

# REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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The Sussex Police Authority met at County Hall, Lewes, on 21 April 2005. Attendances:

Mr M Dunn (Chairman),  
Mr L H Barnard, Mrs M G Bishop, Dr L E Bush, Dr S Iles-Jonas JP, Mrs M D Johnson DL, Mr P Jones (Vice Chairman), Mr J Mortimer, Mr D O Rogers OBE, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mrs A Swain, Mr R Thomas, Mrs M C Turner and Dr J M M Walsh RD.

## **1 Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour**

1.1 Anti-social behaviour is causing great concern to the public, as demonstrated by the comments made at public consultation meetings held regularly by the Police Authority. In much of Sussex the risk of being a victim of crime is low, but fear of crime is often generated by anti-social behaviour. The Police Authority is well placed to bring together local and national thinking on the issue and promote good practice. It is the aim of Sussex Police to reduce the fear of crime and the insecurity that fear creates, through the provision of highly visible, local services, with an emphasis on tackling anti-social behaviour, through neighbourhood policing teams.

1.2 Sussex Police have already taken action to tackle anti-social behaviour, including developing the Crime and Disorder Data Information Exchange (CADDIE) system to include a facility for recording incidents of anti-social behaviour. This work is being progressed in conjunction with the Pan-Sussex Anti-Social Behaviour Group which will help facilitate the exchange of information amongst partners.

1.3 The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) have each received approximately £25,000 with which to appoint an anti-social behaviour co-ordinator. These posts are filled by a mixture of local authority and police employees. In Wealden District, for example, the funding was allocated to Sussex Police to appoint a police constable to the post, working closely with the local authority and other partner agencies.

1.4 East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, together with their respective Borough and District Councils, are also currently working with Sussex Police to create a Sussex anti-social behaviour reporting system. This will enable anti-social behaviour to be reported on-line via partner websites and will allow anonymous reporting.

1.5 Anti-social behaviour is best tackled through a partnership approach. Both the prevention of anti-social behaviour, returning areas affected back to normal, and dealing with offenders are all key priorities for Sussex Police. The Police Authority has agreed a programme of further work with inter-agency partners to tackle anti-social behaviour in Sussex.

## **2 Public Place Violent Crime**

2.1 The Police Authority and Sussex Police organised an inter-agency seminar in July 2004 to discuss Public Place Violent Crime (PPVC). The seminar identified the need for a joined-up policy framework to enable action to be taken to reduce PPVC. The PPVC reduction work needed to be linked to enforcement, licensing and planning policy. Sussex Police have now produced a comprehensive PPVC action plan, which includes the following objectives:

- Research and analysis of perceived / actual PPVC problems;
- Understanding what represents best practice in tackling PPVC;

- Decrease alcohol related violent and anti-social behaviour through effective enforcement investigation;
- Reduce alcohol induced / non-alcohol induced violent behaviour by under-18s;
- Reduce opportunities for violent crime and public disorder by :
  - designing out crime;
  - improving management of open spaces;
  - the effective use of planning legislation;
  - removing opportunities and provocations for violence and disorder through improved management of licensing premises;
  - the prevention of alcohol related violent crime through raising awareness and education;
  - maximising opportunities for partnership engagement.

2.2 The Action Plan is being shared across the Force and will form the basis of working in partnership with key agencies to produce a common strategy document. A significant element in tackling PPVC relates to licensing policy. Sussex Police have been liaising closely with the 13 local Licensing Authorities in Sussex regarding the development of their statements of licensing policy, with particular reference to the Enforcement Protocols. Sussex Police are working with local inter-agency groups to focus on premises most likely to experience PPVC problems.

2.3 Sussex Police have also been monitoring the impact on the provisions of the Private Security Act 2001 which came into effect in February 2005. The Act requires door supervisors to hold a Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence. Door supervisors are a key element in reducing crime and disorder. Many door supervisors are trained and qualified but have yet to apply for a licence. Sussex Police are working with the SIA to encourage and increase door supervisors' licensing as part of their efforts to reduce PPVC.

### **3 Children's Policy: Looked After Children**

3.1 The issue of Looked After Children being placed in Sussex from other authorities has been recognised, particularly in west Sussex, as being a contributory factor in rising crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and missing person reports. These children are amongst the most vulnerable in society and may themselves be both victims and perpetrators of crime. Sussex Police and the Police Authority hosted a "West Sussex Children's Home Partnership Seminar" at Slaugham Manor on 24 May 2005. This meeting was well attended by both West Sussex County Council officers and private care providers.

