



Chief Constable's Update to the Sussex Police Authority – 15th April 2010

Keeping People Safe



Young Runaways

East Sussex

Meetings have been held with the organisers of the new East Sussex initiative to work with potential and repeat young missing people. The multi-agency project is being led by national charity Catch 22 – who work with young people in difficult situations – but is largely funded by Sussex Police, as we are significant stakeholders in the scheme. The event was launched on 26 March. We will become increasingly involved as the project develops by writing and implementing a communications strategy, and working with our partners on the branding and marketing. The service is in keeping with the new missing person's policy and is also being used as an opportunity to improve and develop information and intelligence after children have been 'missing' or 'absent'.

East Sussex Alcohol Communication Strategy

East Sussex

Ongoing work is being undertaken with partners to develop multi-agency alcohol communications and a social marketing strategy. The purpose of this plan is to co-ordinate the partnership's alcohol communications and to identify which social marketing campaigns to take forward in order to change behavior and improve perceptions and confidence.

In November 2009 the East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team revised the East Sussex Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The overall aim of this strategy is for partner agencies to work together to minimise the health harm, violence, crime and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol for individuals, families and communities, within the context of being able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

East Sussex Performance Publicity

East Sussex

Work is being carried out to publicise crime reductions and excellent burglary detection rates on East Sussex division. A partnership release has been written.

Operation Beaumont

Brighton & Hove

Around 200 people took part in a Smash EDO demonstration in Brighton & Hove on Monday 18th January. A number of incidents and flashpoints within Wild Park, Home Farm Road and the city centre were dealt with by police during the day. There were four arrests for public order offences. Our aim was to facilitate peaceful protest.

Operation Otter

Brighton & Hove

Two and a half thousand delegates, exhibitors, media and support staff came to Brighton & Hove to attend the annual Conservative Party Spring Forum. The event at the Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel passed off without incident. Laurie Bush toured the site.

Operation Reduction	Brighton & Hove
<p>Sixty six people have been arrested in Brighton & Hove during the latest phase of Operation Reduction - continued activity aimed at tackling both drug dealers and drug users in the city. Thirty one people have so far been charged with a total of 71 offences, predominantly for the supply or possession of heroin. Four people received cautions for drug possession and the remaining 31 people arrested remain on police bail pending further enquiries. Police executed 32 warrants across the city during the three week operation and confiscated quantities of heroin, cocaine, cannabis resin, herbal cannabis, amphetamine and pills including MDMA/ecstasy tablets. Officers also seized a firearm, suspected stolen property and thousands of pounds in cash.</p>	

Operation Columbus	Forcewide
<p>Work has commenced on scoping the communication needs of foreign students attending language schools over the summer months. There is a perception that they are disproportionately affected by crime and part of the scoping exercise will also look at crime figures to test whether this is true. However, for divisions it remains a priority area of crime and to that end, all communications activity will need to support operational plans to reduce crime against short stay foreign students. Public confidence in our commitment to tackle this type of crime is important to both maintain and support the economic uplift that foreign student visitors bring to our towns and cities.</p>	

Horsham Burglary Reductions	Horsham
<p>The Horsham Burglary Team have achieved an overall detection rate of over 22% for domestic burglaries. These include a number of series which were carried out by various criminal groups who have travelled into Horsham.</p>	

Operation Ritmo	North / West Downs
<p>A cross border investigation in conjunction with Surrey Police targeted a family living in Surrey who were responsible for a series of burglaries (dwelling and non-dwelling) across North and West Downs Divisions in Sussex as well as TVP, Hants and Surrey. Three of the family have been charged with conspiracy to burgle and are currently remanded in custody awaiting trial.</p>	

Operation Birdfield	North Downs
<p>Operation Birdfield was the investigation into a career dwelling burglar from the Met who is believed to be responsible for around 20 burglaries on North Downs Division. He was charged in December with conspiracy to burgle and is remanded in custody awaiting trial.</p>	

Cultivation of Cannabis	North Downs
<p>In January following the execution of a warrant in a burglary investigation a large quantity of cannabis plants were found in Ashington and a suspect was arrested for burglary and cultivation of cannabis.</p>	

Crowborough Caution	East Sussex
<p>There was significant national and local publicity after a restaurateur was cautioned for assault after a burglary at his premises in Crowborough.</p> <p>Wealden district commander CI Julia Pope found that the assault and burglary at his premises were wrongly being investigated in isolation and personally apologised to the victim. She told the media that the police were firmly on the side of victims of crime and that it was down to individuals to decide if it is safe to intervene using reasonable force. The caution has been revoked, and authority given for the destruction of DNA. C/Supt Robin Smith is reviewing and going to work with Corporate Communications to develop a case study with the support and participation of the restaurant owner who is keen to assist. The lead member for Wealden Bob Tidy was fully briefed regarding this issue.</p>	

