

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY – 29 JULY 2010

REPORT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

Introduction

- 1.1 This report informs the Police Authority on matters considered by the Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee (NPSC) at its meeting on 10 June 2010. The meeting was attended by Mrs C Shaves MBE JP (Chairman), Mr B Duncan (Vice-Chairman), Mr A Smith, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel JP, Mr P Evans and Mrs S Knight. Apologies were given by Mr B Tidy and Mr F Faiz
- 1.2 The Committee considered a wide range of policing issues at the meeting including the following matters. The full agenda and reports for this Committee are available on the Authority's website, and the webcasting of the meeting can also be accessed via the website.

Local Policing Plan Performance: January, February, March 2010

- 2.1 The Committee scrutinized Force performance under the neighbourhood policing section of the Local Policing Plan.
- 2.2 Members welcomed call-handling performance which resulted in the target for answering 999 calls within 10 seconds (90%) for March 2010 was still being exceeded at 98.2% but members raised concerns about deterioration of the 'satisfaction with being kept informed' target (70%) which had fallen to 68.9% from 69.5%. This will be a continued focus for the Committee, including a committee seminar before the next meeting of the NPSC.

Local Confidence Surveys – Single Confidence Target

3. The Committee considered a report of the latest data on Force performance in relation to the public confidence target. The report also informed Members on the local public confidence surveys and how this data has been utilised. The Committee welcomed the news that the Force has been undertaking local confidence surveys since July 2009 and these findings will allow the Authority to monitor progress and understand the key aspects that underpin public confidence.

Communications and Community Engagement Strategy 2010-13

- 4.1 The Committee received a report on the combined strategy for, the delivery of communications and community engagement for the next year and beyond.
- 4.2 The purpose of the strategy is to set out the key objectives of the Authority for communications and community engagement to empower the communities in Sussex to be involved and influence local policing delivery. The strategy and tactical plan have been put together with significant input from Sussex Police Corporate Communications Department which was welcomed by the Committee.
- 4.3 The Committee fully supported the strategy and tactical plan and will review progress in June 2011, with a particular emphasis on focusing limited resourcing a specific target groups.

Annual Report Review

- 5.1 The Authority's involvement in the joint annual report newspaper has been significant over a number of years. The annual report newspaper is delivered to all residential households and businesses in Sussex and is designed to meet the statutory requirement to publish an annual report and local policing summary. Disappointingly, previous research confirms that fewer than 15 per cent of people remember receiving the newspaper and fewer than 6 per cent actually read the publication.
- 5.2 The Committee welcomed the proposal for a more streamlined format to be used which would include a change in size of the newspaper to an eight page A4 magazine summary of the Local Policing Plan in a more appealing and informative format. There will be a strong local flavour with examples of Force work and content which will emphasise and illustrate the role of the Authority.
- 5.3 The Chairman and Chief Executive have now approved the final copy for the publication.

Community Engagement Update

- 6.1 The Committee was updated on the ongoing work in the areas of consultation, community engagement and communications and was particularly pleased to hear about the work underway with young people in Sussex and partnership activity.
- 6.2 Consideration has been given to the creation of a Young Peoples' Police Authority and it has been agreed that alternative options and opportunities will be explored by Officers. The opportunity to meet with West Sussex and East Sussex Youth Cabinets is welcomed.

- 6.3 Partnership activity remains key to this work and the Authority and Force have organised a further meeting of the Shared Consultation Partnership to further develop opportunities to share resources and collaborate on future projects. The Authority will facilitate the development of a forum to replicate a model used by West Sussex County Council to enable networking and knowledge sharing.
- 6.4 The Committee received the comprehensive results of previous community engagement and agreed that the full results be placed on the Authority website. The Committee was encouraged that the youth survey had indicated that 83 per cent of young people felt safe in their local area both day and night.
- 6.5 The Authority previously carried out a major review of the work of Sussex police with neighbourhood Watch. A number of recommendations were made and two years ago, Police Community Support Officers became the main conduits of information for Neighbourhood Watch groups throughout Sussex. The Committee has now agreed to undertake a scrutiny review on the implementation of the new arrangements.

