

**SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY – 15 APRIL 2010**

**REPORT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

**Introduction**

- 1.1 The report informs the Police Authority on matters considered by the Neighbourhood Policing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 25 February 2010. The meeting was attended by Mrs C Shaves MBE JP (Chairman), Dr L Bush, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel, Mr P Evans, Mr F Faiz, Mrs S Knight and Mr A Smith.
- 1.2 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: October, November, December 2010**

- 2.1 The Committee was delighted to hear that performance under the Neighbourhood Policing thematic area of the Local Policing Plan performance was strong.
- 2.2 The target for answering 90 per cent of 999 calls within ten seconds was still being exceeded. The Single Home Office Confidence target was not being achieved but work was commencing with the new Corporate Communications department to enhance performance in this area. The public strapline would be 'your police and your council working together' delivering appropriate feedback to the community.

**Road Policing contribution to public confidence and user satisfaction**

- 3.1 The Committee received a report which it had requested on the concerns about public confidence particularly following police response to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).
- 3.2 The Committee was pleased to hear about the successes of Operation Crackdown, which had been initiated in response to public feedback about tackling anti-social driving in Sussex. The Operation facilitates public reporting of anti-social driving via a website or phone line. A tiered intervention response addresses the anti-social driving proportionate to the risk posed and balances the need for either education or enforcement activity.
- 3.3 The Committee welcomed the news that work is underway to improve user satisfaction levels by enhancing feedback of outcomes, particularly improvements in the 'follow up' factor. The Committee endorsed the suggestion to more widely publicise the successes of Operation Crackdown to impact public confidence.

- 3.4 Members supported the recent success of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) of which the Lead Member for Roads Policing and RPU are key partners. The SSRP oversees pan-Sussex casualty reduction work including the speed camera operations (static and mobile), schools work, engineering and enforcement schemes as well as a significant amount of education and publicity initiatives such as the 'Embrace Life' seat belt advert campaign, which although only recently launched had now spread worldwide via the web. This campaign had given the SSRP international recognition for an innovative and impactful piece of work. The campaign advertisement is strongly recommended by the Committee and it can still be viewed from our website.

## **PREVENT**

- 4.1 The Committee was updated on the second phase of the Prevent agenda. The Phase II plan provided a suggested framework for activity which would enable officers and staff to support and embed the Prevent Strategy. Collaborative work to link the plan with the National Indicator 35 and translate joint partnership actions was currently underway. Prevent had been linked to other areas of policing such as Neighbourhood Policing; community engagement and enhancing trust and confidence within communities. The Members noted that the new Prevent Strategy dealt with extremism in its broadest sense, looking at all vulnerable groups that might be at risk of being exploited.
- 4.2 The Committee fully supported the joint Government Office of the South East/Sussex Police Federation funded conference aimed at secondary school head teachers. The conference entitled 'Learning to be Safe' took place at Slaugham Manor on 23 February 2010 and was attended by representatives from the Authority. The Committee suggested that it should be repeated year on year to as wide an audience as possible.
- 4.3 A number of forthcoming events were highlighted including a seminar on Operation Nicole which was being delivered at Slaugham Manor on 27-28 March 2010 and aims to raise awareness, share ideas and explore how the Force and the Authority could better work in partnership with other agencies to combat extremism in the community and experience the issues relating to dealing with incidents.

## **Community Engagement Programme 2010-11**

- 5.1 The Committee welcomed the appointment of a new Lead Member and Support Officer for Community Engagement for the Authority.
- 5.2 Members were pleased with the developments in the Community Engagement Action Plan for 2010-11. The plan included scrutiny and direction for the Citizen Focus and Diversity Branch, a programme of engagement activity and events for the Members and Officers of the Authority, development options for partnership working and collaboration, oversight of the work of CDRPs and mapping of consultation and

engagement, focused consultation activities and work to enhance communications from the Authority.

