



Cheshire Police Authority - Engagement Committee

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 MAY 2009 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: M Chapman, Chairman
B Silvester, Vice-Chairman
A Arnold
M Darby
E Lam
B Maher
M Ollerenshaw
T Savage

Also in attendance: A Doran
K Brown, S Taunton and D Woolliscroft, Custody Visiting Scheme

<i>Authority Officers:</i> M Sellwood, Chief Executive A Collins, Engagement Manager M Eaton, Member Services Manager	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i> G Shewan, Assistant Chief Constable Supt D Bertenshaw, Head of Strategic Partnerships B Cowling, Head of Corporate Communications
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Apologies: D Cargill

1 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

2 CHESHIRE CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted the 2008/09 annual report for the Custody Visiting Scheme. It was reported that 293 visits had been made compared to 272 in 2007/08. Of the 1565 detainees selected and available to be seen, 1489 (95.1%) consented to a visit, compared to 95.7% in 2006/07. Of the detainees seen, 753 (50.5%) raised issues relating to medical issues, food/drink, information about their release, requests for additional bedding and telephone calls. There were no significant issues raised during the year.

The Chairman welcomed the Convenors of the Eastern, Northern and Western Custody Visitor Panels, who presented their reports and visiting statistics for the period October 2008 to March 2009. All three Convenors commented on the efficient operation of the custody suites following the re-organisation during the year. Members in considering the visiting statistics, discussed various matters arising from the reports.

The Chairman thanked the Convenors for their attendance and for their constructive comments and expressed the Authority and Constabulary's

appreciation to Mr Woolliscroft who was standing down as Convenor of the Eastern Panel after 3 years.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

3 POLICE AUTHORITY CONTACT PLAN 2009-12

The Engagement Manager presented the Authority's Contact Plan 2009–12, which outlined how the Authority would communicate and consult with the public and engage with partners, key stakeholders, communities and individuals.

In considering the Plan, Members commented on how its effectiveness would be measured; consultation with disability/minority groups; the production of joint publications with partners; the development of one-stop-shops; and the use of other media and alternative formats, to which the Chief Executive and the Engagement Manager responded.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority's Contact Plan 2009-12, be approved.

4 SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME: APPROACH

The Chief Executive presented an overview of the Equality Bill and the associated requirements for police authorities. The report outlined the approach to developing a single equality scheme for the Authority.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a single equality scheme be developed in consultation with diverse communities, for consideration by the Committee on 3 November 2009;
- (3) the role of Members be included in equality, diversity and human rights awareness training;
- (4) local employment targets be agreed by Staff Committee and included in future Human Resources Strategies, Equality Schemes and Policing Plans;
- (5) the PSA15 priorities be reflected in the Single Equality Scheme and in the 2010/11 Policing Plan;
- (6) the single Equality Scheme consider levels socio-economic deprivation in Cheshire;
- (7) the effectiveness of Constabulary's Equality Impact Assessments be monitored by lead Members through involvement in the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy Board; and

- (8) a report on the implementation of the new police and staff code of conduct be presented to Staff Committee.

5 APA - HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE FOR POLICE AUTHORITIES

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Association of Police Authorities (APA) "Human Rights Guidance for police authorities, monitoring compliance with the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998". The report detailed the APAs checklist for authorities to monitor police force compliance with the HRA which included structures, governance, scrutiny, engagement and training.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) T Savage be appointed as lead Member for human rights;
- (3) a human rights policy be developed;
- (4) human rights awareness training be included in the equality and diversity awareness training for Members; and
- (5) refresher training for Custody Visitors on human rights issues be developed.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT: ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLIANCE 2008/09

The Chief Constable submitted a report on the actions taken by the Constabulary to ensure it met its obligations under the Human Rights Act. The report outlined compliance with human rights in relation to training, policy development, operations, complaints and misconduct, use of force/firearms/taser, covert policing, the treatment of suspects and discrimination.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) future annual reports on human rights compliance be based on the APA framework and the force operational strategic assessment, and the Authority's lead Member be briefed on the development of the report.

