

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE** met at **LEEK WOOTTON** on the **29th APRIL 2009**.

Present:-

Independent Members:- Mike Edwards (**Chair**)

County Councillors:- Eithne Goode and Phillip Morris-Jones

Police: - Andy Parker, Mick Hayward and Steve Quinn

Police Authority: - Katie Baker

IPCC: Len Jackson

1. General

(1) Apologies

An apology was received from Dorrette McAuslan.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th January 2009 and Matters Arising
(i) Minutes

Resolved:-

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

(i) Matters Arising

(a) Minute 2(3) – Police Custody as a “Safe Place : Examining the Use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Andy Parker confirmed that they had now received a reply from the Primary Care Trust regarding the attendance of doctors at custody suites. Unfortunately Warwickshire NHS did not have the funds at this present time to provide alternative premises.

Phillip Morris-Jones raised the question of what the procedure would be if medical intervention was denied or thought unnecessary and suggested that some guidance ought to be given to custody visitor panels to cover such eventualities.

Andy Parker confirmed that Police surgeons came out when requested but if there was a conflict of opinion, the Chief Officer had an obligation to protect that individual from harm even if the doctor refused.

It was agreed that Graham Moreton would be asked to provide a report on the medical provision available in custody suites which would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee in July.

It was noted that a meeting of the Custody Visitors was being held on 27th May at 6pm in Committee Room 2, Shire Hall which would be a good opportunity to give Custody Visitors the latest information of what a doctors responsibilities are.

(b) Minute 2(4) – Police Misconduct and Unsatisfactory Performance Procedures

Mick Hayward confirmed that the new procedures had been implemented on 1st December 2008 and no major difficulties had been encountered.

2. Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mick Hayward confirmed that Learning the Lessons Bulletin number 6 had been circulated across the organisation. These were proving to be an extremely beneficial learning tool in helping to improve performance.

The Chair queried the forces dog deployment policy especially against young children or where serious injuries had arisen. There was a requirement to refer serious dog bites to the Professional Standards Committee for review and possible referral to the IPCC. Mick Hayward confirmed that he would report back to the next meeting.

The Panel also discussed the mechanism for processing complaints from children. Mick Hayward confirmed that these would automatically go into the dip sampling process from now on.

3. Any Other Items

None.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday 27 July 2009 at 2pm.

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, 3, 4 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th January 2009 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meetings of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 28th January 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Learning the Lessons – Bulletin 6

Was considered and noted.

8. Complaints Against the Force

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

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm

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Chair of the Committee