- 5.3 The Consultation Team reported that the local confidence results were available and that the demographic targets and technical standards were achieved. The results could be replicated at CDRP level showing that Eastbourne and Chichester had the highest confidence levels. The results were now available on the Force, Authority and crime mapping website in line with the requirements to publish.
- 5.4 The local surveys conducted by the Force will continue to replicate, and publish CDRP results against, the statutory indicator question. However, the content of the remainder of the survey is decided at our own discretion. The Consultation Team are therefore presently reviewing the content of the local survey and are planning to consult with CDRP partners to ensure the survey provides the most useful range of questions to assist with monitoring and understanding issues around public confidence. The Committee considered the Home Office Public Confidence Route Map document and requested a briefing session in the near future.
- 5.5 The Force Consultation Coordinator is the Chairman of the Shared Consultation Partnership (SCP) Working Group, which was originally funded by the Sussex Improvement Partnership. The Authority's Community Engagement Officer will be providing administrative support in this role as part of the ongoing commitment to share resources wherever possible and reinforce the ideologies of working better together.
- 5.6 The Authority and Force are to gain access to the West Sussex and East Sussex portals containing consultation libraries, toolkits, and guidance for consultations. Brighton & Hove are receiving training on their new software and so access will be available soon for all agencies involved in the SCP. Each portal has a scheduler of upcoming consultation activity which will be of great use to both the Force and the Authority. It is our intention to be sited on upcoming partnership activity and become involved when it is beneficial for our organisations, but this will always be a challenge to achieve due to the extent of activity going on. An update on the degree to which this has been achieved will be regularly reported to this Committee and to the Lead Member for the Community Engagement.

## **Brighton & Hove**

- 6.1 The Authority's involvement in the Brighton & Hove Citizens Panel continues alongside representation from the Force Consultation Unit.
- 6.2 Brighton & Hove Stronger Communities Partnership (SCP) have secured funding for both the remainder of 2009-10 and 2010-11 which can be focused on engagement activities to increase community cohesion and inspire people to get involved in the community. The Force Consultation Coordinator is part of the SCP Community Engagement sub-group that will be allocating these funds to a range of initiatives. The public are also being canvassed for ideas and more details are available at [www.getinvolvedinthecity.org.uk](http://www.getinvolvedinthecity.org.uk).

## **Website**

- 7.1 The website was re-launched in October 2009 and is based around the four core duties of police authorities: Setting Strategic Directions, Scrutinising Performance, Community Engagement and Securing Value for Money. The response to the new format has been very positive and the visitor figures from the period October 2009 – January 2010 area as follows:-
- 4,657 visits to the website since launch, an improvement of 300% from the same period in 2008-2009
  - The average number of pages visited per visitor is 4.59 pages
  - 63% of visitors to the site in this period were new users
  - Average page requests per weekday 700
  - Traffic to the site can be broken down as follows: 50% of traffic comes from search engines; 28% from referring sites (e.g. Sussex Police) and 22% is direct traffic.
  - There are 163 pages on the website, showing the depth of information available.
- 7.2 The website was designed to speak directly to the public and this was encapsulated in the new strap line; *Sussex Voices Shaping Local Policing*. The 'Engaging with you' pages allow members of the public to get in touch with the Authority, hear feedback and keep informed in a number of ways:
- Twitter – ensuring the Authority is more accessible to young people
  - RSS Feeds – allowing interested parties to keep up-to-date with developments
  - Automatic Email updates – to enable members and officers to notified of news and updates regularly
- 7.3 The Community Engagement Action Plan and the new Communications Strategy include a focus on developing the website as a consultative tool. Officers will be exploring the use of surveys and polls whilst providing access to survey results and appropriate feedback.
- 7.4 The Authority is committed to making the best use of resources in this area of work and be sited on any partnership activity and opportunities throughout Sussex, to minimise duplication of effort and maximise output and understanding.

