

**NOTE: Update will be reflected in the papers to the next public session of the Scottish Police Authority on 30 June 2020.**

**SPA Board Update – COVID 19 – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 10 am (by video conference)**

**Attendees: Members**

David Crichton (DC)  
Matt Smith (MS)  
Elaine Wilkinson (EW)  
Bob Hayes (BH)  
Tom Halpin (TH)  
Grant Macrae (GM)  
Caroline Stuart (CS)  
Martyn Evans (ME)  
Michelle Miller (MM)  
Jane Ryder (JR)

**Attendees: Officers**

Tom Nelson (TN)  
Barry Sillers (BS)  
Catherine McIntyre (CM)  
Lynne Clark (LC)  
Lynn Brown (LB)  
John McCroskie (JM)  
Jackie McKelvie (JMCK)  
Eleanor Gaw (EG)

**Apologies:**

Mary Pitcaithly (MP)  
Vanessa Ewing (VE)

**Introduction**

DC welcomed Members and officers to the meeting and summarised the agenda for today.

**Director of Forensic Services Update**

TN updated Members on the continuing good stock management of PPE currently maintaining supplies for 6 months in advance within Forensic Services. At last week's briefing TN had noted that an earlier concern around the supply of gloves had been resolved. However the delivery of gloves did not arrive as expected. FS have put contingency arrangements in place. TN also stated that the DNA mini kits for the robots in some of the FS sites had not arrived as expected.

Staff absence is sitting at 3 staff members with COVID related absence, with 84% availability overall – a slight drop on last week which may be accounted for through annual leave.

Work is continuing with Unison and Unite on the FS health & safety visits at the Forensic Services sites with no issues being reported.

Strong engagement with COPFS, for putting in place short and long term proposals to reduce the workload, is ongoing.

FS have been involved in new working groups with police Scotland looking at introducing new models and smarter working.

During a discussion at the Association of Forensic Services Providers some examples were shared of the varying approaches to being utilised in other countries to ease staff back into work. FS are watching closely the results of these approaches and will use this to determine the best approach for FS.

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DC asked TN about planning for the future and possible bottlenecks in demand. TN noted that there were 2 areas for consideration. COPFs being granted extensions on Standard Forensic Instructions (SFI) work and the timelines around the rapid drug analysis.

### **SPA Chief Executive Update**

LB confirmed for Members that all actions from the Board update meeting had been executed with anything outstanding scheduled for discussion at the SPA Board meeting next week.

LB noted that the PS structure was in place for the recovery planning phase with 4 key groups having been established:

- New Models of Working
- Health & Safety
- Smarter Working
- Trace and Protect

Also noting that FS were involved in these groups and had valuable input to the discussions.

LB also gave assurance to Members of the robust procurement process that was in place around the supply chain and purchase of PPE for policing.

LB also noted that SPA were expecting it to be a minimum of 3 months before returning to the workplace and staff home working was still being encouraged.

ME asked about the Board role in the ongoing discussions about new ways of working.

LB confirmed that there were particular areas of the current governance structure that allowed for Board input and these were:

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee – looking at strategic risk;

Resource Committee – personnel and finance aspects;

Policing Performance Committee – operational policing performance; and

Forensic Service Committee

LB also noted that there was representation from SPA on both the Justice Board and the Justice Board COVID 19 Sub Committee. Fuller information will be coming to the August Board meeting.

Members discussed positioning of the Board as all the wider sources of information were brought together to inform the pace of transformational change and new ways of working against the backdrop of funding constraints and the wider implications of COP 26, Brexit etc.

It was agreed that there would be an opportunity to open up discussion at the Board meeting on 30 June.

### **Weekly Report Summary**

Following discussion at the meeting last week a summary briefing was provided to Members.

JMcK referred to the weekly reports and noted there was now a body of evidence on which to draw out some trends to date.

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A number of good pointers to key issues were noted, and the Members reinforced some of the key areas for future examination, reporting and discussion including fraud, victims of domestic and child abuse and detection rates.

Members also acknowledged that there were differences in looking at the data in the current circumstances and how public opinions may shift focus in the future when things revert to normal especially in areas such as non-contact resolution which is currently welcomed by the public.

DC thanked JMCK for the briefing and asked Members to note the key areas they wanted to introduce for further discussion at the Board meeting on 30 June.

### **SPA and PS Public Confidence Surveys**

BS explained the context for different surveys. The PS survey is through customer experience, people who already have an interest in policing and those who have come into contact with police. The SPA survey takes a wider view and is accessible to everyone in Scotland.

BS noted that the broad messages were the same – confidence in policing has been higher during lockdown and there has been a high level of public compliance during the same period.

Following consistency over the first 2 waves of the survey, wave 3 would aim to have a different focus and a drive to increase the number of people responding including those disproportionately impacted during lockdown; ethnic minorities and people living with disabilities.

Work is ongoing to meet the Board deadline for reporting and aligning with communications.

DC thanked BS and agreed there was a strong message to be given.

### **Independent Advisory Group (IAG)**

EG was invited to give an update.

Without pre-empting the forthcoming report from John Scott QC who chairs the IAG, EG gave some early insight into the work to date within the group and some of the areas that data and information will be drawn from including:

- interviews conducted by HMICS with officers and staff;
- Lessons learned to date that will be valuable if we have to go into lockdown again;
- Early responses received through the Citizen Space Portal;
- Early complaint statistics; and
- Academic reports

The report presented to the SPA Board will also include an introduction from John Scott.

DC thanked EG for the input.

### **Closing Remarks**

DC thanked everyone for their time and input and closed the meeting.

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