

Action List: Sussex Police and Crime Panel – 13 March 2026

Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Response	Status
Item 5 Questions to the PCC	For the OSPCC to provide more information on Clare's Law and Sussex Police's performance in meeting its duties under the Law.	OSPCC	Mrs Bourne asked the Deputy Chief Constable about the performance of Sussex Police in respect of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) at her Performance & Accountability Meeting on 16 April 2026. The DVDS was formally launched across England and Wales in March 2014 and is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her abusive ex-partner in Greater Manchester in 2009. As such, the scheme is also informally referred to as Clare's Law. Sussex Police is continuing to promote the DVDS as part of proactive campaigns and public engagement events to raise awareness throughout local communities. The scheme is also promoted by each of the three upper-tier local authorities in Sussex [Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council] on their respective websites, alongside the sites used by other multi-agency and safeguarding partners. There are two ways in which a disclosure can be made under the scheme: ✓ Right to ask – where a person asks the police for information about their partner ✓ Right to know – where a police force makes the proactive decision to warn someone about their partner's history to protect them from any potential abuse	Open

			Sussex Police received 2,536 applications for information under the scheme during 2025/26 which comprised 1,932 'right to ask' applications [76%] and 604 'right to know' applications [24%]. This represented a 9% increase in the number of applications received in 2024/25 [2,316] and a 147% increase in the number of applications received in 2023/24 [1,025]. It was also emphasised that the Force has now received year-on-year increases in applications to the scheme since 2019/20. Of the applications received during 2025/26, 1,444 resulted in successful disclosures to support the 2,381 requests that met the scheme criteria [61%], compared to 78% of disclosures in 2024/25 [1,655] and 82% of disclosures in 2023/24 [740]. Sussex Police is currently meeting its statutory obligations to provide disclosures within the national target of 28 calendar days. KB was reassured to note that Sussex Police will always try and make a disclosure through the scheme where a legal basis exists to share this information. The Deputy Chief Constable concluded by stating that individuals with any doubts or concerns about whether a previous history of violence or abuse exists around a partner or a potential partner of high-harm and repeat offending should submit a request to Sussex Police to receive information that will enable them to make better informed decisions regarding ongoing contact and any potential partners or future relationships.	
--	--	--	---	--

			Further information about the DVDS can be viewed on the Sussex Police website through the following link: https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/clares-law---domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-dvds/ A copy of the summary notes and a link to the PAM webcast is now available on our website – this can be viewed through the following link: https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/how-we-work/watch-live/ COMPLETED.	
Item 5 Questions to the PCC	For the Clerk to provide a copy of the report previously considered by the Panel on 'Right Care, Right Plan' to Cllr Cooke.	Clerk to the Panel		Open

Item 7 - Recruitment	OSPCC to provide more information on the successful use of apprenticeship programmes in increasing and maintaining police officer recruitment.	OSPCC	Sussex Police continue to utilise the Apprenticeship Levy to fund two of the entry programmes into the Force: ✓ Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) ✓ Police Community Support Officer Apprenticeship (PCSOA) The PCDA is delivered in partnership with four universities – Canterbury Christ Church University, University of Cumbria, Middlesex University and University of Portsmouth – who collectively formed the Police Education Consortium (PEC) in January 2026. The Force receive an increased payment from the Levy for each recruit brought in under the PCDA. This figure is commercially sensitive through the contractual arrangement in place with the PEC, although this is recognised to be significantly more than the payment received for each recruit under the previous contract. After completing the PCDA, the recruits graduate with a degree in BSc (Hons) Professional Policing Practice. Sussex Police [and Surrey Police] were the first two forces in England and Wales to introduce the PCSOA in 2018 and have continued to support other forces in their implementation since then. The Force deliver the PCSOA as an employer training provider to all new PCSO recruits in Sussex. This approach ensures that the maximum payment [£9,000] is received for each PCSO recruited onto the programme.	Open
----------------------	--	-------	---	------

			After completing the Apprenticeship, the PCSO recruits receive a Level 4 Diploma in Community Policing Practice. Each programme remains subject to Ofsted inspection because they utilise the Apprentice Levy. The PCDA is inspected through Middlesex University [as the lead university for the PEC] and Sussex Police is inspected directly for the PCSOA. Both programmes were previously graded 'good' by Ofsted on the old grading system. This is equivalent to 'strong standard' on the new five-point grading scale. COMPLETED.	
--	--	--	---	--