Operation Luge	Forcewide
<p>The Force offered significant support during the period of adverse weather. Officers and staff across the Force made considerable effort to reach a police station or work from home. Regular updates – both operational and recognising good work – were circulated to staff, with text messaging and an externally-accessible website being used to reach staff unable to receive work emails. Ongoing internal and external Corporate Communications activity supported the Gold objectives, with regular safety advice and releases promoting safety and successes. Supt Steve Barry provided a number of road safety focused interviews and ACC Olivia Pinkey, the Gold Commander, was interviewed live on Sky, providing safety and reassurance messages, thanking the public for their support and recognising staff commitment. The SPA Chairman also issued a statement of thanks and support to staff.</p>	

Crimestoppers	Forcewide
<p>Work is underway with Crimestoppers to increase the profile of the charity and in turn generate more intelligence for the Force. Each divisional PR officer will look to maximise opportunities locally to support Crimestoppers in the community. We will also ensure that Crimestoppers is used as far-wide as possible in Force literature and to support county-wide campaigns by Crimestoppers. We already work very closely with the Area Manager, Carolyn Randall, and meet regularly with her to identify further publicity opportunities to both drive traffic to the phone number and maximise fund-raising for the charity itself.</p>	


Project Kraken	West Downs
<p>Project Kraken is being launched on April 15th. This is a national initiative, it asks the public to report anything that makes them suspicious whilst they are out on the waters of Sussex. It is hoped that all the small details will build up a bigger picture which could ultimately prevent major crimes such as terrorism and human and drugs trafficking as well as crack down on crime such as engine, trailer and GPS system thefts. Posters and leaflets have been prepared for launch.</p>	

Operation Payback	North Downs
<p>A partnership operation in February saw police officers working alongside Court Warrant Officers from Her Majesty's Courts Service engaged in Operation Payback. The aim of the operation was to reduce the number of outstanding non payment of fine warrants issued by the court for failure to pay fines imposed by the court on sentence for a conviction. Over three days, seven persons were arrested and put before the court, 17 people handed themselves in to court as a result and 24 persons paid immediately to avoid arrest recovering £2,880.83.</p>	

Operation Watergrove	Crawley
<p>Members of the Crawley Special Constabulary took part in Operation Watergrove alongside Special Constabulary colleagues from British Transport Police. The aim was to reduce anti-social behaviour around the two railway stations in Crawley, target travelling criminality and provide public reassurance. The operation, which highlighted the important role and contribution to policing of the Special Constabulary resulted in six arrests including one for a racially aggravated public order offence and the Crawley Special Constabulary being nominated for an award at the Special Constable and Police Support Volunteer South East Region Awards.</p>	

Anti Social Behaviour	North Downs
<p>The Burgess Hill NPT has worked closely with Housing Association to combat the persistent anti social behaviour of one juvenile. This individual was making the local communities lives miserable, through drunken behaviour, verbal abuse and intimidating other residents. The NPT worked closely with the Housing Association who took the lead in obtaining an ASBO. This was the first occasion the Housing Association took primacy in applying for an ASBO. This demonstrates the close working relationship between Police and Local Authority in combating unacceptable behaviour. Since the ASBO has been granted the situation has significantly improved, this has been reported back to the community and local Neighbourhood Panel.</p>	

Operation Holmer	North Downs
<p>On 19/11/09 a series of burglaries, assaults and theft related offences occurred in the early hours of the morning traversing the Kent, Surrey and Sussex borders. Several of the offences involved the vulnerable. The police responded immediately utilising various resources including the police helicopter and dog search unit. It was identified that a small group were responsible and the suspects were quickly located and arrested. A joint investigation was conducted which involved close liaison between Surrey, Sussex and Kent CIDs and SOCO, the investigation being led by Surrey. The main suspect was charged with numerous burglary and assault offences for all three of the force areas. The suspect remains in custody awaiting trial.</p>	

Neighbourhood Policing	
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999 Show – 10th & 11th July 2010, Eastbourne Seafront	East Sussex
<p>The Eastbourne 999 display is one of the largest of its kind in the country. Put on by local emergency services including H.M.Coastguard, RNLI, Ambulance Service, Fire & Rescue Service and the Police, this year Sussex Police will be leading the event. The event is a fantastic opportunity for public engagement and spreading crime prevention and safety messages in turn increasing public confidence.</p>	

