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**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**
ÙGH DARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority Research and Evidence Forum

MS Teams Meeting

Tuesday 12th December 11am to 12.30pm

Agenda

1. Welcome

Tom Halpin (Co-Chair, SPA)
DCC Alan Speirs (Co-Chair, Police Scotland)

Amanda Coulthard (SPA), Samuel Curran (SPA), Matthew Kirk (SPA), Rachael Nicolson (SPA), Scott Ross (SPA), Barry Sillers (SPA), Martin Smith (SPA), Fiona Douglas (SPA Forensic Services), Kirsty-Louise Campbell (Police Scotland), Leigh Dodds (Police Scotland), Davina Fereday (Police Scotland), Tom McMahon (Police Scotland), Clare Noblett (Police Scotland), Nerys Thomas (College of Policing), Stuart Lewis (Scottish Government), Amy Wilson (Scottish Government), Dr Liz Aston (SIPR), Professor Susan McVie (University of Edinburgh)

2. Apologies

No apologies noted

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Log

The minutes of previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

The action log was reviewed. It was agreed that Actions 1708-01 and 1708-02 will remain open. Action 2301-01 will close and be subsumed as part of Action 1708-01.

4. Terms of Reference Amendment

A minor amendment to the terms of reference was proposed for approval, making it clear that JREF will consider emerging legislation as a standing agenda item, through ongoing, and written, member updates. The proposal was approved.

5. JREF Workplan Update

An updated workplan was presented, with current priorities relating to horizon scanning, research impact work, and data linkage through the remainder of this financial year. The workplan now includes cyclical agenda items to inform quarterly meetings. The workplan is a live document and will be regularly reviewed to prioritise those areas which JREF feels are most important.

6. Horizon Scanning

Police Scotland and SPA staff presented an update on horizon scanning, reflecting previous agreement that a joint approach and product for use across the wider partnership is required. The update noted a consistent approach and clear alignment, and identification of key trends and implications for policing.

Three key themes are being proposed for detailed horizon scanning: Policing in digital world; Public sector and policy reform; and People and workforce. The approach will look at understanding the impact of public, policing and partner agencies via a layered impact analysis method. Ad hoc deep dive topics were also highlighted, including AI surveillance and predictive policing; and community policing in a digital world. These reflect the modernisation challenges around community policing and public expectations and will help to prepare policing for serving a wider range and complexity of community.

During discussion of the wider partnership focus required when considering impact, it was agreed that COSLA should be invited to join the Forum.

ACTION: SPA Secretariat to identify and invite a COSLA representative to join JREF.

The College of Policing re-iterated the benefit (as per **existing Action 1708-02**) of engaging with the horizon scanning team at the College, and to tap into their horizon scanning network.

ACTION: A joint SPA/Police Scotland horizon scanning report to be brought to the next JREF meeting, incorporating College of Policing input.

ACTION: SPA to coordinate an update paper on current/planned joint work, incorporating all members of JREF

7. Strategic Research Priorities

a. Data Linkage Project

It was noted that between meetings, conversations have taken place with Scottish Government colleagues regarding work on a data linkage project, sponsored by JREF. Professor Susan McVie highlighted that she is working with the EFI prevention hub to establish research strategy and priorities regarding data linkage, and will aim to take a paper to the EFI prevention hub in due course.

DCC Speirs stated that mental health vulnerability work will be supported as it is a priority, but highlighted the challenges of identifying candidates from thousands of vulnerable people, given the volume data involved and the overall demand generated.

Members were supportive of sponsoring the piece of work given its value and priority, and also collateral benefits such as opening up data-sharing protocols. It was agreed that creating a small sub-group of JREF will be beneficial to move the conversation forward, including participation from relevant officer, staff and mental health organisations.

ACTION: SPA to establish a small sub-group of JREF specifically to advance work to tighten the scope and focus of the project and the data required to answer research questions.

b. Engagement on Emerging Legislation

Members were informed that a paper will be presented to the SPA's Resources Committee in December updating on work to understand the financial implications of implementing emerging legislation. The Chair noted that impact of legislation is a standing item for this forum and requested that an update is brought to the next meeting.

ACTION: Police Scotland to bring an update on implications from emerging legislation to the next JREF meeting.

8. SIPC Debrief / Reflections

A general discussion took place on the benefits arising from attendance and participation in last month's annual SIPR conference: Scottish International Policing Conference. The content of the postgraduate symposium was seen as particularly valuable, for understanding pipeline research and its alignment to priority areas.

9. Policing Together / PPCW Overview

A brief update was given to Members, informing them about recent portfolio re-structuring in Police Scotland, namely the merging of the Policing Together and Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing Divisions.

10. Member Updates

a. SPA Corporate

The key point identified is the further development and refinement of the JREF work plan.

b. SIPR

It was highlighted that the main priority over the next year is to ensure continued buy-in from partners, with SIPR looking for support in developing the next SIPR consortium agreement from 2024 onwards and securing adequate funding to support it.

c. College of Policing

It was stated that two sets of guidelines have been published which highlight actions and evidence guidelines. These are available on the College of Policing website. On 13th December the police race action network is commencing research on the disproportionate use of tasers, undertaken by Keele University, Exeter University and UCL. A practice bank has been launched which looks at what works abroad.

ACTION: An update on the CoP Research Strategy to be presented at the next meeting of the Forum

d. Police Scotland

Survey work on public trust and confidence was highlighted, as well as hate crime, and the impact of financial savings and how people are responding to the cost of living crisis. These findings will shape future Police Scotland communications and engagement. Estates transformation engagement will be launched in mid-December for national and local engagement. The SPA's Resources Committee will be receiving updates and scrutinising developments regarding changes to Police Scotland's estate.

e. Scottish Government

It was stated that a paper on the cost of living crisis and its relationship to crime has been produced. This is to be followed up with more focussed paper on violent crime. In response to a request from the Criminal Justice Board, further work looking at what is happening across the criminal justice system and what is impacting different parts of the system is to be undertaken, with the hope to involve the operations and analysis group.

f. SPA Forensic Services

Work is underway with the Fire Service regarding a research training facility on the complexity of electrical fires and the use of virtual reconstruction for training purposes. An EU horizon project was released in November as a bias checking tool to enhance forensic reporting and the impact of bias on forensic strategies. Academic partnerships with forensics partners and the creation of new forensic strategies also highlighted.

11. AOB

The Chair encouraged Members to provide feedback on a regular basis on how relevant and effective JREF is becoming. Feedback can be provided to the SPA Secretariat who will collate and distribute via future meetings.

The Chair also requested that Members to turn their attention to future topics for knowledge exchange events (RoundTables, Conferences, Seminars etc.), which can be collated and proposed as a schedule by SPA Secretariat.

ACTION: All members to consider and nominate topics for future knowledge exchange events and share these with the SPA Secretariat for collation/distribution.

12. Date of the next meeting

The date and time for the next meeting is confirmed as Monday 11th March 4pm to 5.30pm.