

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at County Hall, Chichester, on 16 April 2009. Attendances:

Mr L H Barnard (Chairman), Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Dr L E Bush (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Collins DL, Ms E Daniel, Mr B Duncan, Mr F H Faiz, Mr P Jones, Mr J Mortimer, Mr A Price JP, Mr D Rogers OBE, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mr R Tidy, Mr G Theobald OBE, Mr S Waight and Dr R Walker.

The Police Authority considered a range of policing issues at the meeting including the following matters. The full set of reports considered at the meeting can be accessed on the Authority's website:

www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk

Partnership Working

- 1.1 The Authority and Sussex Police continue to work closely with local authorities in Sussex to tackle community safety across the County. A good example of partnership work with East Sussex County Council is the development of the East Sussex Youth Crime Prevention Strategy. This is a significant piece of work that will ensure all partners work together to tackle the root causes of youth crime with a range of services and interventions. The Strategy will provide a number of actions for the East Sussex Policing Division to deliver on the strategic objectives, including the piloting of a Youth Restorative Justice Scheme which, through Neighbourhood Panels, identifies the kind of reparation work communities would like to see youth offenders undertake. The consultation phase for the initial draft of the strategy has just closed, and the Safer Communities Team are working towards delivering a final version towards the summer.
- 1.2 It is also to be welcomed that East Sussex County Council has recently been awarded 'Pathfinder' status in a national project aimed at rejuvenating identified play sites across the country. £2.1m of funding is being made available for the project, with 15 play areas already refurbished and a further 13 new builds or refurbishments planned for the next phase. A flagship development in Ore Valley, Hastings will include a fully staffed £800,000 adventure playground. The project is aimed at providing focal points for communities and safe, well-maintained areas for children and young people to play. Safe, clean, looked-after public spaces are thought to be key in assisting community cohesion and contributing towards making communities feel safer.

- 1.3 Sussex Police in collaboration with Brighton & Hove City Council has been seeking to use next year's Youth Crime Action Plan funding from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) in the delivery of enhanced parenting, youth diversionary projects and intervention to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system. As part of this work Brighton and Hove Neighbourhood Policing Team have submitted a bid for £50,000 to enhance Operation Park, the city wide Youth Disorder operation that is deployed on Friday and Saturday nights. The DCSF indicated that the operation should be put forward as an example of best practice nationally due to its effective multi-agency approach.
- 1.4 Another good example of partnership working is with West Sussex County Council where Sussex Police and the County Council are using the full range of legislation and other tactical options to crack down on alcohol fuelled disorder in North Downs Policing Division. This includes an increase in police presence in the town centres, drug testing operations at public houses, over 70 licensing visits to on and off licensed premises, joint operations with British Transport Police at railway stations, drugs dog operations and drink drive checks at key locations. The Operation resulted in 19 checks being made on door supervisors, 12 arrests were made for alcohol related crimes, and 53 stop and searches were carried out by dedicated staff.
- 1.5 In a two week crackdown by partnership agencies designed to tackle road safety and anti social driving in Horsham district, 58 motorists were prosecuted for speeding offences, or using their mobile phone whilst driving. Fourteen vehicles were seized for having no insurance, and there were arrests for driving with excess alcohol and driving whilst disqualified.

Emergency Planning/Operational Planning

2. The Authority and Sussex Police are also working closely with local authorities in Sussex as part of the Sussex Resilience Forum which is the process by which organisations on which a duty falls under the Civil Contingencies Act co-operate with each other. Its overall purpose is to ensure effective delivery of those duties that need to be delivered in a multi-agency environment. Sussex Police supported the first Multi-agency Safety Advisory Group Seminar at Slaughman Manor in February. The aim of the Seminar was to promote the development of groups within each district council area. Groups, where established, act as the first point of reference for all those who are intending to organise a public event, on or off the highway, providing advice and guidance regarding the specific areas of responsibility for both the organisers and the other agencies involved.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

- 3.1 The Chief Constable has advised the Authority that the new SARC is providing enhanced care to victims of sexual assault in Sussex. The Saturn Centre at Crawley Hospital provides valuable support to men

and women who have made reports of sexual assault to the police. When there is a report of sexual assault in Sussex, a specially trained police officer takes the victim to the Saturn Centre where they are met and reassured by an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser. Victims are then medically examined by a doctor, have the opportunity to provide a statement to police, and are given information to access other local services – all at one location. It is envisaged that victims of sexual assault who use the services of the SARC will have more confidence in the investigative and criminal justice processes, making victims less likely to withdraw complaints, and therefore more likely to see justice.

