

Meeting 23 July 2021 13:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)
Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland
John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS
Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International
Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner
Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland
Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

Also in Attendance:

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA
Deborah Christie, SPA
Eleanor Gaw, SPA

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

The group noted the minute of the meeting held on the 16th July 2021.

3. CYPCS Briefing Note 2. The impact of emergency police powers on the human rights of children and young people in Scotland during the Covid-19 pandemic. Maria Galli, CYPCS

The group considered a high level verbal summary of the report which had been circulated that morning. Maria Galli explained that the report had focused on 5 areas of policy or law which may be of relevance to the scope and remit of the IAG's scrutiny. This comprises a focus on children and young people who are already in conflict with the law or deprived of their liberty; those who are living in poverty; children and young people who are care experienced, vulnerable or at risk of abuse or exploitation; those who have mental health needs or other disabilities; and children and young people who are exercising their rights of association and peaceful assembly.

The group heard a summary of the work done in respect of assessing the impacts on young people in terms of deprivation of liberty during the pandemic. It was also recognised that some areas of good practice were seen that could be employed more widely to improve approaches when dealing with young people.

John Scott thanked Maria for the report, which he noted covered a lot of ground including some beyond the specific interest and Terms of Reference of the IAG, and which will require wider consideration beyond the work of the Group to address, including work after the IAG ends its review. Members discussed the implications for young people and equalities, and the wide range of people impacted. It was agreed that the group would consider the report further at the meeting on 30 July, and Maria offered to discuss the findings in more detail with individual group members if required, ahead of next week's meeting.

4. SCTS FPN Draft Report July 2021 - Susan McVie

Susan McVie explained that this report should be considered alongside other work already shared with IAG members, which look at FPNs paid after a longer passage of time. The group noted this was the first piece of work to analyse police data and SCTS data together which provided some valuable insights.

The low levels of rescinded tickets in Scotland was noted and it was confirmed that this was significantly lower than levels across other UK police forces. The Group discussed that, due to a number of factors, including the process involved in challenging a FPN and the sometimes chaotic lifestyles involved on the part of those who receive FPNs, it may not be appropriate to consider payment as a universal proxy for perceived legitimacy, and that this could perhaps be referenced in the report to provide a fuller context.

The group was provided with a summary of the key highlights as included in the submitted report which covered areas including analysis of outcomes of FPNs by sex, age, ethnicity, country of origin, criminal history and deprivation.

5. Weekly data report and update from OpTICAL discussions

The group heard that a lengthy but worthwhile meeting of the OpTICAL group had taken place that morning at which the latest FPN report by Professor McVie

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was extensively discussed. The report will be considered at the IAG in due course, once it has been further refined.

It was noted the latest data was available on Egress. The number of interventions remain low as expected, and the impact of staff absence due to self-isolation was noted.

6. Impact of changing regulations and easing of lockdown

John Scott updated the group on some issues being faced in England with regard to unclear communications on guidance and regulations around self-isolation, and noted that the next steps for Scotland were expected to be clarified in the coming weeks.

5. AOCB

John Scott indicated that the report to the SPA in August is likely to be substantial. Further discussions will take place with the SPA Chair and Police Scotland, to agree how the IAG should continue in the coming weeks and months, and the ways in which oversight of the ongoing policing of Covid regulations should be mainstreamed into the work of the SPA.

Date of next meeting

Friday 30 June 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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