

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE** met at **LEEK WOOTTON** on the **16th JULY 2008**.

Present:-

Independent Members:- Dorrette McAuslan and Steve Nicklin

Magistrate Member:- Alan Woodward (**Chair**)

County Councillor:- Phillip Morris-Jones

Police: - Mick Hayward.

Police Authority: - Neil Gulliver

In Attendance: - Len Jackson and Rosalind Barber

1. General
(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Eric Wood and Andy Parker.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th April 2008 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 30th April 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising
Minute 2(2) – Independent Police Complaints Commission

In response to a question by the Chair, Mick Hayward stated that numerous protocols had been approved and put in place between Warwickshire PCT and the Force. The Force has also agreed protocols with the West Midlands Ambulance Service, Coventry PCT and West Midlands Police. This means that the agencies across Coventry and Warwickshire are all working to the same set of Policies and Protocols.

[Clerk's Note: The list of agreed protocols and policies are as follows:

- Joint policy for the assessment and treatment of those arrested under Section 136
- Joint policy on conveying mentally disordered patients
- Joint policy for the detention, assessment and treatment of mentally disordered offenders
- Provision of assistance between partner agencies
- Use of CS spray
- Information sharing agreement for the management of mentally disordered persons in the community

- Joint Policy for searching for and removing patients from private premises under section 135
- MOU between C & W agencies concerned with the management of MDP's in the community
- Formulation of Mental Health Joint Strategic Management Group.

In addition to these work is now underway to produce a Joint training Strategy. The Force Learning and Development Centre have been provided with training material, from the above listed protocols and policies which is now being used by Force trainers in delivering training around Mental Health. Opportunities have also been identified within both organisations to facilitate training opportunities for our staff to work within each others areas of business. Issues still to be resolved and worked through are formation of Locally/District based operations meetings and places of safety, which is proving difficult.]

Minute 2(5) – Deaths During or Following Police Contact: Statistics for England and Wales 2006/07

Mick Hayward stated that a number of members of the IPCC had attended a pursuit training session with the Force in May. He had subsequently received a very complimentary letter from the IPCC indicating that they had found the session to very informative and helpful in future investigations.

He added that he would look at identifying opportunities in the future for members of the Committee to attend these sessions.

2. Independent Police Complaints Commission

- (1) General Update**
- (2) Building on Experience – Taking Stock of the New Police Complaints System after Four Years Operational Experience**
- (3) Learning the Lessons – Bulletin 4**
- (4) Improving Confidence – A Performance Framework for the Police Complaints System**

At the invitation of the Chair, Len Jackson commented on the new structure for the IPCC which had now been approved by the Home Secretary. As part of the new structure, the number of Commissioners had been reduced from 15 to 10 covering 9 regions in England and 1 for Wales. As part of his new role, he would be taking responsibility for the 4 Forces in the West Midlands region.

As part of the 'stock take' being undertaken by the IPCC, greater focus would be given to a performance framework being established.

Len Jackson added that he was aware of the strained relationship with the previous Commissioner. He would be meeting with Andy Parker and the Chair of the Committee with the aim of making a fresh start and to build a good working relationship with the Force and the Authority.

The Chair and Mick Hayward both commented that welcomed the approach being adopted by the IPCC with regard to the 'stock take'.

In response to comments by Phillip Morris-Jones, Len Jackson agreed that it was essential to ensure that any complaints process was open, fair, transparent and inclusive. He added that it was important to give Sergeants the confidence to deal quickly with local complaints which, in turn, would help improve public confidence.

He also fully supported comments by Dorrette McAuslan that this should be a learning process not a blame culture and the introduction of the Taylor recommendations would have a significant impact. The excellent working relationship between the Federation and the Professional Standards Department would further that process.

Len Jackson asked that he attend meetings of the Committee on a 6 monthly basis and the Committee were very happy to agree to this request.

3. Any Other Items

None.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd October 2008 at 2pm.

5. Reports containing Exempt Information

It was Resolved that the members of the public be excluded under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 from the Professional Standards Committee's 16th July 2008 meeting for the following agenda items on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th April 2008 and Matters Arising

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 30th April 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

7. Feedback from Dip Sampling

All Members confirmed that the sessions held that morning had progressed well.

8. Complaints Against the Police

The Committee considered the report by the Chief Constable in detail and highlighted issues relating to a number of items included in the report.

9. Force Implementation of New Misconduct Regulations

This item was deferred.

Additional Item

On behalf of the Committee, Steve Nicklin thanked Alan Woodward for his tremendous hard work in the Professional Standards arena over the past 13 years. Mick Hayward, on behalf of the Force, fully supported those comments.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm

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Chair of the Committee