

Meeting 6 November 2020 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Superintendent Ann Bell, Police Scotland

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Attending for Item 2

Cllr Kelly Parry COSLA Community Well Being Spokesperson

Mike Callaghan, COSLA Policy Manager

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

OFFICIAL

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. COSLA: Local Government perspectives on policing and the pandemic. Councillor Kelly Parry, COSLA Community Well Being Spokesperson and Mike Callaghan, COSLA Policy Manager

Councillor Parry thanked the group for the invitation to attend. She advised members that the COSLA Community Wellbeing Board wished to pass on their support and appreciation to Police Scotland, including for their work in recent days during the traditional firework period.

The perspective from COSLA members is that there has been a good, robust policing response, and that Police Scotland's approach has their members' full support. Often a key issue for elected members is the visibility of policing. Local authority funding pressures were highlighted, with the potential to impact on council funded officers, and support for CCTV provision.

Any regional variations in enforcement, or variation in the number of FPNs issued locally, are of particular interest to COSLA members. There is strong awareness of the related challenges for policing, with varying public expectations on enforcement, and the potential for reduced public adherence.

Looking ahead to 2021, major planned events were highlighted, including COP26 and the UEFA Football tournament. The COSLA CEO and senior representatives from Police Scotland will be meeting in the near future on related planning, including arrangements to safely accommodate any upswing in public protests

Members discussed a range of issues in relation to the pandemic including -

- The new powers for local authorities set out in the most recent set of regulations, including the power of entry, and whether the 4 E's approach might be adopted.
- The importance of strong local leadership, partnership work, and effective communication, in supporting public confidence.
- The potential difficulties of imposing localised travel restrictions, for example to protect communities in low risk areas, where there may be very different local priorities or economic concerns. Where travel bans have been attempted, in Melbourne for example, the Chair highlighted that the resulting travel chaos had reduced public confidence.
- How partners might support policing in the public health space, where an initial sense of common purpose from the first lockdown may have diminished.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- Support for students and safely managing any risk of spreading the virus, as we approach the end of the current academic term.
- Increased reports of anti-social behaviour and any potential increase in hate crime. Cllr Parry confirmed that local police, elected members and local authority officers continue to work together to address these and other community safety issues. Local authority scrutiny meetings continue to take place across Scotland via video conferencing, to ensure oversight of issues and how they are addressed.
- Members acknowledged the resilience of local authorities, their infrastructure, and their key workers in delivering the services which support public safety and the efforts of Police Scotland.
- The new regulations have specific rules on gatherings and public processions, with local authorities actively involved in the licensing arrangements. Local authorities and Police Scotland have come to an agreement on the use of TTROs, informed by the work of Dr Michael Rosie on marches and parades.
- The Chair indicated that the issues around marches and parades and the pandemic, will be referenced in the IAG's final report.

The Chair thanked Councillor Parry and Mike Callaghan for their input on behalf of the group.

3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

All matters will be covered in the agenda.

4. Data update including

OpTICAL Update:

Professor McVie provided a comprehensive overview of the most recent meeting and progress on the statistical analysis, ahead of a further data report to IAG members.

There are some indications that, although overall numbers are small, there may be some statistically significant differences in the impact on particular groups. Further work will be undertaken to understand any variance, and to ensure findings are independently checked and contextualised.

Members discussed the importance of including examples of lived experience and overall context in reporting, and that the Poverty Alliance and Joseph Rowntree Foundation may be useful contacts for additional information.

It was agreed that the analysis with supporting context would now be reported in January 2021.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

It was agreed that the group would have a further discussion with HMICS on the potential for further interviews with officers and staff.

Actions:

- Professor McVie will provide follow up data report for a future IAG meeting.
- Professor McVie and Superintendent Bell will liaise on relevant community contacts.
- All members are asked to consider key contacts, which may enable the IAG to engage with those most impacted.
- The group will discuss the potential for additional officer and staff interviews with HMICS.

Citizen Space:

Despite using social media to highlight the portal during the week, there have been no new responses. The portal is now open until the end of November.

5. SPA Board Meeting 25 November

It is now proposed to offer a short covering letter or report from the Chair and updated work plan, for the SPA board in November, and provide a more detailed IAG report to the SPA early in 2021. The work plan will assist in providing a summary of what work has been undertaken and the group's plans for the future. A final decision on this will be made shortly.

6. A O C B

The most recent weekly data reports on House Gatherings and Quarantine Information is available on Egress for members to view.

Date of the Next Meeting Friday 13 November 2020, 13:00 – 15:00

OFFICIAL