



Hello

My week started with a meeting at Sussex Police HQ with eight police officers transferring to the force or re-joining policing. These officers, including a married couple from Guernsey Police, officers from North Yorkshire, the MET and returning from abroad, all bring a wealth of difference experiences to Sussex and show that policing is an attractive and worthwhile option at all stages of your career.



I look forward to meeting them all again and I'm sure they won't regret moving to our beautiful county.

On Tuesday evening I met West Sussex Magistrates Association to talk about tackling stalking and the advances that Sussex Police have made in particular. This is the second briefing with magistrates I have had on this growing crime that still remains under-reported and misunderstood. Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders, (SPOs), as a civil power to restrain suspected stalkers. Whilst Sussex were the first force to apply for one last year, some forces have failed to apply for any in the past 17 months despite reports of stalking more than doubling since 2019.

Magistrates are volunteers and play an essential role in the criminal justice system but they face increasing complexity and higher volumes of cases. Magistrates agreed that there needs to be refresher training to keep up to date with the changes to the tools that are available to protect victims. I have undertaken to scope some training packages in conjunction with Sussex Police and our specialist services.

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### [Magistrates called for training on the tools available to protect victims](#)

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On Thursday this week, I was a virtual presenter at the National Business Crime Solution's (NBCS) annual conference, where businesses, police and innovators met to share the technology and processes that are helping tackle retail crime and fraud.

Sussex Police's One Touch crime reporting pilot with the Co-op has already led to the arrest and prosecution of several persistent offenders. With some enhancements being made to the One Touch system, stores and shopworkers should eventually be able to make reports direct to police in around one minute. This pushes vital intelligence and evidence into the Sussex Incident Resolution Centre that now has nine specialist staff.

With the take up of the DEMS Digital Evidence System and more widespread use of the DISC information sharing app, Sussex Police and the Safer Sussex Business Partnership led by my office will be helping retailers stay in business and take prolific offenders off the streets.

With public fears about road safety top of my postbag, I joined Chief Constable Jo Shiner in Hove this morning as police officers carried out vehicle and driver checks as part of the continuing Op Dragonfly crackdown. Chief Constable Shiner is national lead for roads policing and she is committed to making our roads safer and targeting the criminals who need to use them.

It beggars belief that with over 1000 people killed or seriously injured every year on our Sussex roads that anybody would get behind the wheel of a car when they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. These operations are a very visible deterrent and demonstrate the force's ability to take unsafe, untaxed and uninsured drivers off our roads and ensure offenders get prosecuted.



Katy Bourne OBE

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner



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