Steyning Community Safety Shop	North Downs
<p>PCSO Charlie Whittaker identified that a vacant shop in Steyning High Street was an ideal venue to set up as a drop in centre for local residents seeking advice and guidance on a range of issues. The shop ran from Monday-Friday, Charlie was joined by colleagues from Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, Community Link, Crimestoppers, Horsham District Council Wardens and Steyning Junior Wardens, along with advisors from the Pensions Service. The use of the shop was donated for the week and was well received, attracting approximately 40 visitors each day.</p>	

NPT Newsletters	Forcewide
<p>Templates for neighbourhood newsletters are now available to all neighbourhood policing teams on all districts. Twelve district templates have been created to bring a corporate look to newsletters across the Force. These templates allow local teams to decide at a local level who the newsletter will be targeted at and has space to include local news, a force message, local priorities and community meeting dates. The templates are available to complete and download from the Sussex Police intranet.</p>	

Operation Compton	North Downs
<p>This was a planned demonstration against Novartis by animal rights supporters. Following consultation with the company, local residents and the District Council. Public order units were deployed including support from Hants Police and horses from Thames Valley Police. Only a small number of protestors turned up and the event passed off peacefully with no arrests or disruption.</p>	

Pulborough Arsons	North Downs
<p>On the 17th December 2009 following a number of arsons where trees and hedges were set alight in Pulborough, joint action patrols took place with PCSOs, Neighbourhood Police officers and council wardens. This activity was to raise awareness, obtain information to local residents as well as provide reassurance to the local community. Since this activity the offences have stopped.</p>	

Princess Anne Visit	East Sussex
<p>A meeting has been planned for 14th April to organise Princess Anne's visit to Eastbourne Custody Centre and Integrated Offender Management Seminar at HQ. The SPA Chairman will be briefed and invited to the event.</p>	

Virtual Town Hall / Question Time Event	East Sussex
<p>In January 2010, East Sussex Division held a 'Virtual Police Question Time' event at County Hall, Lewes. People were able to submit questions beforehand by email as well as posing questions in person on the night. The event was webcast via the East Sussex County Council website. The event followed the format of the BBC Question Time with the panel made up of the local police commander Chief Superintendent Robin Smith, two members of the Police Authority, the local Detective Chief Inspector and head of Road Policing. The event was chaired by a local journalist. The event ran for an hour and a half and responded to a number of questions about local policing. The webcast was viewed live by 100 people on line and can be repeat viewed at the County Council website www.eastsussex.gov.uk/webcasts. Enquiries/interest from other Authorities re use of webcasting have been made to Katie Coakes.</p>	

First ever Brighton & Hove 'closure' order granted for severe anti-social behaviour	Brighton & Hove
<p>On 10th February, magistrates granted a closure order after hearing that neighbours regularly endured long bouts of extremely loud music into the early hours in the morning. The nuisance, which also included loud and aggressive shouting, swearing, verbal abuse and intimidation, was so extreme that some residents had to move out at weekends. The closure was part of the Turning the Tide initiative that aims to tackle problems such as anti-social behaviour as well as introduce measures to improve employment and health prospects. Brighton & Hove Magistrates Court granted a Premises Closure Order for a Council flat in Hove under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003. The Order required the immediate 'closure' of the premises for the maximum period of three months. During that time entry by unauthorised persons, including the tenant and her associates is not permitted and anyone found so doing will be committing an offence. Within an hour of the Court granting the Order, the local neighbourhood police and the Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Team were at the flat securing the property and bringing an end to the misery that the occupant had inflicted on her neighbours.</p>	

Street Pastors	Brighton & Hove / Worthing
<p>Volunteer 'Street Pastors' are out on the streets of Brighton & Hove and Worthing every Friday night helping people who have drunk too much leaving them too vulnerable to get home safely and potentially becoming a victim of crime. The church-run initiative has already successfully lowered crime rates in other towns and cities in the UK. As part of the scheme, around 50 people will be trained so that they understand police procedures and licensing matters. The regular patrols which started this month will take place on Friday nights outside pubs and clubs in the city centre between 10pm and 4am.</p>	

LGBT History Month	Brighton & Hove / Forcwide
<p>Brighton police station in John Street flew the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people (LGBT) flag during February 2010 to mark LGBT history month, which celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community. This was well received by the local LGBT community.</p>	

Victim & Witness Care	Forcwide
<p>Working closely with the victim and witness care group, co-ordinated by the Community and Justice Department, we are planning to improve both internal and external communications to develop and improve the contact given to both witnesses and victims. With the new national victim care service being launched in April this is a new initiative that aims to improve personal contact with victims (and witnesses) to encourage continued engagement and support of the criminal justice process and to build confidence in those processes.</p>	

