

Meeting 24th July 2020 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Superintendent Tim Ross, Police Scotland

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Professor ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, SPA Community Accountability (for agenda items 1&2 only)

Fiona Miller, SPA Community Accountability

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1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and introduced Dr Liz Aston, Director of Scottish Institute of Policing Research, joining the meeting for agenda item 2.

2. Joint meeting with the SPA on the work of the Independent Advisory Group on 30 July 2020

The Chair informed members that he had a meeting earlier this week with Dr Aston and SPA secretariat to further develop the programme for the event, and a range of options had been considered and shared with members. Dr Aston asked members what they felt needed further discussion as the primary aim of the event was to consider the issues raised by the IAG report presented to the SPA board on the 30th June in more depth. Members agreed the following draft programme -

- Introduction by Dr Aston
- IAG members' introduction
- IAG Chair – setting the scene
- Identify key points and areas for further discussion
- Presentations from IAG members
- Questions from the public/stakeholders

Members agreed the need to include an opportunity to discuss lessons learned as particularly important in relation to the possibility of a second wave of Covid-19, and potential for lockdown restrictions (general or localised) to be reintroduced.

Maria Galli and Catriona Stewart offered to prepare short inputs that could be included in the programme. Likewise, Ephraim will do a short input on inequalities and the role of NISAG.

It was agreed a rapid introduction to IAG members at the start of the meeting would be beneficial, contribute to framing and setting the scene, and would highlight individual members' backgrounds and the experience that they brought to the group. The Chair also agreed that he would provide a general overview at the beginning of the event.

Dr Aston left the meeting at this point.

Action: Eleanor will update the draft event outline to share with the group

3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

Future meeting contributors agreed:

Friday 31st July - Martin Smith, SPA Strategy Programme Lead –
Overview of SPA Public Opinion Survey results during COVID-19

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Friday 7th August - Kirsty Louise Campbell, Strategy & Insight, Police Scotland, including overview of Your Police survey 2020/21

The Chair advised that he has emailed a contact in Melbourne Australia and will also pursue a contact in Leicester, to make contact on the experience of policing local lockdowns.

It was noted several members had tweeted/retweeted information about next week's event, to assist in promoting participation and raise awareness.

4. Independent Children's Rights Impact Assessment – introduced by Maria Galli, CYPSC

Bruce Adamson spoke to Appendix 9 of the information which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting as this was most relevant to the discussion. He advised members that the CYCJ had completed the work in a short time. He highlighted how significant gaps in core areas such as poverty and mental health data were identified. A major concern was the lack of involvement of children and young people and the failure of decision makers to take into account the significant impact on children and young people of Covid 19.

Maria raised the issue of conflicting messages to young people, sometimes they were treated as an adult, and at other times as a child. Initially many of the services that support children and young people were unable to continue in their usual format however, as time has progressed, many of them, including third sector organisations, have adapted and adopted creative ways in which to deliver services.

Members also discussed a range of issues. These included impacts on the Justice System, which is beginning to emerge from lockdown with a backlog of cases, many of which rely on other services also being available, for example, access to diversion programmes, to proceed. The unequal treatment of children and young people during this period was concerning, as they had also faced immense challenges ranging from no schooling, to a lack of contact with older relatives and little access to peer support.

Dr Kelly raised the potential of future 'spikes' resulting in localised lockdown measures, and asked what could be shared between local authorities and the voluntary sector to improve the situation for children and young people if this happened in their area.

Brian Scott highlighted how disabled young people who were already disadvantaged have faced additional inequality, particularly those who were in the process of transitioning from youth to adult services, where contact has been lost and will require to be re-established.

5. Data and evidence

OpTICAL Group

The Chair advised that the group were meeting next Tuesday 28th July and will consider outstanding data requests

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Citizen Space Update

No submissions have been received over the course of the last week. Susan Kemp raised the issue of anecdotal accounts of clients' experiences of interaction with police in relation to COVID-19, in particularly from defence and criminal lawyers. After discussions members agreed that it would be useful to promote the portal to the legal community. The Chair agreed to raise awareness of the portal with both the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bar Associations.

6. AOCB

Members were asked to forward a telephone number to the SPA secretariat, so that they can be contacted in case of any difficulties with MS Teams during the event on Thursday 30th July.

Dr Kelly commented on the increased traffic and movement of people, particularly in rural and tourist areas, and asked if this was causing any particular issues for Police Scotland. Superintendent Ross noted that the areas highlighted were generally busy during this period, however, this year, following the easing of the lockdown restrictions and the recent good weather, more people are taking advantage of travelling within Scotland. Police Scotland officers continue to work with local partners and manage any difficulties (for example, access to parking) as part of their normal policing duties

Superintendent Ross advised the group that he had received confirmation that a FPN for refusing to wear a face covering in a shop had been issued the previous day, in Lothian and Borders division. All efforts had been made by the attending officers to follow the 4 E's approach, however the individual concerned did not wish to comply and the FPN was issued.

7. Date of next meeting

Friday 31st July 13:00

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