

SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY – 15 APRIL 2010

POLICE REPORT CARD

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE

Introduction

1. The HMIC Police Report Card is a new performance framework for assessing how well police forces have achieved against certain criteria. Building on individual inspections, the Police Report Card seeks to give a rounded assessment of performance which is made available to the public on the HMIC MyPolice website (<http://www.mypolice.org.uk>). This report outlines the contents of the Sussex Police Report card, published on 13 March 2010.

Overview and Background

- 2.1 HMIC intention is that the MyPolice website will provide information that helps to answer questions that the public want to ask of their police – what are the risks of being a victim of crime, how well are the police performing and are they value for money? The HMIC has built the information into the Police Report Card that is divided into four sections – Local Crime and Policing, Protection from Harm, Confidence and Satisfaction and Value for Money.
- 2.2 The Police Report Card (PRC) shows how each Force has been graded for each of the four domains. HMIC has added commentary which details what the force does well, where it needs to improve, and progress made. Much of this commentary is taken from various HMIC reports, which means that the grades are based on historic reports and therefore do not necessarily reflect the current situation.
- 2.3 The HMIC Grading definitions are:
 - 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.

Sussex Police Report Card

- 3.1 Sussex received grades of Fair for each of the 3 domains with Value for Money not yet graded. Each domain is sub-divided into measures and data indicators. Sussex grades are shown in the table below, together with information on source and data periods used in the assessment.

Domain		Grade	
Local crime and policing		Fair	
Protection from serious harm		Fair	
Confidence and satisfaction		Fair	
Measure	Grade	Data Indicator	Grade
Local crime and policing			
Reducing Crime	Excellent	Violent crime*	Excellent
		Vehicle crime*	Excellent
		Burglary*	Excellent
		Robberies*	Good
		Criminal damage*	Fair
Solving Crimes	Poor	Solved violent crimes**	Fair
		Solved vehicle crimes**	Poor
		Solved burglary**	Fair
		Solved robberies**	Fair
Neighbourhood Presence	Fair	HMIC Policing Pledge Inspection 2009 - Pledge Point 3	
Neighbourhood policing	Meeting standard	HMIC Neighbourhood Policing Inspection 2008	
Protection from serious harm			
Investigating major crime	Meeting standard	HMIC Major Crime Inspection 2008	
Suppressing gun crime	Excellent	Annual Financial Year 2008/09	
Suppressing knife crime**	Fair	Annual Financial Year 2008/09	
Solving serious sexual offences**	Fair	Annual Financial Year 2008/09	
Reducing road death and injury	Poor	DoT /APACS - 2008 compared with 2007	
Confidence and satisfaction			
Public confidence: all agencies	Fair	Quarterly – rolling 12 months up to September 2008 and 2009	
Service delivery	Fair	APACS - Annual Financial Year 2008/09 compared with 2007/8	
Comparative satisfaction of BME community	Excellent	APACS - Annual Financial Year 2008/09 compared with 2007/8	
Public confidence: Police	Fair	APACS - Annual Financial Year 2008/09 compared with 2007/8	
Meeting the Pledge standards	Fair	HMIC Policing Pledge Inspection	
Perceptions of ASB	Fair	APACS - Annual Financial Year 2008/09 compared with 2007/8	
Value for money			
Number of police officers / PCSOs		Medium/High	HO ADR 601 2008/09
Total cost of policing		Medium/High	CIPFA Estimates
Cost per household		Low/Medium	CIPFA Estimates
Proportion policing cost from council tax		Low/Medium	CIPFA Estimates

* Quarterly – rolling 12 months up to September 2008 and 2009

** Annual Financial Year 2008/09 compared with 2007/8

3.2 **Local crime and policing domain:** The PRC highlights that reducing crime remains an area of high performance for Sussex, where three of the five crime types are graded Excellent. Solving crime has been graded Poor. However, the PRC commentary does make mention of recent improvements the Force has achieved. The PRC commentary identifies the low detection rate for vehicle crime as being a cause for concern. This has been subject to significant debate in the preparation of the Local Policing

Plan 2010-11 targets in which the Authority has made clear that improving user satisfaction for vehicle crime is of greater importance than the detection target alone.

- 3.3 **Protection from serious harm domain:** Sussex was graded as Excellent for the suppression of gun crime which recognises the very low levels of crime in Sussex where firearms feature in the offence. The key area of concern raised within the PRC is the Killed and Serious Injured (KSI) for which Sussex is graded as Poor (data used is 2008 compared with 2007). The reduction of KSIs continues to be a priority for both Sussex Police, the Authority and the wider Safer Sussex Roads Partnership. However, whilst Sussex has seen reductions in 2009, the Force still remains an outlier within the MSG.
- 3.4 **Confidence and satisfaction domain:** Sussex is graded as Fair across this domain, apart from comparative satisfaction of the BME community, which is graded as Excellent. There are, however, areas which the HMIC identifies as needing improvement. These include the need to close the gap in the overall confidence target, as Sussex has not made as much progress as forces within its MSG. The PRC shows Sussex as having a poor grade for Pledge point 10 (Dealing with dissatisfaction). Significant progress has already been made and Sussex has since been graded Fair following a re-visit from HMIC in February 2010. HMIC advise that the grades shown on the PRC will be updated during the next refresh.
- 3.5 **Value for money domain:** Whilst the HMIC have said that this domain is not graded, indicators are given that show if spending is low/medium/high when compared to other forces within the MSG. HMIC points out that whilst a comprehensive set of data to bench mark value for money is not yet available, and that whilst the current data is not perfect, they have since published existing Value for Money Profiles on the HMIC website.

HMIC Publication of Value for Money Profiles

- 4.1 The Value for Money (VFM) Profiles were published on the HMIC website on 18 March 2010. The VFM profiles are similar as that received by the Force in October 2009. However, there are differences as some staffing data has been reconciled with Home Office data. The refreshed VFM profiles also highlight where a force is considered to be an outlier. For Sussex this includes supplies and services, radio, custody, community, training and operational planning. Work on understanding reasons for this have already been subject to review at Best Use of Resources Board, the Force Executive Board and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 An HMIC guidance document for the Value For Money profiles provides a national break down of officers and staff by function (aiding the public 47%, dealing with criminals 31%, supporting functions 22%). HMIC have identified four key areas where there are significant ranges of difference between forces. The variations specifically highlighted by HMIC are:
- HR staff per 100 total staff (Sussex close to national average)
 - Control Room staff per 1,000 residents (Sussex close to national average)

- PCSOs per 1,000 residents (Sussex higher than national average)
- Community Officers per 1,000 residents (Sussex lower than national average)

Conclusion

- 5.1 The Police Report Card shows Sussex to be graded in line with most other forces and, with three overall grades of Fair, is one of 19 forces with such a profile. Areas for improvement have been identified, but because grades are based on previous HMIC inspection reports, these are well recognised and have either been addressed or subject to ongoing work. In addition, the Force has seen significant areas of improvement in reducing and detecting crime when compared with the data being used by HMIC within the PRC.
- 5.2 HMIC have recognised that the first publication of Police Report Cards is not perfect, and both the format, data used and grading will be subject to further consultation with ACPO, APA, the Home Office and the public. The process for grading the Value for Money domain is likely to be subject to considerable debate and discussion over the coming months and before a final grading process is agreed.

Recommended - that

- (1) the Authority note the contents of the report;
- (2) the Authority consider providing feedback on the Police Report Card through the Association of Police Authorities

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