Hunting Policy for Sussex Police

- 7.1 The Committee received a briefing on the policing of hunting that several members had received. The Force had prepared and published its own guidance on the Hunting Act 2004 covering the issues that cross over hunting, wildlife protection and public order. Since the Act public order incidents have been significantly reduced.
- 7.2 The Committee welcomed the on-going dialogue between the hunts and hunt monitors to ensure the balance between peaceful protests and allowing lawful activity is maintained. The Committee noted that once the views of the new coalition government is known, a further review of hunting and associated policy will be conducted if required.
- 7.3 The Lead Member for Rural Affairs will continue to be personally briefed on policy developments with the Committee receiving reports for scrutiny if recommended by the Lead Member.

Equality Standard

- 8.1 The Committee received a report updating progress on meeting The Equality Standard for the Police Service (ESPS)
- 8.2 The ESPS is a performance improvement tool, developed by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), set at a strategic level with links to national policing priorities. It focuses on particular areas of concern where there have been difficulties in the past rather than every aspect of equality activity in policing. The ESPS framework contains 22 areas within three themes and three stages of development. Based on evidence gathered to date, the Force is

confident that it meets the baseline standard and in some areas can evidence the higher 'integrating' standard.

- 8.3 The Committee identified a member, Ms Emma Daniel, to attend the summer seminars, hosted by the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and NPIA, which it is believed will focus on the Authority's role in the scrutiny and verification of evidence.

Productivity Framework

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report on the Productivity Framework which is intended to be used by forces and authorities to "consider and improve the way their workforce is led, organised and developed to be productive in working for the Public". The framework is constructed around three core themes: Leading, Organising and Developing with the two cross-cutting themes of Customer Service and Equality and Diversity.
- 9.2 The Committee discussed the use of the Framework and welcomed the fact that it has enabled the Force and the Authority to identify gaps in workforce productivity.

HMIC Anti-Social Behaviour Debrief

- 10.1 The Committee received a report outlining the findings of the HMIC inspection of the Force on the area of anti-social behaviour (ASB) which took place on 13-14 May 2010. Strengths include: good local ownership of anti-social behaviour issues (staff enthusiasm and commitment), local partnership working and information sharing. However, there is no automated method for identifying repeat and vulnerable ASB victims which is an area for development.
- 10.2 The Chairman of the NPSC represents the Authority on the recently created ASB Steering Group. The ASB Group includes representation for all key public sector partners in Sussex at the Home Office with a clear remit to improve co-ordination of monitoring, recording and response to repeat victims of ASB.

Street Intervention

- 11.1 The Committee requested further reports at its meeting in November 2009 to further scrutinise the levels of Stop and Search of race disproportionality and the effective use of street intervention.
- 11.2 The Committee considered the report outlining current activity of the Street Intervention Accountability Meeting (SIAM), the impact of changes to the group implemented earlier in 2010 and an updated summary of race disproportionality in Stop and Search. National levels of disproportionality in the use of Stop and Search

remains a concern and has a detrimental impact on Black and Ethnic Minority community confidence in the police.

- 11.3 The Committee is pleased that latest figures to April 2010 shows an improvement: from a black/white ratio of 8:3 in February 2007 to 2.9 which reflects the position that a black person is 2.9 times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than a white person. The Asian/White disproportionally ratio has remained static at 1.9.
- 11.4 The SIAM will continue to test local Stop and Search activity to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, legitimacy and local accountability. The Committee will scrutinise levels of disproportionality every six months. The Lead Member for Diversity represents the Authority at the key performance management meeting.

Risk Management

13. The report described how risks identified as part of the directions of the Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee are currently being managed and outlined progress that the Force has made with embedding dynamic risk management processes into decision making meetings.

Recommended – that

- (1) the Authority fully support the joint efforts of officers of the Authority and the Force to facilitate the development of the shared consultation partnership to enhance joint consultation and engagement across Sussex; and
- (2) that the Community Engagement Strategy 2010 – 2013 and tactical plan be approved (attached Appendix A).

CAROLE SHAVES MBE JP
Chairman

Contact: Mrs Emma Welfare
Tel: 01273 481895
E-mail: emma.welfare@sussexpa.gov.uk