

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE** met at **Leek Wootton** on **18 JULY 2011**

Present:-

Independent Members:- Mike Edwards (**Chair**), Dorrette McAuslan

County Councillors:- Phillip Morris-Jones, Eithne Goode

Police: - Mick Hayward

Police Authority: - Katie Baker and Debbie Mullis

In Attendance: - Angela O'Boyle

Present:- Rachel Cerfontyne (IPCC)

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 April 2011 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on 27 April 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

Minute 2 – IPCC Learning the Lessons

Query was raised by Phillip Morris-Jones on the statement that “all [custody] staff had received training to specifically recognise heart attacks, strokes and to identify cases where people were unwell not drunk”. It was agreed that this was an aspirational statement and was to be examined in more detail to ascertain where any gaps existed. Mick Hayward to update the Committee at October meeting.

Cllr Ethne Goode enquired as to what percentage of staff were Reliance and the cost involved [Note: Reliance staff were used within the custody suites to move detainees, supply food, drinks, well-being checks etc. More staff required if constant watch was deemed necessary]. Further information was requested on the current role and proportion of Reliance staff within custody suites.

2. (1) IPCC - Learning the Lessons

Bulletin 13: Learning from Appeals was specifically about complaint handling by police forces. This had been circulated to all managers and chief inspectors who were dealing with complaint investigations for their information and attention.

(2) Police Complaints Information Bulletin April 2010 – March 2011

Mick Hayward presented the information and emphasised to the Committee that the extensive changes that had recently taken place had impacted on many managers. It was hoped that the new policing model would improve the timeliness of local complaint investigations due to the alignment of shift patterns etc. Changes to legislation were also likely in the near future i.e. forces would be given discretion in how to deal with complaints where no misconduct was likely to arise (Members of the public would not be given any choice on whether it could be locally resolved).

Warwickshire Police were extremely good at recording cases within 10 days (97% compared to the national figure of 87%). Work was now needed to involve managers on resolving the matter within that timescale which may result in less complaints getting recorded.

It was noted that "Neglect or Failure of Duty" accounted for 29% of all allegations last year.

Discussion ensued and the following was noted at this point:-

The Authority raised concerns that equipment provided in custody areas to check body movement/scanners may be being turned off or not being used. Could this be brought to the attention of the relevant managers within the custody suite and information brought back to the October meeting.

Enquiry also to be raised as to whether persons were scanned/searched again upon return from the exercise block/car-parks, medical centres etc.

3. Any Other Items

None.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 2pm **on Thursday 20 October in CR2 at Leek Wootton**. Dip-sampling will take place prior to this meeting at 12.30pm in CR2.

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 April 2011 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 27 April 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

Minute 8 – Local Resolution

With reference to the letters sent out to complainants - Mick Hayward and Dorrette McAuslan had met and agreed that “softer” more appropriate wording could be used without loss of meaning.

7. Dip Sampling

A selection of files were dip sampled at random.

Direction and Control Complaints

The following Direction and Control complaint was reviewed.

D&C 01/11

No issues arose.

With reference to a complaint, Debbie Mullis confirmed to the Panel that the Police Authority had a governance responsibility over the Police Force which involved considering Police Force policy.

8. Complaints Against the Police

The Chair introduced Agenda Item 8 to the Committee outlining complaints against the police. Further information could be added if Members felt it would be beneficial and feedback was requested on the new format.

Information about the deployment of the Firearms Unit would be available for the October meeting.

It was requested that complaints made against Reliance staff be brought to the October Meeting.

IPCC Publications

Two further papers had recently been issued by the IPCC.

Debbie Mullis to forward copies of the IPCC Annual Report to Members.

9. Any Other Business

Rachel Cerfontyne introduced herself to the Committee as Warwickshire’s new Commissioner and gave a verbal update on the IPCC.

Meeting closed at 3.40pm.

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Chair of the Committee