

## **PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING**

**DATE:** 21 March 2014

**LOCATION:** Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Sackville House, Lewes

**PRESENT:** Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne (KB)  
Chief Executive Mark Streater (MS)  
Temporary Chief Constable Giles York (GY)  
Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney (OP)  
Chief Superintendent Martin Walker (MW)  
Policy Officer Graham Kane – minutes  
Communications Manager Rosie Gooch  
Administration Clerk Sarah Tibbott

## **OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Q. What have been the recent operational highlights for the Force?**

**A. Have there been any key Operations or challenges?**

**B. How have you reflected on these?**

GY confirmed that Olivia Pinkney has returned from a secondment at Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and was introduced to the PAM as the Temporary Deputy Chief Constable.

GY explained that a recent operational highlight for Sussex Police included the Manhunt Team on Brighton & Hove Division being named runner-up in the *South East Special Constable Team of the Year Award* for finding 104 wanted criminals in the City over a five month period. Challenges have included a fatal collision between a pedestrian and a police car in Hastings which is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission and two officers that were injured following a disturbance at an address in Brighton & Hove.

GY also highlighted that planning is underway for the forthcoming *March for England* on 27 April 2014 and the Force is currently engaging with all sides of the protest to minimise the risk and impact.

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – STREET DRINKING**

**Anti-social behaviour, caused by those who drink and loiter in public places, blights the lives of many, particularly in town centres and public spaces.**

**With summer, the improving weather and longer evenings approaching there are naturally concerns from residents, communities and businesses regarding the potential for increases in the recorded number of anti-social behaviour crimes and incidents.**

**Q. What best practice and learning can Sussex Police use to tackle the anticipated increases in anti-social behaviour?**

**A. What specific powers do Sussex Police have to deal with street drinking?**

**B. What work is the Force currently doing with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and street drinking?**

GY confirmed that there are two types of street drinking; night time economy and street community. It was explained that the night time economy causes local disturbances which can lead to ASB and public place violence. Operation Marble is the targeted Sussex Police response to this economy to ensure that individuals, businesses and communities remain safe.

GY also explained that Sussex Police assist the vulnerable population of the street community by introducing and diverting these individuals to pop-up hubs where partners can assist and make life saving interventions. This includes access to doctors, dentists and housing officers, together with food, drink and clothing.

GY concluded by stating that for both types of street drinking, the role of Sussex Police is to develop intelligence to ensure that Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) patrols are in the right places, at the right times, to ensure more effective and timely intervention.

## **SCAMS AND FRAUD - OPERATION SIGNATURE**

**Defrauding individuals, particularly the elderly and vulnerable members of the community through scam mail, email and telephone calls is an increasing problem, both locally and nationally.**

**Q. Can you describe the problems that Sussex Police are currently encountering around this particular area?**

**A. What operational successes are directly attributable to Operation Signature?**

**B. What support and preventative measures have Sussex Police offered to the elderly and vulnerable communities to protect them from further targeting?**

**C. How are Sussex Police working with the national charity "Think Jessica" to raise awareness and reduce vulnerability in Sussex?**

OP stated that scam mail is a significant area of focus for the Force. Operation Signature is the Sussex Police response to criminals targeting elderly and vulnerable members of the community through scam letters.

It was explained that the sophistication of deceit and the preying psychology involved means that it is difficult to prove that a crime of fraud has taken place. Some of the fraud can even be attributed to Organised Crime Groups worldwide.

Sussex Police were the first force nationally to be proactive in terms of working with the 1,500 names and addresses of victims of fraud made available by the Metropolitan Police. Of those identified, 900 individuals were still at the addresses published; of which 400 had lost a collective total of £2m.

OP confirmed that Sussex Police offer support and preventative measures to the elderly and vulnerable communities to protect them from further targeting through practical advice (in terms of assistance setting up call barring and advice for changing bank details) and by raising awareness through a scam warning leaflet which was sent out recently with Council Tax letters. In addition, the Force has also published The Little Book of Big Scams.

OP concluded by emphasising that Sussex Police, the local NPTs and Neighbourhood Watch are working closely with victims, doctors and charities (including the national charity "Think Jessica") and others that regularly come into routine contact with potential victims to raise awareness and develop learning locally. The Force is also working with the National Crime Agency, College of Policing and other forces to develop best practice in this particular area.

## **VOLUNTARY TAGGING – OPERATION MAGPIE**

**I am encouraged that the number of recorded burglaries in Sussex has reduced by 16% across the current Performance Plan Year. Some of this success can be attributable to Operation Magpie, the dedicated campaign targeting those who commit burglary. In particular, a trial has been running on West Sussex Division since July 2013 which enables convicted offenders to wear an electronic tag on a voluntary basis.**

**Q. How does the tagging initiative work?**

**A. When does the trial run until?**

**B. Are there plans to roll this out Forcewide?**

**C. What impact has this trial had on Operation Magpie and reoffending in Sussex?**

KB commended the 16% reduction in the number of recorded burglaries in Sussex across the current performance plan year (April 2013 to February 2014), which equates to 582 fewer recorded crimes.

MW explained that a pilot has been running on West Sussex Division since July 2013 which enables convicted offenders to wear an electronic tag on a voluntary basis. This provides Sussex Police with live information of the location of wearers which can eliminate them from enquiries and prevents unnecessary arrests (which positively impacts on resources too).

