

## **Independent Advisory Group Update – June 2009**

The Cheshire Constabulary Independent Advisory Group continues to represent the range of different communities who make up the Cheshire force area. Its members monitor, observe and advise on aspects of policing and the service offered, all with the aim of ensuring a fair and equitable delivery of policing services to all communities within Cheshire.

In recent times, group members have advised the force on a number of operational matters and critical incidents. These have included:-

- An investigation into the circumstances surrounding a male who had been reported as missing from home in the Eastern Area
- An investigation into the death of a male who fell from the Runcorn – Widnes bridge
- An incident involving the professional footballers Victor Anichebe and Lee Peltier who were stopped and asked to account for their movements in Knutsford town centre in March 2009. The incident led to extensive media coverage.

Group members also attended the **10 year Anniversary Conference of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry** held at the Central Methodist hall in London. The event marked the 10 year anniversary of the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report. Keynote speakers included Stephen's mother Doreen Lawrence, the then Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, Secretary of State for Justice Jack Straw and the Commander of the Metropolitan Police Service Sir Paul Stephenson amongst many others.

The event considered the progress that has been made by the Police Service since the publication of the report and discussed the way forward for race equality in the Police Service. The event also considered the forthcoming new three year Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy for the police service.

Members have also contributed work in relation to the **Stonewall Workplace Equality Index** in which the Constabulary continues to perform well. Stonewall is a charity, which is committed to working specifically on sexual orientation and the issues lesbian, gay and bisexual people face in the workplace. For this reason Stonewall created the Workplace Equality Index, a countrywide benchmarking tool which provides employers, both public and private sector with a robust model of good practice in LGB equality and diversity. This year the Force scored 147 out of a possible 200 points in the index and was placed 28th overall from over 300 organisations who took part.