

Meeting 5 February 2021 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)

Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Barry Sillars, Deputy Chief Executive (Strategy and Performance) SPA

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Attending for item 2 Dr Liz Aston, Napier University & Director of SIPR

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

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1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Dr Aston as guest contributor to today's meeting.

2. OpTICAL self-assessment and lessons learnt.

Dr Liz Aston, Director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and Associate Professor of Criminology Napier University.

Dr Aston thanked members for the invitation to return to the group and speak about the recent OpTICAL self-reflection exercise. The paper detailing the group's reflection had previously been circulated to IAG members.

The OpTICAL exercise had two purposes - to reflect on the value of the group and what it had achieved, and how it could increase its ability to achieve its aims. Dr Aston suggested that the IAG may wish to consider the following:

- Understanding the value of the individual member's engagement for the organisation he or she represents, as it had been an extensive time commitment
- Any improvements which could enhance the group's effectiveness or which could be made if a similar group was required in the future
- What has worked well or not so well for the group
- Understanding how the IAG contributed to the overall accountability of policing

The group discussed the merits of the various forms of self-evaluation from light touch to more in depth, including any support from Dr Aston and of the SPA. Members agreed that it was important to ensure that the human rights focus of the IAG was highlighted.

Whilst Police Scotland have a standard response to managing critical incidents, the pandemic is unique and members considered that it was crucial that the value and benefit that the IAG has added, bringing in wider views and voices, is acknowledged.

Members also discussed the stakeholder engagement architecture and where the IAG sat within it. There was support for progressing light touch internal evaluation, as well as interest in the potential for a broader scope exercise.

The Chair indicated that any reflections or comments from the group could be included in reports to the SPA over the next few months, and potential lasting value from an assessment of the contribution of the IAG.

Eleanor advised the group that the SPA may be interested in additional evaluative work, and it was agreed that the Chair and the SPA Chair will liaise further on this matter ahead of further discussion by IAG members.

3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising.

- Future Meeting Schedule. The Chair advised that he will be in contact shortly with Adam Wagner and John Wadham, to arrange a date for both to attend a future IAG meeting.

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- PIRC. Members noted that the issue regarding reporting of deaths following contact with Police Scotland from the previous meeting note, was outwith the remit of the IAG.

3. Data Update

Data and OptICAL Update

Professor McVie briefed members on the briefing papers shared via egress, on CVI Locus Data, SCTS data analysis and the weekly update from Police Scotland.

A number of points were discussed by members, including:

- How likely people were to pay Covid fines as opposed to non Covid fines, with little variation noted.
- The location where interventions took place in each of the pandemic waves and the resulting patterns. There was more activity in visitor hotspots and external space during the first wave, and the expected shift to increasing activity in private space during the second phase of restrictions having regard, for example, to the weather.
- The way in which social behaviour is influencing interventions. It was suggested that it may be useful to discuss this further with Steve Reicher.
- Whether it may be beneficial to undertake another exercise on the experience of Police Officers and their use of the 4 E's as the pandemic has progressed. It had been agreed in January that the timing for this work was not right, but in time it may be worth reconsidering.
- It is now much less likely that members of the public are unaware of key Covid restrictions and regulations, which may influence the use of discretion.
- The increase in both house gatherings and forced entries was noted and will continue to be monitored for trends.

The FPN report had been discussed at an OptICAL sub group and will shortly be completed as a final draft. It is intended that this paper be finalised and be included with the Chair's report to the February board meeting.

Members were advised that the Scottish Crime and Justice survey would be published on 26 February. This year it has been completed by telephone rather than 1-1 interviews, and should provide another indicator of public confidence in policing during the pandemic.

Citizen Space

Three additional responses has been received taking the total to one hundred and two.

4. AOCB

The next IAG meeting agenda will include discussions on the February SPA Board report.

Both the Chair and DCC Kerr have been interviewed by Catriona Renton from the BBC Scotland News team, the article is expected to be broadcast on Monday 8 February.

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Maria Galli advised that the CYPCS Children and Young Persons report was in progress and may be available to support the next report to the Board.

6. Date of next meeting

Friday 12 February 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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