

SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY MEETING
23 February 2022

Minute of the SPA Authority Meeting held on Wednesday, 23
February 2022 via Video-conference

Board Members Present: Martyn Evans (Chair)
Jane Ryder (Vice Chair)
Paul Edie
Tom Halpin
Alasdair Hay
Katharina Kasper
Grant Macrae
Fiona McQueen
Michelle Miller
Mary Pitcaithly
Catriona Stewart
Caroline Stuart

In attendance: Police Scotland
Chief Constable Iain Livingstone
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr
Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham
Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor
Deputy Chief Officer David Page
James Gray, Chief Financial Officer

Scottish Police Authority (SPA)
Chris Brown, Acting Chief Executive, Resources
Barry Sillers, Acting Chief Executive, Strategy and
Performance

Forensic Services
Fiona Douglas, Director of Forensic Services

SPA Secretariat
Karen Vallance, Governance Support Officer

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1. WELCOME AND STANDING ITEMS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all Authority Members and representatives from the Police Scotland senior leadership team. He confirmed Jane Ryder (JRyder) would chair the meeting if he were disconnected from the video-conference.

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** no apologies;
- **Fiona McQueen** declared an interest in any discussion regarding drugs and Naloxone, due to her role as Vice Chair of the Scottish Drugs Deaths Taskforce;
- **NOTE** no other business;
- **AGREE** that, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the SPA Standing Orders, the Board would consider items 10 to 12 in private for the reasons set out on the agenda.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **ADOPT** the minute of the 19 January 2022;
- **NOTE** the action log and that there were no matters arising.
- **NOTE** no decisions have been taken by correspondence since the last Authority meeting.

3. SPA CHAIR'S REPORT

In addition to the written report, the Chair highlighted that the Scottish Government had launched its Vision for Justice. The Chair noted a range of activities relevant to the work of the Authority will be progressed and the delivery plan contains a number of actions assigned to Police Scotland.

The Board **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the report.

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4. COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORT

Members considered the report which provided an update on business progressed since the last Authority meeting through the:

- Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee
- Forensic Services Committee
- Legal Committee
- Resources Committee

The Chair informed Members that in order to provide greater insight into the performance of Police Scotland at Authority level, he had agreed with the Chair of the Policing Performance Committee (PPC) that the full executive summary of each quarterly performance report will be attached to the PPC Chair report to the Board. This will take effect from March 2022.

The Board **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the report

5. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Chief Constable Iain Livingstone (CCLivingstone) provided a detailed summary of the paper, specifically drawing attention to the following areas:

- Significant convictions
- Drug seizures and convictions
- Naloxone national roll out
- Policing response to Covid-19
- Recruitment
- LGBT History Month
- Senior Officer Appointments

In discussion the following matters were raised:

- The Chair noted that eight years ago, the World Health Organisation first made what was then a radical recommendation, that Naloxone should be issued to non- medical professionals likely to witness opioid overdose. He commended Police Scotland on the achievement of trialling, evaluating, and then being the first UK police service to roll this out and include Naloxone as part of officer equipment.

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- Members sought further comment on the Public Protection Development Programme and heard that two Deputy Chief Constables had been asked to lead the work, as the programme focusses on long term intervention and covers all areas of policing. DCC Malcolm Graham (DCCGraham) informed Members that since the inception of Police Scotland, there has been a clear commitment to gradual development in this area of work. The range of demand including demand in the online world has changed dramatically, so the Service has adapted and grown to respond, but until now without a systematic review, which will establish what is now required. Some capabilities require to be developed at local and national level and the interface between both needs to develop. Funding from Reform allocation will be used to assist the work and a more comprehensive update will be provided later in the year.
- Members noted a small number of officers involved in the naloxone trial were reluctant to carry it due to perceived legal risks and sought further comment. CCLivingstone acknowledged concerns from some officers, and that he had initially shared some of those, but assured Members that concerns had reduced as the test of change progressed and officer feedback will continue to be monitored and that that the national rollout would be monitored closely, working with the Scottish Police Federation. Members agreed the implementation of the roll out would be discussed by the Policing Performance Committee and, from a wellbeing perspective, the People Committee.
- Members sought further comment on collaborative work on mental health with Public Health Scotland, specifically user feedback. DCC Will Kerr (DCCKerr) summarised the work of the mental health pathway since its establishment and confirmed an evaluation of the work so far is complete. Members also heard that five mental health practitioners, one per team, were due to go live at C3 Govan in mid to late March. The Chair stated evidence and evaluation is key and requested the evaluation be considered and discussed at an appropriate Committee in the future.
- Members questioned whether there was any change in trends of cannabis use and seizures since the start of the pandemic. Both CCLivingstone and DCCGraham confirmed that they were not aware of any evidence to suggest any significant change or trend in relation to the use of cannabis.

