

SALC 2025 AGM and Conference Report

ESALC AGM:

Report from T. Leggo (ESALC CEO); A lot of his time is spent resolving behavioural issues with councils. Everyone should have signed the document relating to civility. Chairman and other councillor should callout anyone who is not playing by the rules and he cannot understand why this is not happening?

The directors that have been appointed to represent Rother district are: Keith Robertson and David Young.

Conference:

Presentation by Katy Bourne (PCC)

PCC has been in post for 13 years and is also a mayoral candidate for the unitary authority (*if she wins, we will also need a new PCC*). She has not been involved in any of the discussions regarding the local government reorganisation.

During her tenure there has been an increase in the number of officers, but not enough. The PCSO numbers have fluctuated over the period, PCs cannot be made redundant, PCSOs can. There is no longer a requirement to have a degree to join the police force; there are now several methods of entry including apprentices. Retention of officers is a problem; the Met pay better rates.

Crime has changed; in the past it was in the physical space now it's also in the on-line space, effectively they now have two beats.

On-line fraud on people over 75 on average costs the individuals £75K each. The officers spend a lot of time in A&E (17 hours!) due to people with mental health issues, this can involve several officers; they have the duty of care. The places of safety that used to be available are now closing. In the past they could hold them in a cell for their own safety but that is no longer allowed.

Shop theft is now a big problem from opportunist theft to organised crime. There are two tagging trials being carried out on offenders, one in Hastings and the other in Eastbourne. Four individuals have been tagged for 12 months.

Thirteen years ago, there were 2 reports of missing people / day now it's 39.

Presentation by Jonathan Owen (NALC)

Slide presentation.

Presentation by Leigh Whitehouse (Local Government Reorganisation)

Slide presentation (nothing we did not know already was said).

Presentation by Steve Tilbury (Planning Update)

Slide presentation.

A lot of development is being approved upon appeal because local councils do not have an in-date Local Plan! NDPs now have limited weight due to the government's drive for more housing. The National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) will have major changes.

P. Lamont 05/11/25