

PROTECTIVE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 22 JUNE 2010

POLICE REPORT CARD – PROTECTION FROM SERIOUS HARM

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting in April 2010 the Authority requested that more detailed analysis of the Sussex Police Report Card (PRC) be presented for consideration for each of the scrutiny committees, with particular focus on their areas that relate to their thematic business area.
- 1.2 Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) published the Police Report Card for Sussex on 11 March 2010 and is available in full on www.hmic.gov.uk. The PRC is a new assessment by HMIC which is designed to give the public access to more information about the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour within their local police force and how much policing in their area costs.
- 1.3 The PRC provides the HMIC assessment of forces across four domains:
 - Local crime and policing
 - Protection from serious harm
 - Public confidence and satisfaction
 - Staffing and costs
- 1.4 The PRC provides the HMIC assessment of forces across four domains: local crime and policing; protection from serious harm; public confidence and satisfaction; and staffing costs.
- 1.5 Where assessments are based on indicators they are graded according to the definitions below:

Excellent	Exceptional performance which is consistently above and beyond the required standard
Good	Meeting the standard, although there may be minor dips in performance.
Fair	Performance is variable but meets most of the requirements of the standard. Remedial action may be needed.
Poor	Performance fails to meet an acceptable level. Immediate remedial action is needed.

- 1.6 The two assessments based on inspections – neighbourhood policing and investigating major crime – are graded as below:

Exceeding the standard	Exceptional performance which is consistently above and beyond the required standard.
Meeting the standard	Performance is variable but meets most of the requirements of the standard. Remedial action may be needed.
Not meeting the standard	Performance fails to meet an acceptable level. Immediate remedial action is needed.

- 1.7 HMIC makes a professional assessment of whether a force's performance is likely to improve or decline over the coming 12 months. The assessment is indicated by the following symbols against the relevant indicators:



- 1.8 HMIC will not be publishing a single report document as they do for specific inspections. The Police Report Card is intended to be a public facing summary of police performance, pulling together existing data with commentary from HMIC. There have understandably been a number of problems in getting the PRC to this stage as it is such a new concept and it will be subject to ongoing development by HMIC.

Sussex results on Police Report Card for Protection from Serious Harm

- 2.1 Top level scores for the domain:

"Protection from Serious Harm" has meant that Sussex has received a grading of "Fair". The domain was made up from five indicators, with the Investigating Major Crime indicator weighted at 50% of the overall grade. The results are as follows:

Measure	Grade	HMIC progress statement
Investigating Major Crime	Meeting Standard	None given
Suppressing Gun Crime	Excellent	Stable
Suppressing Knife Crime	Fair	None given
Solving Serious Sexual Offences	Fair	Stable
Reducing Road Death and Injury	Poor	Stable

Figure 5.1

- 2.2 The Investigation of Major Crime indicator accounts for 50% of the overall grade for this domain. This grading comes from the Major Crime Inspection conducted by HMIC in 2008. Since all forces will have made significant developments in the area of business, not least because of the introduction of the Minimum Standards for Protective Services which are already in their second iteration and a third phase about to be introduced.
- 2.3 Sussex has been given a "Fair" for the suppressing of knife crime. However, Sussex is one of four areas (others are Derbyshire, West Midlands, Surrey) that does not separate unbroken bottle and unbroken glass offences from those involving knives and sharp instruments in line with the national definition. Consequently the Sussex knife crime figures are higher and not entirely comparable with other areas. This was due in the past to the previous crime recording system (CIS). Work is currently under way to ensure that these crime types can be disaggregated in future and allow for a more accurate picture for Sussex.

- 2.4 Within the more hidden text within the PRC, HMIC do make reference to the fact that in 2008 the Police Authority committed £1.7m to base budget to strengthen the Force's capability to protect the public from serious harm.

Reducing Road Death and Injury

- 3.1 Sussex is graded "Poor" for reducing road death and injury. HMIC state that, "the high number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in Sussex is of particular concern".
- 3.2 Sussex Police have been working towards casualty reduction targets set by the Department of Transport since 2000. The KSI (Killed and Seriously Injured) target for the Force is to reduce the number of KSIs from the baseline figure of the 1994-1998 average by 40%, by the end of 2010. However, it is important to stress that this is not a police target alone but one for the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership which includes East and West Sussex County Councils, Brighton and Hove City Council, Fire and Rescue Services from East and West Sussex. The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership primary objectives are to increase road safety and reduce casualties across Sussex, through education, engineering and enforcement.
- 3.3 The Authority has received a number of reports over recent years on the efforts of the SSRP to reduce the number of KSI and is aware of the challenges faced in Sussex. This will be further assisted with the inclusion of Mr Peter Bratton, Lead Member for Roads Policing, on the SSRP. Many of the forces with which Sussex are compared in the MSG have motorways crossing their areas, whilst Sussex has primarily A roads, ie the A27 and A272, as its main arterial routes. Evidence shows that motorways are far safer, in respect of KSIs, than A Roads. The achievements of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership in reducing Killed and Seriously Injured people, and in particular fatalities are shown in figures 5.3 to 5.5 above. Most striking is the 36% reduction in fatalities between 2006 and 2009.

Conclusion

4. The PRC is not a perfect mechanism for depicting current police performance, for many of the reasons discussed. However, as this paper shows, the PRC does raise a number of questions rather than proposing answers.

Recommended – That the Committee appoints a deputy member on the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to ensure Authority representation on this important partnership is continued should the Lead Member of Roads Policing be unavailable.

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