

Meeting 15th June 2020 14:00 – 16:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPSC

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

Maria Galli, CYPSC

Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

In attendance for today's meeting

Dr Liz Aston, Director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR)

Steven Whitelock, HMICS (Agenda item 4)

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, Community Accountability

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 who was joining the meeting today.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Justice Sub-Committee on Policing - Tuesday 9th June
The Chair updated members on discussions at the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing, and highlighted the related correspondence circulated to members.
- The Chair reported that the meeting with David Crichton, SPA Interim Chair and Martyn Evans has been rescheduled, and clarified the timelines for the IAG reporting to the board. The Group should be in a position to agree the content on Friday 19th June, for the next IAG report to the SPA board. The report will focus on data and evidence, and outcomes from the HMICS led interviews with officers and staff.
- The Chair thanked Aamer Anwar and Tressa Burke for tweeting about the citizen space portal, and asked that members continue to promote the portal through their own networks.

3. Policing and the Pandemic

Dr Liz Aston, Director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research

Dr Aston provided an overview of a range of research relevant to the work of the IAG. She highlighted her work on Our Blog: The Justice Stories for SCCJR, which offered some early thinking about policing during a pandemic

<https://sccjrblog.wordpress.com/>.

Issues highlighted in the blog and across a range of academic work were discussed, including -

- the impact of the safety of the work force on police interaction with the public
- the impact of organisational justice on managing day to day change, and evidence of the beneficial impact of organisational justice on how police deal with members of the public
- the benefits of an engagement based approach on public confidence
- the strength of police relationships with communities in Scotland
- the need for additional research on the impact of technology in mediating the relationship between police and public
- the need for training to support engagement with diverse groups
- evidence that this training is most effective when it takes place throughout officers' working lives, and engagement is issue based
- the importance of building long term relationships between police and communities, and of understanding how to engage with specific groups, including those where digital contact is not suitable
- the need to demonstrate equity in how policing is delivered, and ensure data is secure and people's privacy protected, to build public confidence.

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Dr Aston concluded that Scotland is generally in a good place when it comes to police officer engagement with community groups. The experience of stop and search for example, of improving governance and building the engagement approach, has strengthened policing's position in ensuring engagement is central to its response to the pandemic. There are new and emerging opportunities to consider increasing the use of the public health approach.

The group discussed a range of related issues. DCC Kerr updated members on the events of the previous weekend. Several protests had taken place across the country which in many areas had been well organised with no significant incidents. There had been more significant public order issues in Glasgow which had been dealt with and further escalation avoided.

The group noted that wider concerns beyond police use of the temporary powers may impact feedback from the public portal or other channels into the group.

Members highlighted their own survey work on the impact of the pandemic, including SWAN Scotland and GDA, and the Chair referenced the insights on the impact of lockdown which had been shared in recent public feedback to the group. Naomi McAuliffe advised that Amnesty International is monitoring the policing of protests, although at this stage this work is mainly focused on England. The diversity of public expectations of policing was highlighted. Professor McVie will share a follow up question for Dr Aston to consider further, on the need to build public confidence through engagement while taking account of the views of a sizeable minority in favour of greater enforcement.

Follow up actions:

Dr Aston will provide details of further research to be undertaken on policing and public protest during the pandemic to DCC Kerr and interested members.

Dr Kelly will make contact with Dr Aston, to discuss the implications of the increasing use of digital channels to access health services and information.

Dr Aston will forward a summary of her input including relevant links, for circulation to members.

4. HMICS - Interview Report

Gill Imery provided an overview of the report. Feedback from the fifty four interviews has generally been positive, both on public willingness and compliance, and that Police Scotland had done the best job it could have done in the circumstances and at pace. Most officers and staff considered that messaging had been clear, particularly the 4E's, although they acknowledged this clarity of messaging may become more difficult as the lockdown eases. Steven Whitelock provided an overview of the methodology. All interviews were completed by telephone. A briefing paper was sent to participants prior to the telephone call explaining the background to the interviews being carried out.

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HMICS consider that overall questions were answered very honestly. A number of issues were raised including concerns about issuing FPNs to vulnerable people, and trying to maintain social distancing when progressing through the 4Es.

Steven Whitelock highlighted a number of examples provided by officers during interviews. Members discussed the benefit of adding brief case studies or extracts to the report to highlight the range of issues and illustrate good practice. HMICS offered to update the report to offer some illustrative examples, while taking account of the need to ensure confidentiality.

The Chair thanked all of the HMICS team involved for their contribution, and for delivering such a high quality piece of work and report, in such a short period of time.

Action: HMICS will add a small number of illustrative examples to the report.

5. Data Update

Susan McVie indicated that the group now has a substantial amount of data some of which can form part of the June report to the SPA.

Professor McVie provided a verbal update on additional Police Scotland complaints information, which will allow for comparison with 2019/2020 data.

A fuller data update will be provided at the IAG meeting 19th June

6. AOCB

- Ephraim Borowski briefed members about an email enquiry relating to risks and mitigation on relaxing lockdown, which he will share with the Chair.
- Martin Hayward asked for an update on the FPN data that had been requested. The Chair indicated that the secure transfer of data is being progressed via the Secretariat.
- The Chair advised members that he had responded to email correspondence from a Glasgow councillor regarding the collection of data on protected characteristics on the citizen space portal.
- Dr Kelly and Professor McVie requested that the group consolidate and capture existing evidence and material from participating speakers and experts, and review progress against the Terms of Reference. The Chair indicated that this substantial piece of work will be considered in more detail, in preparation for the IAG report to the SPA Board in August.
- A draft work plan update will be shared with members as a point of reference for consideration.

Action: Eleanor to draft update

Date and time of next meeting: Friday 19 June 12:00 – 14:00

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