## **CDRP Review Group Update**

- 8.1 The Group agreed that it was important for the Police Authority be properly represented on CDRPs as this was a statutory duty of the Authority. Members were pleased that the Chief Executive's team would more effectively coordinate the distribution of papers to reserve members.
- 8.2 Members agreed that district commander briefings for Authority Members prior to CDRP meetings were extremely useful and therefore these meetings were to be established in all areas.

- 8.3 The Committee wants to achieve good oversight of the work being undertaken by CDRPs. Work is under way to identify successes and gaps, thereby allowing comparisons to be made along with the sharing of best practice, and a measurement of CDRP achievements. A link should also be made to the identification of risks for the Authority. This monitoring would allow the members to influence the dissemination of best practice across Sussex.
- 8.4 Members continue to be focused on the Community Safety Review of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership which will be seeking to make meaningful recommendations to reduce costs and offer solutions to maximise the delivery of community safety to communities in Sussex. The review is attempting to find solutions to the issue of structure, and proposes a two tier approach with an overarching strategic East Sussex CDRP with the local CDRPs continuing to undertake the thematic, tactical work.

### **Partnership Working and Collaboration**

- 9.1 Members welcomed the appointment of a new Lead Member for Partnership Working, and the development of a strategy for working with partner agencies across Sussex. The Committee would receive an update at the next meeting.
- 9.2 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority, accompanied by other Authority members, met the Cabinet of West Sussex County Council to discuss the opportunities for collaboration and partnership working. A number of collaborative opportunities were considered including possible barriers to collaboration such as corporate governance issues. It was decided that a joint member and officer group from the two authorities would be established to look at how closer collaboration could work in practice.
- 9.3 The Chairman of the Police Authority, accompanied by the Acting Chief Executive, had been continuing his visits to meet Leaders and Chief Executives of District and Borough Councils across Sussex.

### **Safer Neighbourhood Grants Scheme**

- 10.1 The Authority's Safer Neighbourhood Grants Scheme (SNGS) amounts to £60,000 for financial year 2010-11. The Scheme had proved to be a valuable source of funding for community projects in Sussex for a number of years.
- 10.2 The Committee considered whether the funding criteria for grants in 2010-11 should be linked to community projects via the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) who would have a clear idea of any projects who might be assisted by SNGS. £30,000 would be allocated using this method and £30,000 would be applied for by community groups within the existing criteria.

10.3 The Committee discussed the opportunity to organise a participatory budgeting event where the communities themselves were involved in selecting which projects receive funding. Members agreed that this idea should be developed alongside the current arrangements.

### **Risk Management**

11.1 The Authority's Corporate Governance Committee, at its meeting in November 2009, recommended that each Scrutiny Committee should be scrutinising reports from the Risk Management System (RMS) of the top strategic risks that the relevant board is currently managing, to satisfy themselves as to their appropriate and proportional management.

11.2 The Committee considered how the Force embed risk processes. The Corporate Development Department (CDD) had recently written to Chief Officers setting out refined processes for identifying and managing new risks. The RMS continued to be the foundation-stone upon which risk assessment and risk management processes were built. The Risk Manager in Corporate Development Department (CDD) had continued to train and develop a cadre of risk co-ordinators across the Force to help ensure a resilient and consistent approach to risk management.

11.3 Each of the three Scrutiny Committees, has in their Terms of Reference:-  
"To consider risks identified that relate to this strategic element of the business."

### **Recommended** – that

- (1) the Authority plays its part in publicising the excellent Operation Crackdown initiative;
- (2) the Authority and the Force continue to ensure the Prevent agenda is addressed, with the Lead Member for Partnership Working having a particular focus on this vitally important partnership activity;
- (3) the Police Authority be proactive in influencing CDRP agendas; and
- (4) the role of the Authority and other bodies with regard to risk management and oversight be noted.

CAROLE SHAVES MBE JP  
Chairman

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