Olympics 2012	Forcewide
<p>The Olympics 2012 communications strategy has been produced. Monthly meetings are taking place between Corporate Communications and the Sussex Police Olympics planning team to ensure security and policing operations are well prepared in advance of the Games.</p>	

Friday Night Project	Crawley
<p>A pilot youth project made possible by a grant from the Police Authority's Safer Neighbourhood Grant Scheme has proved successful in reducing criminal damage and anti-social behaviour on Friday nights in Crawley. The partnership between Sussex Police, Crawley Borough Council and Freedom Leisure established the 'Friday Night Project' at the K2 Leisure Centre to encourage young people to engage in meaningful activities to divert them from congregating on neighbourhood parades and getting into trouble. Attracting about 130 young people a week at the start, the project has become so successful over the last six months that partners are now planning to see how the project can be mainstreamed.</p>	

Beatsweep	North Downs
<p>The Neighbourhood Policing Teams based at Hayward's Heath, Burgess Hill and East Grinstead carry out quarterly operations to combat issues identified by their communities. This is carried out in partnership with other enforcement agencies and has proven very successful in tackling locally identified problems. The areas frequently highlighted are speeding, nuisance/anti social driving and nuisance youths.</p>	

National Specials Weekend	Forcewide
<p>National Specials Weekend in February helped cement the reputation of our Special Constabulary and highlighted the dedication and hard work of all those who give their time to work in partnership with their regular police colleagues. The focus of the weekend was roads policing with the emphasis of targeting criminals on the move. Specials from all divisions were posted with each RPU (Road Policing Unit) base and also with ANPR. Not only did the weekend involve specials from Sussex, but there was also cross-border working with Hampshire Police and VOSA.</p> <p>The results spoke for themselves, with two arrests of a disqualified driver and one wanted person, plus eight good drug searches on site, where cannabis was recovered from one vehicle and cocaine detected in another.</p> <p>There are now over 300 specials in Sussex, and whilst there is a minimum requirement for them to carry out duties of sixteen hours a month, many more have been awarded for dedicating in excess of 800 hours per year, Last year between them the Sussex Specials volunteered 58,000 hours of their time.</p>	

Best Use of Resources

Internal Communication Focus Group	Forcewide
<p>Focus groups were carried out across East Sussex division to explore how officers and staff want to be communicated with, and to look at the effectiveness of current communications methods. This will be used to inform the divisional PR plan and ongoing activity.</p>	

Digital Engagement Strategy & Plans	Forcewide
<p>With the new eServices/Multimedia team now in place, work is underway to develop a digital engagement strategy which will exploit a range of multimedia channels, including web, print and film to engage with our customers, seamlessly complete transactions, provide information and build insight. This strategy will include picking up existing products. Short-term steps to developing our output and service will include:</p> <p>Multimedia Planning – for the first time, an integrated production process has been implemented which will focus resources on providing output that best meets business and customer needs.</p> <p>Visual Identity – visual identity guidelines are to be developed to build a consistent look and feel for all our multimedia products.</p> <p>Redeveloping the Force Website (www.sussex.police.uk) - key visual, navigational and content improvements will launch this Spring with significant further developments taking place over the coming year.</p> <p>Rationalising Film Production – ensuring a responsive, cost effective service is provided which provides key content for our digital channels.</p> <p>Social Media – guidelines on use of social media are to be piloted in Littlehampton - focussing on business and customer needs to achieve true engagement, and simple procedures to mitigate against risks – which are expected to be rolled out more broadly.</p>	

High Vis	Forcewide
<p>The first two editions of High Vis were generally well received throughout the Force. The vast majority of feedback was very positive and favourable. A handful of negative comments were received regarding cost but those concerns were responded to on the letters page of edition two. Laurie Bush said: “High Vis is a really great way to celebrate the positive stories about Sussex Police and Police Authority and is also a great way to share these with the whole business. I particularly like format of the magazine, it is clear, open and easy to read. I look forward to receiving each issue and hearing the great news that is going on around Sussex.”</p>	

Divisional / Departmental Internal Comms Audits	Forcewide
<p>The Internal Communications team will be conducting Force wide communications audits to explore how the Force view current communication methods and to establish preferred methods of information sharing among employees of Sussex Police. An HQ CID audit is underway and the team are currently planning further audits for each department and division. The finding from these audits will be shared with Katie Coakes.</p>	

