



SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Councillor Christian Mitchell
Chairman
Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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To – Chairs of Sussex Health Overview Scrutiny Committees

Date: 19 May 2023

Dear Chairs,

I am writing to you on behalf of Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The role of the Panel is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

At its meeting on 27 January 2023, the Panel considered a report on “The role of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police provide an effective response to mental health”. A copy is attached to the covering email for your reference.

The Panel heard evidence around the extent to which Sussex Police officers were providing care and support to people suffering with mental health issues, to the detriment of frontline policing work. At the conclusion of the item, the Panel agreed that I write to the Chief Executive of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT), Dr Jane Padmore. My letter and Dr Padmore’s response are attached.

In her response, Dr Padmore sets out several initiatives underway within the Trust to address the issues.

Sussex Police and Crime Panel has no statutory role in holding NHS trusts to account. I am therefore writing to request that you have due regard to the Trust’s work in this area, and that you consider holding the Trust to account for its progress in implementing remedial measures. The Panel recognises that your respective geographical areas of remit are not individually coterminous with that of the Trust, and that a collaborative approach to scrutiny may present resource challenges, but any recognition within your individual work programmes would be very helpful. The Panel will continue to monitor progress from the perspective of the PCC.

Best wishes,

Christian Mitchell

Cllr Christian Mitchell

Chairman of Sussex Police and Crime Panel

CC:

Sussex PCP members

HOSC Support Officers

Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

PCP Website

Attachments:

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Report to the Police and Crime Panel - The role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police provide an effective response to mental health

Letter from Sussex PCP to SPFT

Letter from SPFT to PCP

