

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE** met at **Leek Wootton** on **27 April 2011**

Present:-

Independent Members:- Philip Robson (**Chair**), Dorrette McAuslan

County Councillors:- Phillip Morris-Jones, Eithne Goode

Police: - DCC Andy Parker and Mick Hayward

Police Authority: - Oliver Winters, Katie Baker and Debbie Mullis

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Edwards and Phil Robson Chaired the meeting in his absence.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2011 and Matters Arising

(i) Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on 26 January 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

Minute 2 – Force Website Complaints Information

In the 5 year period between January 2006 and March 2011 there had been a total of 629 'on-line' complaints made through the Force website. In the last financial year there had been 167, compared to 156 the previous year. Not all of those had resulted in formal complaints being recorded, due to the nature of them, but all had been considered.

Minute 8 – Complaints Against the Police

Mick Hayward reported that one complaint had been received during the recent EDL March in Nuneaton, but had since been withdrawn. The policing element had been very well received and supported by members of the public.

Minute 17

Further to Len Jackson's announcement that he would be retiring later in the year, an extremely positive meeting had been held between Andy Parker, Mick Hayward, Mike Edwards and the new IPCC Commissioner for Warwickshire, Rachel Cerfontyne on 14 April 2011.

2. IPCC – (1) Learning the Lessons

Debbie Mullis confirmed that a copy of Learning the Lessons had been sent to all Custody Visitors.

In answer to a question from Dorrette McAuslan regarding medical advice, Andy Parker confirmed that clear protocols existed within custody. All staff had been trained to specifically recognise heart attacks, strokes and to identify cases where people were unwell not drunk. Custody Officers could insist that medical practitioners attend Custody Suites.

(2) – Complaints Statistics for 2009 / 10

To be covered under the Exempt Minutes.

(3) – Police Complaints Information Bulletin April to December 2010

To be covered under the Exempt Minutes.

3. Police Use of Tasers

In past meetings members of the Committee had shown a particular interest in how Warwickshire had been using Tasers since they were introduced. The figures confirmed the limited use of Tasers from 2004 to 2010 within Warwickshire.

It was noted that there had been a small number of discharges this year (6 cases during the 8 month period of April to November 2011). Andy Parker and Mike Edwards were informed on every case where Tasers had been used.

ACTION

Phil Robson requested a small report to be presented at the October meeting to indicate whether the new Policing Model had had any impact on Taser usage.

4. Any Other Items

None.

5. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 27 July 2011 at 2pm in Conference Room 2 at Leek Wootton. Dip Sampling would take place at 12 noon.

6. 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.

7. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26 January 2011 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 26 January 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

Minute 9 – Complaints Against the Police

After discussion with Dorrette McAuslan it was agreed that it was not necessary to include the existence of the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form on the dip-sampling form.

Minute 8 – Local Resolution

At the last meeting Mick Hayward had agreed to review the style and content of letters sent to complainants. Contact had been made with local Forces and the IPCC for guidance on how improvements could be made. The IPCC had been very complimentary on the style, content and material within the letters and could offer no improvement.

Phil Robson suggested that Dorrette McAuslan could liaise with Mick Hayward to discuss suggestions on how some improvement to the wording of the letters could be made.

Minute 8 – Case 192/10

For the past ten years there had been an annual dance/music event held at Long Marston. The event known as “Global Gathering” normally took place over a weekend in July of each year and attracted in excess of 30,000 people. The promoters were responsible for managing the event and providing all the facilities. Entry into the event was by ticket only.

The role of the police at the Global Gathering event was the preservation of order through keeping the peace, the prevention and detection of crime and the control and regulation of road traffic.

During the entrance procedure, people passed through a police controlled area where passive drug detection dogs operated. A person subsequently lodged a complaint against officers regarding their actions during that process which have been investigated and appropriate action taken.

Minute 8 – Case 229/10

Mick Hayward confirmed that the actions in this case had been fully reviewed and was regarded as being lawful, justifiable and proportionate. The complaint had since been withdrawn.

Minute 8 – Appendix 3 – Complaints, Quarterly Figures – By Borough District

Discussion ensued on how complaints data could be presented under the new policing model. The Committee agreed to consider options for future arrangements.

8. Dip Sampling

A number of files were dip-sampled at random by the Committee earlier in the day.

A number of Direction and Control complaints which had been received since the previous meeting and were also reviewed.

9. Complaints Against the Police

Overview of End of Year Position 2010/11

Mick Hayward gave a brief overview on complaints against the Force during 2010/11.

Appendix 1 – Cases Closed in the last Quarter and Matters Referred to IPCC

A lot of work had been undertaken by the IPCC to clear the backlog of work.

D&C 33/10

Mick Hayward reported to the Committee that they were waiting for National ACPO guidance on the destruction of fingerprint and DNA records.

Appendix 2 (a) – Summary of Significant Cases Recorded Since Last Meeting

The Committee reviewed a number of the cases presented to them.

Appendix 3 – Complaints – Quarterly Figures – By Borough / District

This Appendix was noted.

Appendix 4 – Progress of Cases Previously Considered

This Appendix was Noted.

Appendix 5 – Suspended Officers and Misconduct

This Appendix was noted.

Appendix 6 – Significant Statistics

Mick Hayward highlighted the key issues arising from this appendix.

Appendix 7 – Anti-Corruption Unit

Mick Hayward gave a verbal update on the work of the unit.

Appendix 8 – PSD Performance

This Appendix was noted.

Appendix 9 – Most Common Complaint Allegations

This Appendix was noted

Appendix 10 – Most Similar Force Data

This Appendix was noted.

Appendix 11 – Lessons Learned

This Appendix was noted.

10. Complaints Covered by the Police Authorities (Particular Functions and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Order 2010

This report was noted.

11. Action Plan 2010/11

Over the last 4 years the Force had produced and delivered a meticulous Action Plan. Focus was now needed on the contents of the Professional Standards Service Plan and strategic objectives. It was proposed that this would be the final report.

12. ACPO Complaints Questionnaire

The questionnaire was a follow up to the report that was considered nationally a year ago. The questionnaire sought to identify any concerns and it was confirmed that Warwickshire had an extremely reliable monitoring mechanism in place.

13. IPCC Complaints Statistics for 2009/10

Mick Hayward reported that the IPCC Complaints Statistics for 2009/10 published in February, together with a Press Release, had attracted a lot of negative local media attention. This time the IPCC had released quarterly information on their website without a press release, enabling people to look at all force data and statistical information. At present, there had been no requests from the media about the recent information published.

14. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed at 3.10pm.

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Chair of the Committee