of the Council Tax. The support staff and budget from the previous Authority has also passed to the Commissioner and a Police & Crime Panel has been formed to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

This diagram demonstrates the breadth of the role and how the Commissioner and the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) will approach the opportunities and challenges ahead.



### Some Achievements so far

To increase effective, visible policing, the Commissioner has:

- Opened recruitment for 30 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and, for the first time in three and a half years, for 80 Police Constables



To ensure safer communities, the Commissioner has:

- Guaranteed the same funding for Community Safety Partnerships as last year despite a 25% grant reduction from Government
- Initiated a review of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership aims and funding to improve reductions in road casualties

To tackle domestic abuse and violence, the Commissioner has:

- Launched a Domestic Violence and Abuse Campaign with Sussex Police which increased levels of awareness and reporting.



To promote and recognise the volunteering ethos in Sussex, the OSPCC has:

- Become the first PCC's office to gain national accreditation with the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard Award for Volunteer Management. This is in recognition of the OSPCC in running the volunteer

Independent Custody Visitor Scheme.

To set the strategy for policing in Sussex, the Commissioner has:

- Delivered a clear and measurable four year plan 'Safer in Sussex'

To improve the performance of Sussex Police and hold the police to account, the Commissioner has:

- Challenged Sussex Police burglary detection performance which has led to a complete internal review and the setting up of a Burglary Tasking Group. Improvements in detecting and reduction in burglary are already being seen;
- Challenged Sussex Police over delays in processing firearms licences which has resulted in significant improvements in clearing the backlog.

### **Key Decisions from 15 November 2012 to 31 March 2013**

The Commissioner has made the following key decisions during the period 15 November 2012 to 31 March 2013. Full details of all decisions can be found on the Commissioner's website: [www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/pcc-decisions/](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/pcc-decisions/)

- Approved a revenue budget of £256.607m for 2013/2014, of which £255.488m is delegated to the Chief Constable to fund his Operational Delivery Plan. The balance of £1.184m is held by the Commissioner to fund her office budget.
- Guaranteed the Community Safety Grant funding of £1.225m to the relevant parties for 2013/2014. Despite a Government grant reduction of 25% from 2012/2013, the Commissioner has committed £410,000 from other budgets in order to maintain the same level of funding that Community Safety Partnerships received in 2012/2013 and thus guarantee continuity of service.
- Appointed the two statutory roles of Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, and Chief Finance Officer to provide professional advice and support.
- Approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/2014.
- Agreed the Budget and Capital programme for 2013/2014.
- Appointed Steve Waight as her full-time Deputy for a fixed term of two years with effect from 12 February 2013. His annual salary is £45,000 and like the Commissioner, he will not claim for any travelling expenses whilst in Sussex.
- Agreed the contract arrangements for the provision of Force forensic services for the South East region.
- Proposed a precept freeze for 2013/2014 which meant that a band D equivalent home would continue to pay £138.42 per annum in Sussex. The precept freeze was confirmed by the Police & Crime Panel in January 2013.

Agenda item no.9

- Appointed four independent members to the Joint Audit Committee who are responsible for enhancing public trust and confidence in the governance of the Commissioner and discharging statutory responsibilities in holding the Sussex Police Force to account.
- Extended Chief Constable Martin Richard's contract by 12 months, the maximum length allowed. This means that the current contract will end on 30 September 2014.
- Agreed a Reserves Policy which sets out how the Commissioner will determine and review the level of reserves and provisions to meet the needs of the organisation.
- Agreed a Scheme of Consent which provides a framework for delegating some of the Commissioner decisions. This will make sure that business is carried out efficiently and that decisions are not unnecessarily delayed.

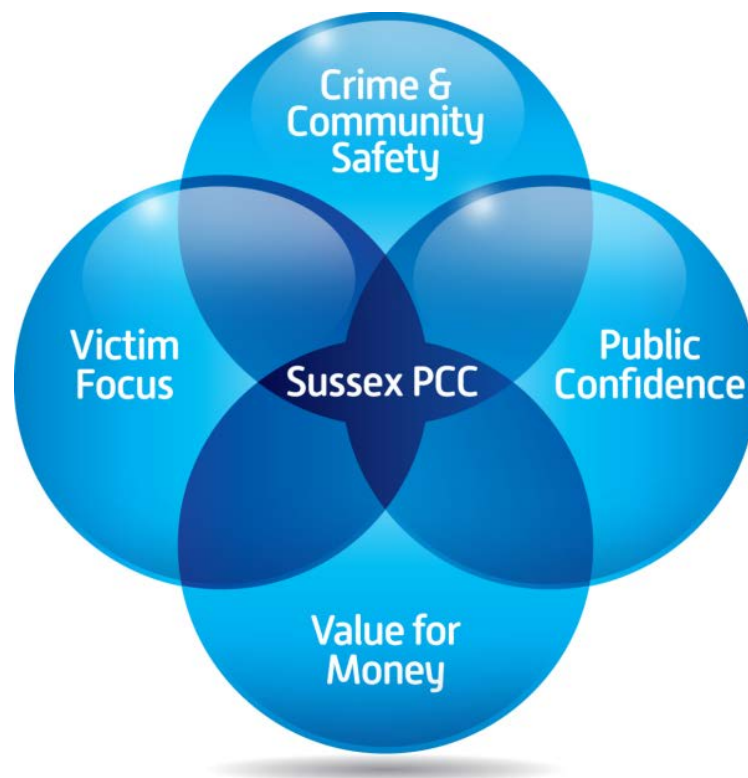


## Police & Crime Plan 2013/2017

The Commissioner officially published the Police & Crime Plan on 31 March 2013.