MW stated that 22 previously convicted burglars have taken part in the initiative so far, of which none of them have committed a burglary or any other acquisitive crime during the 4 – 6 week period that they have worn the tagging device for.

It was emphasised that this is one tactic that Sussex Police can use as part of a wider Integrated Offender Management scheme and the Force hope to have this rolled out across Sussex by the autumn. It was also acknowledged that further work is required with the judiciary to explore whether wider use of this tactic could be used nationally.

KB confirmed that this is an area that she will look to discuss further in her role as Chair of the Sussex Criminal Justice Board.

## **HOMOPHOBIC AND RACIST ABUSE IN FOOTBALL**

**The recently broadcast Channel 4 Dispatches programme looked at homophobic and racist abuse at English football grounds. In particular, the documentary focused on the experiences of Brighton & Hove Albion supporters, both home and away.**

**Q. Can you provide some context around the scale of this issue?**

**A. How many reports of homophobic and racist abuse have been recorded at Brighton & Hove Albion and other football grounds in Sussex this season?**

**B. What is the expectation of officers when they become aware that homophobic or racist abuse is taking place?**

**C. How do Sussex Police work in partnership with Brighton & Hove Albion to tackle homophobic and racist abuse directed at supporters?**

GY confirmed that homophobic and racist abuse is a significant area across football in general and is particularly attracted to Brighton & Hove Albion, given the large Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) population that reside in the City.

The Channel 4 Dispatches programme highlighted that supporters have been concerned by the lack of action taken by Sussex Police after it was revealed that 71% had experienced homophobic abuse at home games and 95% at away games.

GY explained that Sussex Police have a two stage plan for tackling homophobic and racist abuse at football matches and this tolerance level is reinforced to all officers at their briefings prior to match days.

- Stage 1 – if homophobic or racist chanting is heard then a specific focus is made on that area in terms of viewing CCTV and through the deployment of stewards.
- Stage 2 - if homophobic or racist chanting persists then this provides Sussex Police with the grounds to intervene and take positive action by ejecting the individual(s) from the stadium and passing them to the police investigation team.

GY highlighted that in the current season (2013/2014) there have been 15 ejections, which have led to 12 arrests (10 home supporters and 2 away), of which 2 were charged and issued with Football Banning Orders, 5 were issued with Fixed Penalty Notices and 5 were given cautions.

GY concluded by stating that the Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters Club have confirmed that homophobic chanting has reduced by 40% this season. It was also acknowledged that the Sussex Police approach is recognised nationally as best practice and is supported by the Chair of the LGBT Community Forum and Stonewall.

**REASSURANCE OF CRAWLEY COMMUNITIES**

**Following the suicide bombing in Syria last month the local Neighbourhood Policing Team have been working closely with the communities of Crawley to provide reassurance.**

**Q. How have Sussex Police supported the communities of Crawley affected by the house searches in the town?**

**A. What proactive reassurance has been provided to local neighbourhoods and mosques?**

**B. How have Sussex Police worked with partners to engage with these communities?**

MW confirmed that Sussex Police have strong and positive relationships with the diverse communities of Crawley. Prior to the suicide bombing on 6 February 2014, Sussex Police had been engaging with the local communities regarding the risks identified by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office for individuals considering travelling to Syria.

MW explained that proactive reassurance has been provided to the communities through engagement with local schools, police presence at mosques and the publication of regular and accurate information. Engagement and planning via community leaders has also ensured that all of the representative groups have felt that they have been kept informed and supported throughout.

MW confirmed that if people want to provide support to those people affected in Syria this should be done through donations to registered charities rather than by travelling to the country itself.

## **POLICE INFORMATION NOTICES**

**The publication of the report of the Committee of Privileges highlighted that Sussex Police had made a "serious mistake" and that the Committee would regard future attempts to restrict Members' freedom of speech in the House of Parliament through Police Information Notices as a serious contempt.**

**Q. For the benefit of the viewers, can you briefly outline the background of this case, the purpose of Police Information Notices (PINs) and the Sussex Police response to the report?**

**A. Are you satisfied that Sussex Police are using PINs effectively?**

GY explained that Police Information Notices (PINs) are used as an early intervention tactic to prevent the escalation of disputes and behaviour that causes alarm, upset and distress. If this behaviour continues, the PIN can form part of a legitimate evidence trail and can result in harassment charges being made. It was emphasised that Sussex Police issued over 2,000 PINs last year.

GY explained that following the publication of the report of the Committee of Privileges, Sussex Police have conducted a full review of PIN usage in Sussex looking at how they are recorded, the reasoning for recording and whether this adheres to national policing guidance for issuing PINs. This report is due at the end of April 2014.

GY also confirmed that he has written to Tim Loughton MP to apologise on behalf of Sussex Police, withdrawn the PIN and written to the Committee of Privileges outlining the approach to the above review.

In addition, KB has asked the College of Policing to look at national guidance around PINs.

VALUE FOR MONEY

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## **OPERATION MANSELL/STADE**

KB confirmed that she is still awaiting a letter from Damian Green, Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims, regarding the amount of Special Grant Funding that Sussex Police are to be reimbursed, following the policing of the anti-fracking protests last year (Operation Mansell/Stade).

KB also stated that HMIC have verified the costs of policing incurred by Sussex Police throughout these operations and highlighted that a decision from the Home Office is imminent.