7 LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY 2009/10: 'YOUR POLICING'

The Chief Executive reported on the proposals for the production of the 'Your Policing' magazine which would include statutory elements of the local policing summaries, and would be distributed in phases to all households in the area. The magazine would feature the work undertaken by the Constabulary and Authority; publicise the Authority's priorities for 2009/10; how the Constabulary met the previous year's priorities; and contact details.

Members in considering the draft version made a number of comments on the content which were noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft “Your Policing” be approved;
- (2) the proposed distribution of “Your Policing” as outlined in the Chief Executive’s report, be approved;
- (3) a final draft version of the publication be circulated to all Members of the Committee for comment; and
- (4) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to finalise “Your Policing” and make the necessary arrangements to publish and distribute the report by the end of July 2009.

8 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable reported on the work of the joint Authority and Constabulary Children and Young People’s Group. The report outlined governance issues and financial implications; and the work and progress of the Multi-agency Prevention Teams; Contact Point database; Common Assessment Framework; the Safer Schools Partnership; and the establishment of a Joint Strategic Group to consider issues raised in the Laming Review.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the update on actions as detailed in the Appendix to the Chief Executive’s report, be received; and
- (3) future six monthly reports be a summary of progress against actions against the joint Children’s & Young Persons Plan and Children’s Trust Plans.

9 PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Chief Executive submitted an update on the work of the Authority, in partnership with the Constabulary, in preventing terrorism through community engagement. The report detailed the various mechanisms of consultation which had been undertaken. Members noted that a Preventing Violent Extremism Co-ordinator had been appointed to organise and implement engagement activity under the Constabulary’s prevent strand.

The Committee also considered executive summaries of the UK CONTEST Strategy and the ACPO PREVENT communication strategy.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) partnership lead Members be encouraged to ensure the PREVENT strategy was a regular item of discussion at Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership meetings.

10 PROTOCOL ON MEDIA RELATIONS

The Chief Executive submitted a draft protocol on media relations. The purpose of the protocol was to ensure effective and professional management of all media relations by the Authority whilst maintaining its integrity and reputation. The protocol which complemented the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members, also provided support and guidance for those when dealing with the media.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the draft media protocol as detailed in the Appendix to the Chief Executive, be approved.

11 PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on discussions at recent meetings of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and other partnership meetings attended by Members.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12 POLICE AUTHORITY CONTACT PLAN: QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted the quarterly update on actions taken to progress the Authority's Contact Plan. The report outlined the role and work undertaken by the Consultation and Communication Scrutiny Group; communication and engagement with various groups; and consultation with the public on the 2009/10 policing objectives.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the standard questionnaire as detailed in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

13 CONSTABULARY CONTACT STRATEGY

The Head of Corporate Communications presented the Constabulary's Contact Strategy which outlined how the Constabulary would engage with the public to improve policing services and ensure that people were safe and felt safe. The Strategy also detailed the Constabulary's core role; strands of contact; accountability; how strategic partnerships are influenced; contact and public confidence; intervention and diversion; and customer service.

RESOLVED:

That the Constabulary's Contact Strategy, be noted.

14 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Assistant Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on the key strands of work currently being undertaken by the Communities Unit. The Head of Strategic Partnerships outlined the work around the confidence agenda.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) future reports include an update on diversity, confidence, restorative justice, the policing pledge and any significant pieces of work undertaken by the Communities Unit.

15 REVOLVING DOORS: MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Assistant Chief Constable presented a report on the Revolving Doors project, involving the Northern Area and partner agencies to address and support the needs of individuals who suffered low-level mental health issues. The report detailed the success of the twelve month pilot which aimed to improve people's lives and address major health inequalities; increase people's appropriate and effective interaction with local services; and develop a model suitable for mainstreaming and replicating elsewhere.

RESOLVED:

That the work of the Revolving Doors pilot project in Warrington, be noted.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE GARRY SHEWAN

The Chairman announced that this was Assistant Chief Constable Shewan's last meeting before moving to Greater Manchester Police and on behalf of the Authority expressed her appreciation for his dedication and work in progressing such issues as restorative justice, neighbourhood policing and the children's and young peoples agenda.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.55am.