

Warwickshire Police Authority – 30 July 2008

Report of the Professional Standards Committee

Summary

This report provides an update for Members on the progress of the Professional Standards Committee following their meetings on the 30th April and the 16th July 2008.

Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Professional Standards Department – Performance Summary April 2007 – March 2008 and April 2008 - June 2008

(1) Annual Figures - 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008

The table below shows the performance levels of the Force with regards to formal complaints made by members of the public for 2007/08. Members will see that the number of allegations locally resolved has fallen from 49% in 2006/07 to 34% in 2007/08. This is disappointing, but the Force is working hard to improve this situation and now have a number of Quality Assurance inspectors who are complaint champions, based at each of the five Districts/Boroughs.

Number/Percentage (where applicable)	2007/08	2006/07	
Cases/allegations closed	Cases	142	174
	Allegations	336	383
Full/limited Investigations	53	58	
Full/limited investigations taking 120 days or less	39 (74%)	35 (60%)	
Full/limited investigations taking more than 120 days	14 (26%)	23 (40%)	
Allegations locally resolved	114 (34%)	189 (49%)	
Allegations substantiated	24 (7%)	27 (7%)	
Cases/allegations recorded	Cases	221	199
	Allegations	409	444

(2) Year to Date Performance Figures 1st April to 30th June 2008

The table overleaf shows the year to date performance levels, with regards to formal complaints made by members of the public, up to the end of the first quarter. Members will note that there has been a significant increase in the number of complaint cases and allegations recorded, when compared with the same period last year.

Number/Percentage (where applicable)		2008/09	2007/08
Cases/allegations closed	Cases	78 (+26%)	62
	Allegations	169 (+67%)	101
Full/limited Investigations		27 (+69%)	16
Full/limited investigations taking 120 days or less		24 (88.9%)	10 (62.5%)
Full/limited investigations taking more than 120 days		3 (11.1%)	6 (37.5%)
Allegations locally resolved		78 (46%)	45 (44.6%)
Allegations substantiated		6 (3.6%)	3 (3%)
Cases/allegations recorded	Cases	60 (+36%)	44
	Allegations	117 (+70%)	69

The Committee were updated on the work being carried out by the Force with regard to lessons learnt arising from complaints, both internally and nationally through the work of the IPCC. They were also briefed on those cases that are the subject of investigation by the IPCC.

(3) Complaint Cases in Relation to Incidents Recorded and Arrests

Members would be interested to note that during the first quarter of 2008/09, the ratio of complaint cases recorded to calls received was 1:710 (0.14%), with 41,866 incidents of all types being recorded on the STORM command and control system. The ratio of arrest-linked complaints was 1:242 (0.4%).

(4) Main Categories of Allegations

Of all allegations recorded in the first quarter of 2008/09, 28.2% (33) were of Other Neglect of Duty, 17% (20) were of Incivility, 15.4% (18) were of Assault and 9.4% (11) were of Oppressive Conduct.

Nuneaton and Bedworth had the highest number of complaint cases recorded in the first quarter of 2008/09, with 17 (36 allegations), followed by 15 at Warwick (31 allegations). The other three Districts/Boroughs had 16 cases (22 allegations).

(5) Commendations

We are pleased to report that in the final quarter of 2007/08, 21 officers and members of staff received commendations whilst a further 14 received commendations in the first quarter of 2008/09.

ALAN WOODWARD
Chair of Committee