

Meeting 18 September 2020 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

CS David Duncan, Police Scotland

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

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

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

Maria Galli, CYPCS

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

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1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Note of previous meeting and matters arising

Matters arising were covered in the main agenda items.

3. Data Update

OpTICAL Group

Following a short meeting on Monday, the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 28 September. This will allow additional time for Professor McVie to undertake further analysis of the data.

Members discussed the new powers, including power of entry which, as of last Monday, has not been used by Police Scotland.

House parties remain an issue for Police Scotland with sixteen Fixed Penalty Notices being issued recently at one gathering. They are generally weekend events with penalties being issued for blatant breaches of the rules taking into account: the attitude of those involved, the numbers involved and the number of repeat offences

The approach by Police Scotland remains the Four E's, encouraging compliance, balanced with the use of officer discretion.

The IAG discussed the issues raised by universities returning and acknowledged the strong line being taken by the universities themselves over student parties.

Concerns were raised over the possibility of police action being needed over the coming weekend with good weather forecast and the possibility of stronger measures being implemented as infection rates rise.

Police Scotland are presently assessing options for triage and call management for the anticipated future volume of 101 calls.

The IAG acknowledged that the adherence to the guidelines, on the whole, remains strong but there was a small but rising number of voices campaigning against the restrictions/wearing of masks/etc.

Professor McVie discussed the extensive work being carried out in analysing data and confirmed that a range of data sources would be reflected in the group's final report due to be presented to the SPA board on the 25th November.

It was reported that the Scottish Government Analytical Services were interested in possibly using policing data to assist with mapping the spread of the disease and identifying health patterns.

Professor McVie will organise a meeting with the appropriate partners to discuss this issue further.

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Members discussed and agreed to invite back previous contributors, Professor Ben Bradford and /or Professor Steven Reicher, as the situation has moved on since their previous attendances.

John McCroskie informed the IAG that the third wave of the SPA survey, undertaken by an external research organisation, would be delivered in the next few weeks, for analysis during October with publication after the SPA board meeting in October.

Action

Professor McVie to organise meeting with partners re data sharing

Professor McVie to contact Professor Reicher and Professor Bradford regarding their availability to attend a future meeting.

Citizen Space

Jennifer Blackwood confirmed that there were now 91 responses through the Citizenspace portal. This had little impact on the existing percentages in different categories, although there were now more responses for men than women. After discussion, it was agreed the free form comments will be shared with the IAG ahead of the next meeting.

Action

SPA Secretariat

4. Scottish Police Authority Board Meeting – 30th September 2020

The Chair reported that he had recently met with David Crichton, Interim Chair of the Board and advised that they had agreed that the next IAG report to the Authority would be a short input with a fuller report, including data, being presented at the November meeting. The Chair reported that he will progress the September report with the key theme of the progression of the pandemic, referencing the local lockdowns, new regulations and the continuing police approach.

5. IAG Webinar 5th October

Invitations to participate in the webinar have been sent to relevant parties. Dr Liz Aston has agreed to chair the event, a pre meeting has been arranged to discuss the content and format on Monday 28th September.

The Chair anticipated that Diego Quiroz will provide an updated draft paper on the Assemblies General Articles 9-11 by 25 September, which will be included in the webinar. Brian Scott confirmed that he and Tressa Burke would present the Glasgow Disability Alliance final report at the event. Susan McVie would also make a further presentation on data.

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6. AOB

The Chair advised that he had been reflecting on the work and meeting schedule of the group, having considered whether meetings should be less frequent. Nonetheless, given recent developments, he proposed that, for now, the weekly Friday meeting be maintained.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support and contributions.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 25 September 13:00 – 15:00