- 3.2 Tackling domestic violence is a key focus for Sussex Police. Working closely with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Sussex Police has been one of three Forces to carry out a trial of a new risk assessment process for victims of domestic violence, honour based violence and harassment. The process enhances the ability of Sussex Police to identify high risk victims of domestic abuse in particular. Sussex Police has held successful trials on North Downs and Brighton & Hove Policing Divisions. Having now been approved by ACPO as best practice nationally, it is being rolled out to the other Divisions, making Sussex only the second Force in the country to have this more robust process across its whole area.

Rapes and serious sexual assaults

4. A review has been undertaken of all the undetected rapes and serious sexual assaults that occurred in Sussex between 1990 and 1999, partly as a result of the National Forensic Service Initiative – Operation Advance. As a result Sussex Police is now progressing five cases. A similar review is being carried out of offences committed between 1980 and 1989. To date 86 cases have been re-examined with eight cases being progressed.

Asset Confiscation

5. For the performance year to date, Sussex Police has exceeded its Home Office target of volume of Confiscation Orders. A total of 124 have been achieved which is seven above the target figure. The value of the Orders achieved to date is £1.5m, which is an 84 per cent increase on last year's total performance.

Road Policing Unit

- 6.1 The Road Policing Unit (RPU) has continued to focus its casualty reduction activity around the six strategic priority groups identified as the highest risk to the Killed / Seriously Injured (KSI) target figure for 2009. At the end of the year 2008 RPU saw a continued drop in overall injury collisions (9 per cent), although the target was exceeded. This current year's stretch KSI target to meet the Department for Transport 2010 target is set at 826 for 2009 (an 18 per cent reduction on 2008 levels). Currently KSIs are down 20 per cent compared to this time in 2008 and down 26 per cent compared

to 2007 (as at 12 March 2009), but there is no room for complacency.

- 6.2 The national Drink Drive campaign occurred through December 2008 and Sussex RPU ran an extended campaign throughout the Force area. The data collated shows that the Force conducted 6422 breath tests during the eight week campaign and 305 arrests were made as a result of a positive test.

Review of Risk Management

- 7.1 The Police Authority has considered the current arrangements for monitoring risk and the proposals for enhancing and strengthening the process of risk management. It has been agreed that the management of risk should become an integral part of general business for each of the Authority's committees or groups. The initial assessment and grading of the risks will continue to be undertaken by the Chief Executive, but regular reports on risk to each of the committees and groups will allow members to assess the judgements for the risks pertinent to that committee and be able to suggest further controls or assessments to be put in place to manage the risk. The Chairman of the each committee/group would formally take the lead for signing off the risk on behalf of the committee/group.
- 7.2 The Police Authority will also be appointing a Lead Member for Risk Management at its annual meeting who will have general oversight of policy and process relating to Risk Management for the both the Authority and Sussex Police.

Note from the Chief Executive

Appointment of Assistant Chief Constables

- 8.1 The Police Authority has appointed two new Assistant Chief Constables.
- 8.2 ACC Nick Wilkinson, who has been a temporary assistant chief constable since February, joined Sussex Police in 1981 and most recently has been the East Sussex divisional commander. ACC Wilkinson will be responsible for operational support, which includes communications, information services, the Criminal Justice Department.
- 8.3 ACC Olivia Pinkney, comes to Sussex from Avon and Somerset Constabulary. She has served as the divisional commander for Bath and North East Somerset and Head of Special Branch. ACC Pinkney will have specific responsibility for protective services including the Operations Department.

Lionel Barnard
Chairman

APRIL 2009