

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE** met at **PHQ, Leek Wootton** on **Wednesday 28 April 2010**.

Present:-

Independent Members:- Mike Edwards (**Chair**), Dorrette McAuslan, Phil Robson and Clive Parsons

County Councillors:- Eithne Goode and Phillip Morris-Jones

Police: - DCC Andy Parker and Mick Hayward

Police Authority: - Debbie Mullis and Katie Baker

1. General

(1) Apologies

None.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27 January 2010 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

Minute 3 – Dip Sampling

For accuracy this minute to be amended as follows:- In order to speed up the process, the feasibility of notifying officers via email of any complaint received by the Force, would be looked into.

Resolved:-

That the amended minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 27 January 2010 be approved as amended and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

Minute 2 – Policing White Paper – Protecting the Public

Dorrette McAuslan confirmed that she had met regularly with Jenny Ingram and that a greater emphasis on attitude and behavioural training was being adopted.

It was agreed to keep attitude/behavioural training on the agenda for future meetings of the Committee.

Minute 3 – Dip Sampling

Mick Hayward reported to the Committee that the feasibility of notifying officers of complaints via email in order to speed up the process had been examined. Although this would have a positive effect on processing complaints time wise, it was felt necessary for officers to have the formal notices served on them personally by a supervisor, who can explain the complaints process and provide support as required.

(The Regulations outline how service of the written notice may be effected and this does not include being able to do so via email).

The Committee agreed with this in principle, however, questions still arose as to the length of time it was taking for supervisors to notify officers of such complaints, especially when different shift patterns were involved.

Minute 8 – Near Misses in Custody

Mick Hayward confirmed that a copy of the HMIC/HMP Inspection report would be distributed to both the Chair of the Committee and Chairs of the Custody Visitor Panels.

2. Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

2.1 Statutory Guidelines

Mick Hayward reported to the Committee that the new IPCC revised statutory guidance, which came into effect on Wednesday 1 April 2010, made various references to the Police Authority responsibilities of both the recording of, and investigating into, complaints made against Chief Officers. It was agreed that Neil Gulliver, Assistant Chief Executive should be asked to ensure that the Authority was adhering to these guidelines.

The document had been circulated to identified key stakeholders, to ensure that they were embedded throughout the Force, including the District and Borough Commanders and put on the front page of the Intranet. Mick Hayward advised that a workshop had been arranged to take place in May for inspectors, in respect of the Local Resolution of complaints.

2.2 Learning the Lessons – Bulletin 9

The Committee agreed that Learning the Lessons was an extremely valuable tool enabling police forces to learn from and improve their policies and practices.

Bulletin 9 focussed specifically on the Communication Centre environment, and whilst Mick Hayward reported that the Force were in a much stronger position than this time last year, a meeting had been arranged with the Centre Managers to go through the various key questions raised to ensure that all aspects of call handling were dealt with effectively and consistently.

This document had been circulated to the business area lead and placed on the Intranet.

2.3 IPCC Letter on Stop and Search

Mick Hayward reported to the Committee that the number of Stop and Searches had risen significantly over recent years in Warwickshire, but this was not reflected in the number of complaints being made, which remained very small. The IPCC had issued a position statement regarding police powers, with the recommendation that Stop and Search be demonstrably fair, effective and that they carry public confidence. In future, the IPCC may uphold appeals where no misconduct was evident but where there was an unreasonable breakdown or failure in service adversely affecting the complainant.

The Committee suggested that presentations on Stop and Search could be given at the regular Community Forum Meetings. Dorrette McAuslan commented that the "Know your Rights" leaflets, which had been produced jointly between the Authority and the Force, had been extremely successful in informing members of the community.

3. Any Other Items

None.

4. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 22 July 2010 at 2pm in CR2, PHQ at Leek Wootton.

5. Reports containing Exempt Information

Resolved: -

That the members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following agenda items on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27 January 2010 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

Minute 8 – Complaints Against the Police

For accuracy the word "substantiated" to be input after the figure 30 and before the word allegations.

It was then Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 27 January 2010, as amended, be approved and signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

Mick Hayward gave an update on the two additional issues raised during discussion of the exempt minutes.

7. Complaint Case Overview

Mick Hayward gave a verbal update on this issue.

8. Professional Standards and Anti-Corruption Unit Strategic Assessments

The Committee considered the Strategic Assessment Paper and the Anti-Corruption Unit Paper in detail.

9. Human Rights

Stop and Search Steering Group Action Plan

The report was noted.

Verbal Update on the Work being Carried out for the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Panel

Mick Hayward gave a verbal update on this work.

10. Report on the Use of Force

The Use of Force Report was discussed in some detail. It was agreed that Mick Hayward would report to the full Authority meeting in September.

The report on the Use of Tasers was noted.

11. 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.

12. ACPO Disproportionality Research

Mick Hayward reported to the Committee on the ACPO Disproportionality Research which was currently being carried out nationally.

13. Gifts and Hospitality Audit Report

Professional Standards have a responsibility to audit the registers across the organisation and key actions were identified.

14. Vetting Issues

Clive Parsons reported to the Committee that the Authority had a duty to ensure the security of police and government assets and information and a new Vetting Policy was being submitted to the Authority meeting in May 2010.

15. Professional Standards Department Protection Plan 2009/11 – Action Plan

The significant progress on the Action Plan for 2009/10 was noted by the Committee. Mick Hayward to report back to the Committee next meeting on the Action Plan for 2010/11.

Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm

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Chair of the Committee