3.2 Sussex Police have issued a protocol agreed with their partners, to clarify how missing persons would be dealt with, taking into proper consideration, the vulnerability of the children involved. The Police Authority and Sussex Police are pursuing the issues both locally and nationally. The clear message from the meeting is the frustration and concern from all parties caused by the perceived increase in the number of children being placed out of area. The standard of care that children can expect when they are away from their home authority is so variable that they are at further risk and potentially far more unstable in the communities in which they find themselves.

3.3 The Chairman of the Police Authority has been in contact with the Minister for Children who acknowledged the difficulties caused, not only to the children placed out of area, but also their receiving public authorities and communities. As a result, Department for Education and Skills (DfES) officials visited Sussex to see for themselves the impact of these placements. In addition, following an approach by the Police Authority, with the full co-operation of Sussex Police, the BBC Four Radio programme "Today" broadcast a feature on the issue of out of area placements in January 2005. Lord Filkin, DfES Minister, appeared on the programme and reiterated the Government's concerns and pledged further work to address the problem of out of area placement. In recognition of the importance of this issue,

the Police Authority has agreed to appoint a Lead Member for Children, who will monitor the action being taken nationally to deal with this matter.

#### **4 South East Policing Alliance**

4.1 Discussions have been taking place with neighbouring police authorities and forces about the scope for collaborative policing activities, and to develop these opportunities where benefits are apparent. Kent, Surrey and Sussex police authorities and forces have agreed to set up the South East Policing Alliance to help deliver efficiency. Development of the scheme will be overseen by a strategic steering committee comprising the Chairmen of the three police authorities, the three Chief Constables and the Clerk to one of the police authorities, initially, the Clerk to the Sussex Police Authority. The Steering Committee will be supported by an officers' project board. Whilst this agreement focuses on arrangements between Sussex, Kent and Surrey, this does not preclude strategic alliances between forces and indeed other organisations beyond this core group.

4.2 The South East Policing Alliance is an important development which anticipates the implementation of the proposal outlined in the Government's most recent White Paper "Building Communities, Beating Crime" to introduce a new statutory duty on police authorities to co-operate with neighbouring and other authorities and forces. This development will enable the Sussex Police Authority and Sussex Police to produce more effective and efficient policing for the people of Sussex, while retaining policing within the broad framework of county government.

#### **5 Efficiency Plan 2004/05**

5.1 The Police Authority has welcomed the progress made by Sussex Police in delivering the Efficiency Plan target for 2004/05. The Efficiency Plan target 2004/05 is £4.432m equivalent to 2% of the net revenue budget. At the end of the third quarter, Sussex Police reported efficiency savings of £7.179m and is on course to exceed £7.674m. It is intended that efficiency gains of £3.242m will be carried forward to 2005/06, to enable the Police Authority to maximise the potential for existing efficiency initiatives and invest more resources in policing Sussex. This is a strong position in which to enter the 2005/06 financial year.

#### **6 Appointment of Magistrate Members**

6.1 The Police Authority has been notified that, following a selection process, Mrs Carole Shaves MBE JP has been appointed as a magistrate member on the Authority. Mrs Shaves has been appointed for a term of four years from 31 March 2005 and replaces Mr Ian Scotland.

#### **7 Appointment of Treasurer to the Authority**

7.1 Following the appointment of Mrs Helen Kilpatrick as Director General Financial and Commercial at the Home Office, Mr Bryan Robinson, the new County Treasurer of West Sussex, has been appointed Treasurer to the Police Authority with effect from 25 April 2005. Mr Robinson will continue to be supported, as was Mrs Kilpatrick, by the wealth of experience and expertise on policing matters contained within the Treasurer's Department at West Sussex.

#### **8 Sussex Police Riding to Raise the Roof**

8.1 Sussex Police are arranging a sponsored bike ride to raise money to help the survivors of the Tsunami in Kamala, Thailand. Sussex Police has teamed up with Care and Compassion International, a Sussex-based charity which is hoping to raise enough funds to rebuild the school and 47 homes that were destroyed in the Boxing Day tragedy. The bike ride will take place between 25 and 30 May, which covers a weekend and a Bank Holiday, in

a bid to get as many people as possible to join. All money raised will go directly to this cause.  
For more information or to register go to [www.sussex.police.uk/bikeride](http://www.sussex.police.uk/bikeride).

MARK DUNN  
*Chairman*

21 April 2005

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