This document has been structured around the Commissioner's four priority areas, objectives and targets for Sussex as identified in the Plan:

- Crime & Community Safety
- Victim Focus
- Public Confidence
- Value for Money





***Crime & Community Safety***

***The Commissioner is committed to:***

- ***Keeping Sussex a low crime area***
- ***Tackling community priorities and their contributing factors (such as alcohol, drugs, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and road safety)***
- ***Closely working with and monitoring the performance of the Community Safety Partnerships to ensure they meet the needs of local communities.***



- ✓ The Commissioner is pleased to confirm that recorded crime has reduced for the eighth successive year in the county.
- ✓ The Commissioner challenged the Sussex Police burglary detection performance leading to an internal review and the setting up of a Burglary Tasking and Performance Group which has seen subsequent improvement in detection and reduction of burglary.
- ✓ The Commissioner has ensured that Sussex Police reduced the delays in the processing of firearms licences and made significant inroads towards clearing the backlog.
- ✓ The Commissioner initiated a review of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership aims and funding to improve reductions in road casualties.
- ✓ The Commissioner has overseen the completion of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition programme to tackle more criminality on the roads.



- ✓ The Commissioner has passported the Community Safety Grant of £1.225m to the relevant parties for 2013/2014. This was despite a 25% grant reduction from 2012/2013. The Commissioner has committed £410,000 from

other budgets in order to maintain the same level of funding that Community safety Partnerships received in 2012/2013, to guarantee continuity of delivery and service.

## Victim Focus

*The Commissioner is committed to;*

- *Improving the experience that victims and witnesses have of the criminal justice system*
- *Enhancing, developing and commissioning initiatives to bring justice for victims*
- *Effective policing that is responsive to the needs of victims and the vulnerable*



- ✓ The Commissioner is working with partners to improve the victim experience of the criminal justice sector. Understanding the victim journey is fundamental to this work and the Commissioner has met with victims to listen to their experiences and ideas as to how improvements can be made.
- ✓ The Commissioner took part in the launch of the Sussex Police Domestic Violence and Abuse campaign and which resulted in increased levels of awareness and reporting. The Commissioner continues to prioritise under-reported crimes through her engagement with victim groups and services and there have been increases in the number of recorded crimes for domestic violence & abuse, serious sexual offences and hate crimes, from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, in comparison to the same period a year earlier.
- ✓ Leighe Rogers, a Director from Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust (SSPT) has been seconded to the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, to assist with a new drive to increase the opportunities to reduce reoffending through targeted investment. This will bring a new focus to the work of the probation service and the police in the crucial job of cutting crime.

## **Public Confidence**

### **The Commissioner is committed to:**

- ***Building trust in the police and the criminal justice system***
- ***Removing proceeds of crime from criminals and reinvesting that money in our communities***
- ***Encouraging and developing volunteering to make us Safer in Sussex***



- ✓ The Commissioner has attended public meetings and forums throughout Sussex during this period and answered questions from residents. This engagement has resulted in a significant increase in correspondence to the OSPCC and has contributed towards the successful resolution of a number of long-term complaints.
- ✓ The Commissioner has agreed that Sussex Police distribute last year's proceeds of crime (approximately £50,000) through a community cashback scheme and will review the process of this reinvestment into the communities of Sussex in 2013/2014.
- ✓ The Commissioner has ensured that her website is open, transparent and accessible to all, with as much data 'open by default' as is possible, which is prescribed by the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011. Sussex Police has been encouraged to do the same with their website.
- ✓ The Commissioner has demonstrated her commitment to work with and engage positively with young people and to promote their interests. She has signed the Youth Charter for Police & Crime Commissioners in England and Wales.
- ✓ The OSPCC is the first PCC office in the country to have been accredited with the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard for Volunteer Management for the Independent Custody Visiting scheme. This has now been strengthened by the recruitment of an additional 14 Independent Custody Visitors.
- ✓ The Commissioner has been appointed as Director to the Board of the National College of Policing where she will have a key role in shaping policing for future leaders.

***Value for Money***

***The Commissioner is committed to;***

- ***Reducing bureaucracy and waste across the criminal justice system***
  - ***Further collaboration & partnership working***
  - ***Efficient, effective and innovative commissioning of services and procurement of assets***
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- ✓ The Commissioner has frozen the policing element of the Council Tax in Sussex for 2013/2014. This means that Taxpayers in the county will pay just £138.42 for a Band D property.
  - ✓ The Commissioner is currently reviewing a number of contracts held by Sussex Police to ensure that best value for money exists including a review of the Private Finance Initiative contract for the provision of custody services.
  - ✓ The Commissioner has established a reciprocal arrangement with Surrey regarding the available services of the statutory role of Deputy Chief Finance Officer at no extra cost.
  - ✓ The Commissioner is committed to ensuring that her office continues to provide excellent value for money in terms of improving the effectiveness of policing. The attached Outturn Report details the office budget.
  - ✓ The Commissioner has been working closely with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey and other partners, to further develop innovative opportunities to work collaboratively where it is in the best interests of Sussex to do so.

## **Conclusion**

The Commissioner has used the short period since taking office in November 2012 to set the foundations for ongoing work and develop plans for future working over the next three years.



The Commissioner has weekly accountability meetings with the Chief

Constable to ensure that the Sussex Police Operational Delivery Plan fully supports the expectations and objectives set out in the Police & Crime Plan. The Commissioner is putting into place plans to webcast the monthly Performance and Financial Accountability meetings.

**Recommended** – that the Police & Crime Panel note the content of the Annual Report.

**[Appendix – Financial outturn report for the year ended 31 March 2013](#)**

**No Background Papers**