New Uniform	Forcewide
<p>Sussex Police will be issuing a new uniform to operational officers and police staff who wear PPV. The go live date is May 10th. The uniform consists of a zip front black moisture management shirt worn under existing personal protective vest with black cargo style trousers. PCSOs will wear the same shirt in blue. All other uniform i.e. headwear, coats, fleeces and jackets remain unchanged. The purchase of the new operational uniform for officers and PCSOs in Sussex has been achieved from the existing uniform budget without the need for any additional or new funding due to the reduction of the cost of uniform, a decrease in recruitment and increase in retention in 2009/10. Following Thames Valley Police's (TVP) decision to move to a new style uniform, Hampshire, Kent and Surrey Police together with Sussex Police expressed an interest of collaboration with TVP and a South East Region Uniform Strategy Board was convened. The uniform is based on a regional model and feedback from those who have trialled the uniform has been positive. While offering significant savings, the uniform is more comfortable and better suited to modern day policing.</p>	

Staff Survey	Forcewide
<p>MoRi were successful in the tender process for the staff survey, work is in progress to design the questionnaire in time for a late spring roll out.</p>	

Stonewall Top Employers List	Forcewide
<p>Following the news that Sussex Police has made it into the Stonewall Top 100 Employers List (34 out of over 350 organisations), a press release was issued to local and specialist press and a Forcewide email was sent out celebrating the good news. Stonewall is a charitable organisation that campaigns and lobbies for the LGBT community. Last year Sussex Police came 92nd out of 317 organisations. Emma Daniel, Lead Member for Diversity, provided a quote congratulating the Force and celebrating this news.</p>	

Cases of Note

Pilvinis	North Downs
<p>A Latvian male was convicted of a series of high value car key burglaries in Sussex and the south east of England. He was one of a gang involved in stealing half a million pounds of high value cars to order. He was sentenced to seven years in prison.</p>	

Moch	Horsham
<p>A polish male was convicted of GBH after trial in January 2010 as a result of a fight in a pub in Horsham town where he assaulted the victim with a glass over the head. He was sentenced to nine months in prison.</p>	

Butcher	North Downs
<p>A male was convicted in March of a series of sexual offences relating to females under 16 (nine counts). He was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and 10 years on the sex offenders register.</p>	

WHSmith Burglary	North Downs
<p>NRT responded to a reported 'break in progress' at the Hayward's Heath WHSmith. Having spoken to witnesses a suspect vehicle was quickly identified and all available units mobilised to search for the vehicle. Shortly after this the vehicle was located and failed to stop for the NRT unit. The vehicle was abandoned and the occupants decamped into dense woodland. Officers from North Downs and East Sussex Divisions carried out an extensive search resulting in the arrest of 2 people. This investigation is now being progressed by Mid Sussex CID, CPS have authorised a charge in relation to this job. This investigation is ongoing having been linked to 22 other offences across the county.</p>	

Domestic Burglary & Violence	North Downs
<p>A Burgess Hill man has been jailed for six years for burglary and assaulting his wife. The court heard that the victim has suffered years of domestic abuse and has been subjected to serious assaults and burglary.</p> <p>The investigation into this abuse was managed by the North Downs Special Investigations Unit, but involved officers from the Burgess Hill Neighbourhood and Response Teams.</p>	

Robbery at Chemist	North Downs
<p>Officers from Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Response Team responded to an armed robbery in progress. A man walked into Williams Chemists, in Lower Church Road, Burgess Hill, threatening staff with a claw hammer and demanded drugs. The staff called police who were swiftly on the scene and arrested the man. Captor spray was used in order to help restrain him. Nothing was stolen and nobody was injured. The man has been charged with Robbery.</p>	

Operation Durrant	Heathfield
<p>The murder of two young children in Heathfield in January attracted an enormous amount of media interest. Harry (3) and Elise (2) Donnison were found dead in the boot of a car near Heathfield Police Station. Their mother, Fiona Donnison, was quickly arrested (and subsequently charged with murder). This enabled the Force to deliver reassurance to parents collecting their children from a nearby school. East Sussex divisional commander, Ch Supt Robin Smith, fronted a press conference at the scene and facilitated a number of radio interviews.</p>	

Chichester Armed Robbery	Chichester
<p>An armed robbery in Chichester on 22 March attracted a significant amount of local and regional publicity as it involved a 21 mile pursuit, a rammed police car and the suspects decamping into a primary school. They were arrested by armed officers on the school premises. The headmaster, who was no doubt expecting a quiet run down to the holidays in his last week at work, was encouraged to comment on the event. He said: "They made me proud of our police force. They were efficient, thorough and speedy. A parent at school posted a comment on a local website: "I would like to thank the police and school for the swift and sensitive way in which this has been handled. The police and all those members of the public who assisted should have a hearty slap on the back. WELL DONE."</p>	