

Meeting 12th June 2020 12:00 – 14:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPES

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Maria Galli, CYPES

Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission

Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland - from 12:30

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Alistair Pringle, Equality and Human Rights Commission

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Fiona Miller, SPA Community Accountability

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

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1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Chair's Update from discussions at Justice Sub –Committee on Policing

The Chair provided members with an overview of his evidence and matters raised during his attendance at the above on Tuesday 9th June. He also advised members that he had taken the opportunity to raise and share the group's concerns about the speed with which the introduction of the most recent Public Health legislation on quarantining had been introduced, as well as the late publication of the regulations (less than 24 hours before they came into force). Correspondence received from the Chair of the sub-committee requested further information from the IAG, particularly in relation to data and evidence, this will be provided after the IAG has reported to the SPA.

3. Note of previous meeting and matters arising

- 1) No actions arising from the previous meeting.
- 2) The meeting with the Chair, David Crichton Interim Chair of SPA and board member Martin Evans has still to be scheduled.
- 3) The Chair advised members that he had spoken with Marty Chamberlain of Teesside University who was undertaking work on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioners office in Cleveland. Although the focus of this work to date seems largely to relate to rural crime, it may be useful to have further contact at a later date. The Chair has also spoken with Karl Roberts, a policing consultant with the World Health Organisation and Inga Heyman who has a mental health nursing background, she is presently organising a conference to be held in the UK in February 2021, which will consider looking at the processes and effectiveness of the work of the IAG depending on where we are at that time.

4. The impact of emergency police powers on the human rights of children and young people in Scotland during the Covid-19 pandemic. Report by Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland.

Today's meeting provided an opportunity for any further discussion on the above paper presented last week. Maria advised that no comments had been received other than praise for the report itself. However, further questions or comments would always be welcome as the situation evolves with new issues, regulations and concerns being brought to the attention of the Commissioners office.

Maria also advised that the Children's Rights Impact Assessment work with the Observatory would be published by the end of the month/first week in July with the report from Claire Lightowler of CYCJ being published at a later date. She confirmed that she would be pleased for her own report to be included in the group's submission to the Justice Sub Committee.

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Additional to this work the CYPCS young advisors have worked with Police Scotland on a number of issues and have been pleased to be involved in influencing Police Scotland going forward.

Maria advised that she had publicised the portal amongst her network of youth groups including those who work with the most marginalised young people.

Professor McVie noted that the group had included in the data request to Police Scotland information on detentions and FPN's which were likely to be reported through the OpTICAL group. Members had a brief discussion on progress of the raising of the age of criminal responsibility within Scotland. The Chair on behalf of the IAG thanked Maria and Bruce for the report which has provided a foundation for progressing further work with young people. The Chair acknowledged that young people were likely to continue to be adversely affected by the Covid19 crisis.

5. Data and evidence

1) Briefing from HMICS on Police Officer Interviews

Gill Imery provided a summary of the report, which had been circulated to members earlier today. This was a first draft of the findings from the fifty four interviews carried out during the period 1 – 5 June. Officers and staff who took part were from remote to city based locations and from various grades. Key findings have been identified with the appendices providing further detail. Members agreed to continue this agenda item and have a more detailed discussion at the next group's meeting on Monday 15 June. Professor McVie recommended sharing the report with Dr Liz Aston who was attending the IAG on Monday which was agreed.

Action:

Gill Imery HMICS agreed to forward the report to Dr Liz Aston

2) Citizen Space/Portal

Jennifer Blackwood provided an update on responses through the portal but highlighted that, with such small numbers of submissions, percentages could change significantly week to week but with no major significance.

	Today	Last week
Responses	35	22
% police contact	25.71%	23.53%
% opinion unchanged	71.43%	58.82%
% opinion worse	14.29%	29.41%
% opinion better	8.57%	11.76%
Age Group (most responses_	45-54	35-44

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Male/Female	48.57%/42.86%	41%/47%
BAME	6	1
Happy to be contacted	31.43%	35.29%
Happy response to be public	74.29%	82.35%

Professor McVie advised that the responses so far were mixed with positive and less positive experiences evenly balanced and not particularly biased either way. The IAG recognised that it needs to address the lack of input from young people or those from a protected characteristic. Members were asked to try to encourage additional responses, particularly from those areas.

From responses received, it is clear that there is a split between respondents who think Police Scotland have been doing a good job and those that think there should be more enforcement. There is a theme that comments relate to long-standing disputes for example neighbours or local anti-social behaviour that were not COVID-19 specific, i.e. reports to the police that would have been made anyway.

The report format from Citizenspace was discussed and it was highlighted that a more user-friendly format for reporting was needed both for the Group to draw out meaningful analysis such as the age/gender impact on positive/negative data and for presenting to the SPA board.

The Chair will ask Tressa Burke /Aamer Anwar to tweet the Portal to encourage responses.

3) OpTICAL Group Update

Professor McVie reported on the various ways in which the SPA and Police Scotland is attempting to gather data effectively. This includes: the SPA Public Opinion survey, with approximately 3,000 responses, which will run for a third time in the near future; the Police Scotland COVID19 data base which will collect a range of information; and the Your Police Survey totalling almost 20,000 responses. Socio- demographic information is required to be gathered manually due to incompatible IT systems therefore will take longer to be made available to the group.

Given the volume of data, it was suggested that a smaller working group could be drawn from the membership of the IAG to analyse the information available, members may wish to be involved for specific topics if the data directly relates to their specific area of interest.

4) SPA Board Reporting Schedule

John McCroskie confirmed that the next SPA board meeting was scheduled for 30 June. The IAG report will require to be available for circulation to

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board members one week before the meeting Papers are published on the SPA website three days prior to the meeting. It was therefore agreed that the data presented at the OpTICAL group next Wednesday will, along with other available data, be presented to the IAG group on Friday 19 June, and will form the basis of the report to the SPA. The Chair asked that an invitation to attend the board meeting be extended to Professor McVie to assist with the discussion of the data being presented at the meeting.

6, AOCB

- 1) Professor McVie advised that she and ACC Ritchie had met regarding whether it would be useful to have input to the group from other police forces. It was felt that, at this stage, given the focus of Scotland's IAG it wasn't something that would be beneficial but could be reviewed as time progresses.
- 2) The Chair asked members to consider the frequency and duration of the group's future meetings as the easing of the lockdown moves closer to implementation of phase 2. Future options will be discussed at the meeting on Friday 19th June.

Date and time of next meeting

Monday 15 June 15:00 – 17:00

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