



# SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

**2 July 2026**

### **Annual Report from the Host Authority for 2025/26**

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

#### **1. Background**

1.1 The Panel incurred the costs below in respect of its operation in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

- £70,987.59 for administrative expenses.
- £554.40 for members' expenses.

Total: £71,541.99

In line with the terms of the grant, the Host Authority (West Sussex County Council) submitted a claim for this amount in early June, ahead of the 30 June deadline.

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

#### **2. Discussion**

2.1 The Panel met formally four times in 2025/26. The meetings were held in person, in public, at County Hall, Lewes. Panel meetings are furthermore webcast live. 1079 people watched the January meeting online (76 live, 1003 via the archive).

2.2 All statutory scrutiny duties were fulfilled in 25/26, namely:

- Scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Annual Report in July 2025
- Scrutiny of the Commissioner's proposed precept in January 2026

Both are deemed "special functions" within the relevant legislation.

- 2.3 Scrutiny of the PCC's Annual Report 2024/25 considered performance against the three strands of the Police and Crime Plan 2021/24, and delivery of initiatives funded by previous precept increases.
- 2.4 The Panel worked with the Commissioner's officers in two Working Group meetings, to consider development of the 2026/27 budget and precept.
- 2.5 The Group made comments to guide the Commissioner's office in their development of the precept, which were taken up as the work progressed.
- 2.6 Informed by the Working Group's final report, the Panel reviewed and supported the PCC's proposed precept in January 2026.
- 2.7 The Panel additionally scrutinised the Commissioner's role in specific areas of interest at its formal meetings. These were:
- Ensuring the Effectiveness of Vetting Processes within Sussex Police
  - Hate Crime
  - Estates Strategy 2024/28
  - County Lines and Cuckooing
  - The outcomes and organisational learning arising from the Sussex PCC's role as the review body for Schedule 3 complaints
  - Sussex Police's Progress in recruiting to maintain the Home Office's baseline headcount
- 2.8 Training was offered to all new members joining the Panel during the year
- 2.9 Members visited Sussex Police's Contact, Command, and Control Centre, and the training facility in Kingstanding. Members also attended an informal presentation on Victim Services.
- 2.10 The Annual Conference for Police Fire and Crime Panels was not held in 2025. It is hoped the conference will resume in 2026/27.
- 2.11 The Panel's website continues to operate effectively. For example, for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026:
- There were 6697 (5,253 in 24/25) visits to the site, with pages viewed 12,451 (10,142 in 24/25) times in total.
  - The average visits per day was 18. There were spikes in traffic coinciding with the publication of agenda papers for upcoming meetings. The biggest spike (approx. 368 visits) coincided with the publication of minutes for the July 2025 (annual) meeting, at which the Panel considered the Commissioner's annual report.
  - The most popular pages remain the homepage, as expected, with the "previous meetings" page, the second most popular. This suggests the

site is widely used to view archive minutes and webcast recordings, as well as access information on forthcoming meetings including meeting agendas.

### **Funding for 2026/27**

- 2.12 Home Office funding will remain unchanged for 2026/27, comprising £53,300 for Panel administration costs, and up to £18,400 (20 x £920), available for members' allowable expenses. The two sums are not ring-fenced, giving a total of £71,700 (unchanged since 2012).
- 2.13 The funding is normally paid in arrears, in six-monthly instalments. The PCP must publish details of all Panel expenditure, including administration costs and individual Panel member claims for expenses, on its website. Per para 1.2, the Panel has complied with this requirement for 25/26.
- 2.14 It is anticipated that the staff costs of administering the Panel will be achieved within the envelope of funding provided by the Home Office for the forthcoming year.

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

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

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

- 4.1 None

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

- 5.1 Not applicable

### **Lauren McCann**

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

### **Contact:**

Ninesh Edwards  
(T) 0330 222 2542  
(E) [ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk)