

NOTE: Update will be reflected in the papers to the next public session of the Scottish Police Authority on 20 May 2020.

SPA Board Update – COVID 19 – 7th May 2020, 10 am (by video conference)

Attendees: Members

David Crichton (DC)
Matt Smith (MS)
Martyn Evans (ME)
Tom Halpin (TH)
Michelle Miller (MM)
Elaine Wilkinson (EW)
Mary Pitcaithly (MP)
Bob Hayes (BH)
Caroline Stuart (CS)
Grant Macrae (GM)
Jane Ryder (JR)

Attendees: Officers

Barry Sillers (BS)
John McCroskie (JM)
Catherine McIntyre (CM)
Lynne Clark (LC)
Vanessa Ewing (VE)

Apologies:

Lynn Brown (LB)

Introduction

DC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the topics for discussion at today's update.

Police Scotland Weekly Summary Report

DC introduced the first of the weekly reports from Police Scotland and asked that Members provide feedback on the content and style of this reporting.

The Members asked about the possibility of receiving these reports at an earlier point in the week to allow time to review prior to the weekly meeting.

There were some points on the content where Members asked for further clarification and further information to be provided:

- Service demand
- Health & Safety information
- Incidents of domestic abuse, hate crime and child protection – Members feel some disparity around what the figures are telling and what is being reported elsewhere. Also these areas might benefit from a wider perspective

DC suggested that this third point could benefit from the Performance Committee Members considering an approach on how best to capture the wider public voice

ACTION: The Performance Committee Members, at the regular 2-weekly meeting, will consider how best to capture wider public voice on how incidents of domestic abuse, hate crime and child protection are being impacted by COVID 19. COSLA will be included in these discussions to provide a local perspective and Members will bring a suggested approach to the next SPA Board.

OFFICIAL

Director of Forensic Services Update

At present Forensic Services (FS) are holding 3 gold and silver command meetings per week, this will be reviewed as they enter into preparations for managing phase 2 of the strategy.

TN assured Members around the stocking, management and issue of PPE for staff. FS are working with PS and have now received stocks of the type 2 surgical masks. Any issues previously reported on the fit testing of PPE have now been resolved.

Testing for COVID 19 is progressing for FS staff through the PS process and this has impacted on the number of people returning to work. There were no positive tests.

Engagement with COPFS has been positive and plans are being discussed around how to change working arrangements going forward.

Particular areas of change to working practices include;

- Transfer of images between FS and COPFS
- Processing of fingerprints
- Electronic signatures

Phase 2 plans are progressing with the FS SMT discussing how best to ensure physical distancing at the FS sites. Particular challenges identified with Gartcosh as a multi-agency site and Dundee as a Police building are being worked through.

ME noted that areas of innovation are being collated in PS through ACC Hawkins and suggested there may be scope to work together in an integrated way.

DC suggested that LB may be able to provide some useful input on this point.

SPA Board Public Survey

BS talked the Members through the principles behind the SPA commissioned survey and the useful comparators with the Scottish Crime and Justice and the Yougov surveys.

The Members discussed the initial statistics and noted to date the positive public opinion. The Members discussed the proposed approach to publishing the survey information and supported the approach outlined within the covering paper. It was also noted that SPA should be ready to respond to the differing conclusions that will be drawn from the statistics once published.

Members also discussed the next wave of survey and how it could be targeted at specific sectors of the community.

DC summed up the discussion and agreed to a risk based approach to publication of data. BS suggested exploring whether there was any added value in commissioning some academic analysis on the data at a high level. This was agreed.

ACTION: BS to engage with the survey consultant to determine whether there is value in commissioning further work on the analysis of the first wave of the survey data, keeping this at a high level.

Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

ME, who represents the Board on the IAG, provided Members with a brief update and noted that a written report will be presented to the SPA Board on 20 May by John Scott QC who chairs this group.

VE also informed the Members of the ongoing work to establish an SPA public portal to be used as a citizen space to improve consultations. While this is being procured SPA has an option to utilise the PS portal for any immediate requirements.

Closing Remarks

DC closed the update meeting noting that the information to be published on the SPA website will include the note of this meeting, the PS 2-Weekly Report and the results of the survey

NOTE: Update will be reflected in the papers to the next public session of the Scottish Police Authority on 20 May 2020.