

Action List: Sussex Police and Crime Panel – 28 June 2024

Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Status
<p>Item 6.</p> <p>Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner</p>	<p>1) Cllr Czolak asked if the Commissioner has received any assurances from the Chief Constable around the welfare of children strip-searched by Sussex Police and the Force's use of powers, including whether or not the gender of the officer was different to the gender of the child.</p> <p>Action for OSPCC officers to provide information.</p>	<p>OSPCC</p>	<p>The requirements for the detention, treatment and questioning of suspects in police custody are governed by Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. This includes the power of strip searching a person detained in custody.</p> <p>The strip search of a child or young person (CYP) must be authorised by a police officer of at least the rank of Inspector and must be conducted in a manner that is compliant with Code C. This includes being searched by two officers of the same gender and, if these officers are not available, delaying the search until such time as the officers are available. This is the standard position in Sussex, without exception.</p> <p>The PACE also requires the attendance of an appropriate adult (AA) for the strip search of any CYP. In most instances, the AA will attend police custody and a decision will be reached between the CYP and the AA as to whether the AA will be present in the room during the strip search or positioned just outside. There are a few circumstances where Sussex Police may undertake a strip search before an AA is present in police custody, including instances where any delay to the search could possibly result in harm to the CYP [i.e., where the police are having to forcibly restrain the CYP ahead of the search], although these circumstances are recognised to be rare.</p> <p>The Personal Safety Training Team within Sussex Police deliver annual search training to all custody staff and officers, including refresher training around the provisions concerning strip searches and those relating to CYP.</p>

			<p>The Inspectors in the Custody Department within Sussex Police undertake regular reviews of all custody records to ensure that the required standards for the detention, treatment and questioning of suspects in police custody have been upheld, including the provisions around strip searches.</p> <p>The statutory Independent Custody Visting Scheme – delivered by the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner – provide independent scrutiny of the strip searches undertaken in police custody where the custody records of CYP and vulnerable adults are prioritised for review.</p> <p>Further information about Code C and the requirements around detention, treatment and questioning of suspects in police custody can be viewed through the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-c-2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED.</p>
<p>Item 6.</p> <p>Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner</p>	<p>1) Cllr Birch asked if the current trajectory of conviction rates for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) is rising or falling?</p> <p>Action for PCP officers to progress.</p>	<p>PCP</p>	<p>The Commissioner offered to prepare a report for the Sussex Police & Crime Panel around the ongoing work of Sussex Police to improve the conviction rates for rape and serious sexual offences.</p> <p>The item has been added to the agenda for the next Panel meeting on 27 September 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED.</p>

<p>Item 7.</p> <p>The Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2023/24</p>	<p>Cllr Czolak requested an agenda item about the work of the Digital Investigation Unit, particularly considering it is often a pinch point in the investigation process, often in respect to serious crimes.</p> <p>Action for OSPCC officers to consider.</p>	<p>OSPCC</p>	<p>The Commissioner will consider adding the Digital Investigation Support Unit (DISU) to the agenda at a future Performance & Accountability Meeting to understand better the performance of this team in terms of supporting investigations where physical and/or online digital evidence is involved.</p> <p>Following the Panel meeting in June 2024, additional information about the headline performance delivered by the DISU across 2023/24 has been added to this section within the Annual Report.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED.</p>
<p>Item 7.</p> <p>The Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Outturn Report 2023/24</p>	<p>The Panel agreed the following two recommendations to which it would like the Commissioner to take into account when finalising the Annual Report:</p> <p>1) That consideration be given to adding hyperlinks to allow readers to access further information throughout the report.</p> <p>2) That data is added throughout the report to provide evidence of achievement, strengthening the qualitative messaging.</p>	<p>OSPCC</p>	<p>Thank you for capturing the helpful recommendations made at the Panel meeting in June 2024 and reiterated in the letter from the Panel Chair to the PCC.</p> <p>Both recommendations have been addressed ahead of the Annual Report being finalized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hyperlinks have now been included throughout the Annual Report 2023/24 to allow readers to access further information about different subject areas. ✓ Additional quantitative data has also been included within several of the sections of the report to provide greater evidence of the achievements demonstrated across the performance plan year. <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED.</p>