

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

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

Mr P Jones (Chairman),
Mr L H Barnard, Mrs M G Bishop, Dr L E Bush, Mrs M Collins DL, Mr M Dunn,
Mr F H Faiz, Miss A Graves JP, Dr S Iles-Jonas JP, Mr J Mortimer, Mrs C
Shaves MBE JP, Mrs A Swain (Vice-Chairman), Mr R Tidy, Mrs M C Turner and
Mr S Waight.

1 Neighbourhood Watch

1.1 The Sussex Police Authority and Sussex Police continue to support Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). Each Policing Division has one or more Crime Prevention Co-ordinators who provide support to NHW and other agencies. The Police Authority provides financial support for NHW schemes from the Joint Initiative Fund. In addition to NHW schemes primarily aimed at residential areas there are also watch schemes covering other areas including clubs and pubs, hospitals, shops, language schools and farms.

1.2 Membership of Neighbourhood Watch in Sussex is considerable with 8,137 Schemes covering approximately 194,882 households. The scale of NHW membership presents broad opportunities for Sussex Police to communicate and engage with a sizeable proportion of the resident population of Sussex. Maximising these opportunities places a demand on Sussex Police to seek ways of improving communications with NHW. One method to achieve improved communication is by e mail. A project based on the use of e mail was developed in Hastings and Rother Division. The project utilises e mail messages to provide current information from a variety of sources including Sussex Police, Trading Standards, the Fire and Rescue Service and voluntary agencies to its members. The pilot project received 'pump priming' financial support through the Police Authority Joint Initiative Fund. Approximately 3500 homes are on the network.

1.3 The evaluation of the pilot confirms that targeted electronic messages can have a positive impact on communities and adds weight to the case for a coherent strategy that links the broad range of technologies available to working practices and processes. The aim will be to extend the coverage of the e mail network across Sussex.

2 Local Action Teams

2.1 The Local Policing Plan 2003-04 committed Sussex Police to piloting Local Action Teams (LAT) in order to develop a model for the Force. The purpose of a Local Action Team is to identify, plan and deliver (or seek delivery of) activities to reduce crime and disorder at a very local level. There are 89 LATs currently operating in Sussex dealing with a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, vandalism and criminal damage, drugs and alcohol. Many LATs have sought to improve and increase provision as a means to create opportunities for diverting anti-social behaviour.

2.2 Sussex Police is currently piloting a LAT database that will record all LATs and capture basic information on their membership, activity and impact. The database will be able to geographically plot LATs by their type. It is intended that visual plotting will be able to provide a basic analytical tool by which to compare the existence of crime and disorder hotspots and LATs designed to tackle specific problems. The database will provide a measure of the level and extent of one element of community engagement.

2.3 There are many examples of LATs that link with Neighbourhood Watch schemes (NHW) and some have arrangements by which the local NHW Co-ordinator routinely attends LAT meetings. This degree of synergy is to be commended as an example of joining-up community resources. Sussex Police continue to develop the positive relationship between LATs and NHW.

3 Public Consultation Meetings Autumn 2005

3.1 The Police Authority has published the programme of public consultation meetings for Autumn 2005. The Autumn meetings will build on the success of the spring meetings which were generally well attended by the public and representatives from the three tiers of local authorities in Sussex, together with representatives from local bodies and other agencies.

3.2 The dates and venues for the Autumn round of public consultation meetings are set out in the table below:-

Area	Public Meeting Venues	Date	Time	SPA Member
Adur	Kings Manor School Shoreham-by-Sea	18.10.05	7pm	Lionel Barnard
Arun	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	7pm	Margaret Bishop
Brighton and Hove	Separate arrangements	To be confirmed		Ken Bodfish
Chichester	Capron House Midhurst Grammar School	8.9.05	7pm	Ann Graves
Crawley	The Friary Crawley	13.10.05	7pm	John Mortimer
Eastbourne	Hampden Park Community Centre, Eastbourne	13.9.05	7pm	David Rogers
Hastings	Hillcrest School, Kenway Hall Hastings	27.10.05	7pm	Carole Shaves
Horsham	Pulborough Village Hall Pulborough	11.10.05	7.30pm	Ann Swain
Lewes	Denton Island Training & Business Centre, Newhaven	4.10.05	7pm	Margery Turner
Mid Sussex	Meridian Hall, East Court East Grinstead	15.9.05	7pm	Margaret Collins
Rother	Thomas Peacock Community College, Rye	12.10.05	7pm	Peter Jones
Wealden	Maresfield Village Hall, Maresfield	25.10.05	7pm	Bob Tidy
Worthing	Davison C of E High School Selborne Rd, Worthing	17.10.05	7pm	Steve Waight

3.3 The Autumn meetings will provide an important opportunity to report back on actions taken, in partnership with other agencies, to tackle the public concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and other policing issues.

4 Joint Scrutiny Review of National Recommendations in respect of Race and Diversity

4.1 There has been recent intense national scrutiny of the police service in respect of race and diversity, including through the Morris Inquiry, the Taylor Review of Police Discipline and the Commission for Race Equality formal investigation into the police. The reports from these inquiries make a number of recommendations for both police authorities and

forces. The Police Authority and the Chief Constable have agreed to carry out a joint scrutiny review of the recommendations of the national reports and the implications for the Police Authority and Sussex Police.

4.2 The review, which will be led by two members of the Police Authority supported by a senior police officer, will focus particularly on employment practice and service delivery monitoring arrangements taking into account relevant connected Force reviews and inspections, policy, guidance and process documentation. The intention is to report the outcome of the review to the December 2005 meeting of the Police Authority although any adjustments to procedures identified will be implemented as the review progresses.

5 Safer Sussex Summit

5.1 In May 2005 the Safer Sussex Summit was held at Slaugham Manor. The Summit, which was planned by a multi-agency team, is intended to be the first in a linked series of summits aimed at achieving a safer Sussex. Hosted by Sussex Police, the Summit was attended by over 90 delegates from the Sussex Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), the Sussex Police Authority and a number of other agencies.

5.2 The aim of the seminar was to improve collectively the performance of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in the delivery of crime and disorder reduction (to meet Public Service Agreement 1) and the need to make neighbourhoods safer. The actions agreed at the Summit will be progressed with CDRPs and other agencies.

6 South East Policing Alliance

6.1 The inaugural meeting of the Strategic Steering Committee of the South East Policing Alliance (SEPA) established by Kent, Surrey and Sussex Police Authorities and Forces was held on 14 July to develop collaboration between Forces and co-operate with neighbouring authorities to tackle cross-border crime. A Statement of Intent regarding collaboration will now be drawn up for signature by the respective Chairmen and Chief Constables. This is an important development for the Police Authority and Sussex Police because it will provide opportunities to achieve efficiencies through economies of scale and increased operational effectiveness.

PETER JONES
Chairman

21 July 2005