

Meeting 30 October 2020 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Chief Superintendent David Duncan, Police Scotland

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

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Attending for Item 2

Joe Griffin, Director of Safer Communities, Scottish Government

In attendance

Mike Callaghan, COSLA

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

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Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller,

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. "Covid: Safety and Compliance", Joe Griffin, Director of Safer Communities, Scottish Government

The Chair welcomed Joe Griffin from the Scottish Government, who has recently taken on the lead role in compliance, sharing internal information, and further developing the approach to Covid 19.

A presentation had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Joe highlighted a range of issues and challenges which can affect compliance for individuals and businesses. He spoke about the importance of good communication and engagement, with the necessity for information to be available in various formats to reach and be understood by individuals in communities that have differing needs. Additionally the role of partners in influencing behaviours is important, in strengthening the messaging of Government and for other public sector bodies.

The Chair thanked Joe for his presentation, and agreed that in Scotland having the First Minister as the single communicator had proven to be a strength.

The group then discussed a range of issues in relation to compliance including:

- Digital exclusion of various groups, which results in their having no or limited access to information. The need for information to be available in various formats was highlighted.
- Brian Scott explained how the findings of recent GDA surveys have highlighted how individuals can be excluded, and the impact of fewer available volunteers to offer support mechanisms to individuals in communities. Joe will contact Brian directly to discuss the work of the GDA.
- Members noted that there are various mechanisms for public sector services to share information including the local authority Chief Executives group SOLACE and Health Board representatives.
- The role of the media was discussed particularly when representation centred on those who are not complying rather than the vast majority who are.
- Police Scotland will maintain their approach of thoughtful and responsive policing whilst implementing the 4E's approach.

On behalf of the group the Chair thanked Joe Griffin for his input.

Action

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Secretariat to forward GDA contact information to Joe Griffin.

3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

All matters will be covered in the agenda.

4. Data Update

OpTICAL Group

Professor McVie outlined work that she is undertaking on the data on a number of areas of specific interest to the group. It was noted that no individuals who have received a Fixed Penalty Notice have responded on the portal. She also informed the group that she is working with Police Scotland to consider any links with arrest data. Members commented that a number of factors, including digital exclusion and the ability to understand language, may affect an individual's ability to participate in the process.

Citizen Space

Jennifer reported that an additional four entries have been received but this has had little impact on the overall statistics. Only one respondent has provided information through the free form boxes. It was agreed that the end date for the portal would be extended until later in November, and that weekly tweets/retweets should be used to highlight the opportunity for individuals to contribute.

5. Frequency of Future Meetings

The Chair proposed that the group continue to meet weekly up to the end of November. A representative from COSLA is attending next week and the report for the board meeting on 25 November requires preparation and consideration. Thereafter the meeting cycle may reduce in frequency. One suggestion was that after the November board meeting, the group move to a three weekly meeting cycle to coincide with the Scottish Government review dates. Consideration should also be given to potentially holding existing diary slots. It was agreed to at present maintain the weekly cycle for November.

6. AOCB

CYPCS

Maria Galli informed the group of work undertaken with young people in conflict with the law. A report has been produced along with a young person's edition which will be available shortly.

Police Scotland

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New legislation has now been published, the power of entry has been expanded and is not specifically tied to house parties.

Exemption Certificates

Members were informed of the Scottish Government national exemption card. Some concerns were noted that, depending on how it is managed, it could be perceived as discriminatory by some individuals.

Media FOI Requests

It was noted that an article in the press, regarding police attendance at gatherings, had resulted from an FOI request by a media organisation for information proactively published on the Police Scotland website. This highlighted a level of transparency which individuals/organisations may not be generally aware of.

COSLA Community Justice Event

Mike Callaghan advised members of the forthcoming event to be held on Thursday 5 November.

Date and time of next meeting

Friday 6 November 13:00 – 15:00

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