

Meeting 1st June 2020 14:00 – 16:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

In attendance for Agenda item 2:

Professor Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician, Scottish Government

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, SPA Community Accountability

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Fiona Miller, SPA Community Accountability

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Professor Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician, Scottish Government, who joined the group for agenda item 2.

2. Data sharing between health and policing under appropriate conditions, to inform operational and policy decisions

Professor Halliday, outlined his present role in the Scottish Government and as head of the COVID-19 Analysis and Modelling team. He detailed how data and data sharing is being used to support decision making, to improve outcomes for individuals and communities.

Recent strengthening of information governance processes has allowed data from a range of public partners to be brought together on an ethical basis, and with new infrastructure ensuring data is securely held. As a consequence, there is an ability to link data across several systems without compromising data security.

In relation to COVID-19, data is being used to bring together a range of areas of interest; for example, information on those at the highest risk and information on how COVID-19 is spreading, to support consideration of potential resource implications for services and how to target and prioritise response.

Research Data Scotland offers a single point of access for researchers to suite of key public sector data which is securely held, to maximise the value the data can provide in informing service design and policy making.

The ambition is to bring all relevant data together to better understand both the local and national picture and potentially identify Covid-19 clusters where additional service support may be required. It was agreed that it would be useful to include Police Scotland data in the process, and test further what it could contribute to understanding of the local and national picture relating to Covid-19.

There may also be scope for the shared data approach to support policing activity, for example allowing the service to prioritise activity in areas with higher infection rates.

The group is particularly interested in

- How the available data can provide operational insight to target policing activity
- Any patterns emerging on particular groups or individuals most likely to be subject to enforcement activity
- Geographic data

It was noted that Scotland-specific modelling using existing data is possible, for example using data on number of calls to 111; NHS 24; travel data and test outcomes. In addition, work to support COVID-19 Analysis and Modelling is

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looking at international models on the potential effects of different approaches to easing lockdown.

Members asked about evidence of the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities in Scotland. The number of people in hospital in Scotland with Covid-19 from BAME communities has not been high, and there is not a substantial amount of Scottish data to draw on.

It was noted that the response to Covid-19 has highlighted some gaps in data sets, and in some sectors gathering data is at an early stage. This has sometimes made it difficult to fully understand the impact of Covid-19 on particular groups.

Professor Halliday offered to share information with the group on related live research in the field. He is also taking forward discussions with Police Scotland on including their data in the wider Research Data Scotland programme, and will ensure Police Scotland has appropriate access to geographically based data.

The Chair thanked Professor Halliday for joining the group and providing an insight into how data is being utilised to understand the impact of Covid-19 and inform the response. Professor Halliday indicated he would be happy to stay in touch with the group as work progresses.

Actions:

Professor Halliday will share additional information on related research with group members (Secretariat to make contact)

Professor Halliday and ACC Ritchie, Police Scotland will continue discussions on scope for greater data sharing.

3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

- It was confirmed that Human Rights Guide to Examining the New Police Powers prepared by SHRC, and the paper on Human Rights Implications for Children and Young People by CYPSCS, will remain as separate documents, to allow for specific focus on the issues relating to children and young people.
- Citizen Space Portal
The portal is now live and available for public feedback. The link has been shared with members. The Chair asked members to promote the portal via their own networks and using social media, and highlighted the promotional letter templates already circulated and available for use.
Action: All members to promote
- Data & Evidence
Professor McVie informed the group that the Police Scotland pilot for the officer's questionnaire had commenced today. She will receive initial feedback on how the process is working from Brian McNulty, who is leading the work on behalf of HMICS. The group recorded their thanks to Professor McVie and HMICS for leading delivery of this work, and to Police Scotland for supporting the process.

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4. Easing lockdown restrictions and the implications for policing

Members discussed the recent easing of the lockdown restrictions and the impact that this had on Police Scotland in relation to the 4 E's approach.

Police Scotland briefed members that over the previous three days many more people have been out and about, with large numbers heading to coastal resorts, particularly in the west. There has been a significant increase in the use of public transport, and, although higher numbers of visitors had been expected, in some cases people have been driving much further than had been anticipated. Police Scotland reported that there had been no significant increase in enforcement, however engagement had increased substantially. Public nuisance calls had also significantly increased in hot spot areas.

It was noted that the principal changes in easing lockdown had been to health guidance, with only minor changes to legislation. However, many people do interpret the guidance as regulations, and expect the guidance to be policed. This puts additional pressure on policing and has the potential to impact on public confidence.

The group also discussed pending public health measures around test, track and trace, how this may impact individuals and the potential impact on public attitudes. So far, the expectation has been that this would be supported and delivered locally via local infrastructure.

Actions

It was agreed to invite Paul Quinton, College of Policing, to attend a future meeting to offer perspectives on policing the pandemic in England and Wales.

Action: Chair / Secretariat

ACC Gary Ritchie and Professor McVie will consider and suggest who else may be able to offer additional insights and perspectives to inform the work of the group.

Action

ACC Gary Ritchie and Professor McVie to discuss and update the group.

5. AOCB

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

The Chair advised that he would be giving evidence to the Justice Sub Committee on Policing Tuesday 9th June

Scottish Youth Parliament

Bruce Adamson advised that he would engage with the SYP on ensuring young people's perspectives inform the work of the group.

6. Date of next meeting

Friday 5th June 12 noon

Agenda will include a paper from Maria Galli, CYPCS on the associated impacts on children and young people.