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- Members sought further comment on the Justice Vision launch and any potential implications for Police Scotland. CCLivingstone stated a number of implications will be reflected on as part of the strategic review and development of the Annual Police Plan. DCCKerr, who represents Police Scotland on the Justice Board alongside Scottish Government and key partners, responded that the work of the Justice Board is focused on two key areas - that the Justice System has a person centred approach and that there is a focus on prevention and early intervention. Specifically as to the implications for Police Scotland, DCCKerr stated that there is an initial 12 month delivery plan that accompanies the Justice Strategy that includes some limited funding for the police. It focuses on Police Scotland in the areas of virtual courts and virtual custodies which are of extreme importance in terms of demand modelling and demand management and digital witness evidence and the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) project which is maturing at present.
- Members sought comment on international engagement with countries which don't have the same rights based approach as Police Scotland. CCLivingstone assured Members that human rights is at the heart of all assessments and sufficient checks and balances are in place regarding all decisions. He referenced the role of the SPA and the International Development Board in this regard. DCCKerr added that any potential conflicts between Police Scotland's rights based approach, its role in international development and managing any associated risk, is effectively managed through strong corporate responsibility and governance. Members requested a briefing on the number of officers deployed internationally and the purpose of deployment.
- With regard to the invasion of Ukraine, Members heard Police Scotland are monitoring the situation at local and national level, and support is being provided to all affected communities in Scotland.
- With regard to serious and organised crime, CCLivingstone commented that the serious and organised crime strategy and taskforce oversees all elements of combating serious and organised crime. The Scottish Crime Campus at Gartcosh is a significant operating mechanism with 20 separate organisations working there. Those organisations all have UK and international reach which allows shared tasking and understanding. CCLivingstone commented that the creation of Police Scotland has been a good

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enabler for clear consistency and understanding. The Chair suggested consideration be given to providing more visibility of the approach to tackling serious and organised crime to Members and the public in the future.

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the paper.
- **AGREE** the following actions:

Arrangements to be made for evaluation to be discussed at a Committee.
230222-SPABM-001

Briefing to be provided to Members on any change in trends of cannabis use and seizures since the start of the pandemic.
230222-SPABM-002

Briefing to be provided to Members on number of officers deployed internationally and the purpose of deployment.
230222-SPABM-003

6. SPA CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Members considered the report which detailed activities involving SPA corporate staff since the previous Authority Meeting. Barry Sillers (BSillers) highlighted a number of key points as detailed in the paper.

In discussion the following matters were raised:

- In terms of looking at use of technology, Members asked if it was fair to assume from the results that the public supported technology when used for others but not for themselves. BSillers responded that a conclusion should not be drawn from one report. He highlighted the SPA approach was to take assurance from a number of polls and discussions, and to map and understand different opinions. The results documented within the CEO Report is part of a broader piece of work, titled Understanding Scotland, which the SPA is engaged in. The Chair added that conclusions from various discussions show that people are broadly in favour of using technology for enforcement but against it for surveillance.
- JRyder commented on the development of the internal SPA governance framework, noting it has been an effective process.

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the report

7. FORENSIC SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Members considered the report which detailed activities involving Forensic Services. Fiona Douglas (FDouglas) highlighted a number of key points as detailed in the paper.

In discussion the following matters were raised:

- The Chair requested FDouglas report to the Authority on a quarterly basis.
- Members sought further comment on capacity concerns regarding drug driving. FDouglas advised that Forensic Services are working with Police Scotland and COPFS to develop a model which takes into account current legislation but also looks at forecasting future demand. FDouglas stated that since the legislation was introduced it has been apparent that demand throughout the UK was underestimated. Options for a sustainable model are being considered with funding discussions underway with Scottish Government.
- Members sought clarity on what public benefits are being sought from the new operating model. FDouglas commented that the fundamental benefit being sought is transforming how Forensic Services support high volume crime such as housebreaking and car theft. The new operating model will allow Forensic Services to provide a better response to the public in areas which impact them the most and allow a transformed forensic support to local policing. In addition, the new model will build on the serious and organised crime support that is provided to justice partners. FDouglas confirmed that staff have provided ideas on how to change culture and to support health, safety and wellbeing.
- Members sought assurance that flexibility will be built into the new operating model to respond to any future demand issues. FDouglas responded that short term solutions have been identified to deal with existing caseload but the key tenet of the new operating model is increased flexibility and responsiveness to flex capability across traditional forensic disciplines. The Chair welcomed the close working relationship between Forensic Services, Police Scotland and COPFS, and welcomed the acknowledgement that some areas are under capacity but there are plans in place to address this.
- Forensic Services Committee Chair, Tom Halpin, also welcomed the focus on high volume crime and highlighted the draft MOU between

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Forensic Services, Police Scotland and COPFS was at an advanced stage.

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the report

8. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

Members considered the report which sought approval for the Internal Audit Plan. BSillers highlighted a number of key points as detailed in the paper.

Audit, Risk and Assurance Chair, JRyder, reinforced the scope of audits proposed and highlighted the planning discussions which had taken place with Internal Audit and HMICS. Members were also informed that the timing of some audits aided the work of external auditors.

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **APPROVE** the Internal Audit Plan

9. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORT

Members considered the report which provided an update on the financial position of the SPA and Police Scotland for quarter three (nine months ending 31 December 2021) of the financial year 2021/22, as well as forecasting the full outturn to 31 March 2022. James Gray (JGray) summarised a number of key points as detailed in the paper, and confirmed the projected overspend was a timing issue and it is expected the financial year will end in a balanced position.

In discussion the following matters were raised:

- The Chair commended the establishment of the budget oversight group which had allowed appropriate discussion on complex matters.
- Members agreed the paper was well presented and easy to follow for non-accountants.
- With regards to monitoring capital spend, Members heard the day to day monitoring had been effective and orders had been placed earlier to ensure delivery dates before year end. Construction areas would still be a challenge for future years.

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- Members were advised that staff and officers not taking leave has had to be accounted for, however it was not a cash cost. Deputy Chief Officer David Page assured Members that staff and officers were encouraged to use their leave allocation.
- JGray provided assurance that effective spend is the full budget and no overspend was forecast.

The Authority **RESOLVED** to:

- **NOTE** the report

END.

APPROVED