

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE** met at **LEEK WOOTTON** on **5th November 2009**

Present:-

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

County Councillors:- Eithne Goode and Phillip Morris-Jones

Police: - Andy Parker and Mick Hayward

Police Authority: - Debbie Mullis and Katie Baker

Additional Item 1

The Chair welcomed Mr Craig Pensom of Ryton Nurseries who was attending the meeting as a member of the public.

Mr Pensom informed the Committee that he was intending to submit between 14 and 17 formal complaints against Warwickshire Police after a series of break-ins at his premises.

It was agreed that this case would be further looked into and Mr Pensom was to be communicated with on a regular basis. Mr Pensom then left the meeting.

Additional Item 2

Mr David Sampson, member of the public, entered the meeting and proceeded to distribute a CD for the Committee's information. Mr Sampson left the meeting immediately afterwards.

1. General

(1) Apologies

The Chair welcomed Debbie Mullis, the Authority's Policy and Performance Officer to her first meeting of the Professional Standards Committee.

(2) Declaration of Members' Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th August 2009 and Matters Arising (i) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 5th August 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(ii) Matters Arising

The Committee queried why the exempt items on the agenda appeared in the Public Minutes.

[Clerks Note : There is a legal requirement that all items included on the agenda are logged in the public minutes together with any narrative which cannot be construed as falling under the exemptions laid down under the Freedom of Information legislation]

2. Independent Police Complaints Commission

(1) Police Complaints : Statistics for England & Wales 2008/09

Document from the IPCC outlining complaints from the public for England and Wales 2008/09 was noted.

(2) IPCC Press Release re Complaints

Press Release from the IPCC was noted.

(3) Warwickshire Complaints Statistics

It was noted that complaints against Warwickshire Police had increased slightly by 2% in 2008/09 compared to a rise of 8% nationally. However, over the last five years, in line with the national trend, there had been a considerable rise.

(4) Warwickshire Response to IPCC Statistics

Mick Hayward confirmed that nearly a third of complaints came under the heading "Neglect / incivility" but that "other assaults" had fallen quite substantially.

(5) IPCC Briefing Sheet

Was noted.

(6) IPCC Press Release

Was noted for information.

3. Any Other Items

None.

4. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 27 January at 2pm in Conference Room, 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, 3, 4 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th August 2009 and Matters Arising

(1) Minutes

It was then Resolved:-

That the exempt minutes of the meetings of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 5th August 2009 as amended be approved and signed by the Chair.

(2) Matters Arising

Minute 7 – Learning the Lessons – Bulletin 6

The issue of sharing relevant information contained within the Bulletin, with Custody Visitors has been raised with Supt. Debbie Tedds.

Minute 8 – “Near Misses in Custody : April 08 to March 09

Mick Hayward informed the Committee that HMIC and HMP had undertaken an unannounced inspection of the Custody Suites. The inspection report was due to be published in March 2010.

7. Learning the Lessons – Bulletin 8

Mick Hayward reported on the positive feedback he had received to the Bulletin.

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

Document was noted.

10. Any Other Business

The Chair reported to the Committee that he had recently attended a Tasar Training Day, which was extremely interesting and informative.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

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Chair of the Committee