

Meeting 07 May 2021 13:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)
Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland
John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS
Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International
Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh
Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Apologies:

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA
Deborah Christie, SPA

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

The group noted the minute of the meeting held on the 30th April 2021.

Recognising that it was out-with the remit of the group, but in response to a question from the previous week, it was confirmed that Police Scotland had been

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asked by the Lord Advocate to gather information about the circumstances of Covid 19 deaths in care homes and the parameters of that investigation had been set out by the Lord Advocate.

3. Easing of restrictions - issues arising, including travel.

John Scott provided a high level summary of the weekly data updating the group that interventions remained comparably high as in the previous week and there had been high levels of activity inside houses rather than outdoors. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were down and arrests remained very low as did the number of forces entries.

The group welcomed the addition of data relating to quarantining and heard that future reports will provide data broken down by adults and children.

An increase in online reporting was noted.

The group heard that future reports would seek to provide a longer representation in time of where trends were being seen across the reported levels and if any increases or decreases were being seen.

4. Data Update

Update on data analysis/OptICAL Update/Citizen Space

The group considered an update from Susan McVie on a number of pieces of work that she was involved in and which would, in due course, be reported to the IAG.

The group heard that Susan McVie's report using the CVI data had been considered at the OptICAL Group and this report covered a range of matters including; the analysis of trends over time across the different types of interventions, patterns and rates of interventions across the 1st and 2nd waves of the pandemic to show changes and a study of the relationship between patterns of policing and patterns of Covid trends. ACC Ritchie's team have reviewed the report and provided some feedback and comments which have been gratefully received. The report will be considered by the IAG at a later date when it has been finalised.

FPN data and Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) will continue to be analysed by Susan McVie and will be reported to the IAG in due course.

The Police Foundation, which mainly works with police forces in England and Wales, but does cover the entire UK, is doing some work to analyse FPNs and Susan McVie is exploring ways in which a wider range of views can feed into that piece of work.

Attendees heard that the police officer interviews had now been completed and the analysis of the findings was underway. It was heard that officers had taken the opportunity, when taking part in the interview, to raise concern that police officers had not been identified as a priority for receiving vaccines and this would be included in the findings as it was an important wellbeing issue that had been raised by officers.

Thanks were recorded on behalf of the IAG to all those who had been involved in facilitating the interviews and to all participants.

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It was confirmed that there had been no activity via the Citizen Space platform.

5. AOCB

John Scott advised that work was underway to pull together the information that was to be included in the IAG report to the Scottish Police Authority Board Meeting on the 26th May. The group would be in a position to consider the details of what would be included in the Board report at its next meeting on the 14th May. The Chair invited members of the group to consider any specific areas of focus for the report. Attendees noted the intention to provide reports to both the May and June meetings of the Authority.

It was agreed Dr Sarah Charman, from Portsmouth University, would attend on 28th of May to discuss her work with Hampshire police

Date of next meeting

Friday 14 May 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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