



Ensuring we are all Safer in Sussex



Hello,

This week the Government announced plans to provide up to £15m to increase access to places of safety for people living with mental health issues.

Dealing with this issue is a challenge for all of us, not least the police officers who regularly come into contact with those living with mental illness. Vulnerable people should not be greeted by police officers, handcuffed and taken to a cell. They should be seen by medical experts who can offer appropriate healthcare and support.

I am pleased to say that in Sussex our mental health 'street triage' scheme, which involves police officers and mental health professionals working alongside each other, is successfully diverting those in mental health crisis away from police custody.

Since the scheme started in Eastbourne in October 2013, 250 admissions to police custody have been avoided for those detained or 'sectioned' under the Mental Health Act.

Police cells are no place for people with a mental illness and I welcome this additional investment to provide appropriate places of safety for them.

Today I held my regular Performance & Accountability meeting with the Chief Constable. These monthly meetings are [webcast](#) and - if you are unable to watch live - recordings are

Meetings & Events

Safer in Sussex Community Fund cheque presentation to Easthill Park Community Cafe

Tues 26 May 2015

Attending a Survivors Network Open Evening

Tues 26 May 2015

Visiting the True Crime Museum in Hastings

Wed 27 May 2015

Attending an Audit & Risk Committee Meeting at the College of Policing

Thurs 28 May 2015

Weekly meeting with the Chief Constable

Friday 29 May 2015

Members of my Youth Commission visited a group of young people in St Leonards-on-Sea this week who attend the Crime Reduction Initiatives Families & Parenting Service. The

available to view online afterwards. Topics on the agenda today included alcohol-related crime, increases in crime reporting and Sussex Police's response to domestic abuse, following recommendations last year that all police forces could do more to support victims of this hideous crime.

I hope you will be able to tune in and watch the meeting.

Best wishes



Katy Bourne
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

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visit was part of the Commission's county-wide 'Big Conversation' on policing and crime and the focus of this particular workshop was the relationship between young people and the police. Members challenged ideas and prejudices that had not been questioned before, presenting a view of the police that the young people had not previously considered. The session also made them look inward and challenge their own behaviours and the reasons behind them. Click [here](#) to find out more about the Youth Commission."

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