



# CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

## STATUTORY PURPOSES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

*Present:* Mrs A Coomer  
C Kirkpatrick  
B Maher  
Mrs M A Ollerenshaw

*Also in attendance:* D Cargill, Mrs A Doran, R Hodson and P J Walker  
D Woolliscroft, Eastern Custody Visitors Panel  
A Mackie, Northern Custody Visitors Panel  
Mrs S Taunton, Western Custody Visitors Panel

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Clerk & Chief Executive	G Gerrard, Acting Chief Constable
Mrs A Collins, Communication & Policy Officer	Det Supt P Charlton, Head of Professional Standards
M Eaton, Senior Administration Officer	

*Apologies:* D T Bateman J P Findlow, R Giltrap, P Nurse and Mrs S Proctor

#### 11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

*RESOLVED:*

That Mrs M A Ollerenshaw be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

(Mrs M A Ollerenshaw in the Chair)

#### 12. MINUTES

*RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 13. CHESHIRE CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: MID-YEAR REPORT 2006

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted the visiting statistics for April to September 2006 and the Committee noted that 134 visits had been made compared to 149 visits during the same period in 2005 with 1518 persons being detained at the time of the visits. 984 detainees were selected to be seen, and of the 725 which were available to accept a visit, 544 (75%) consented, compared to 228 (52%) consenting to a visit in 2005. Of the detainees seen, 324 (59%) raised comments about requests for food/drink, additional bedding, writing and reading materials and relating to medical issues.

The Chairman welcomed the Convenors of the Eastern, Northern and Western Custody Visitor Panels, who each presented their reports and visiting statistics. The Convenors highlighted a number of issues from their reports including the success of the self-introduction method resulting in a significant increase in the acceptance rate; and the workload and pressures on custody staff to which the Acting Chief Constable responded. The Committee was arrangements had been introduced for Custody Visitors to visit prisoners being held at Crewe Police Station under Operation Safeguard.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

#### 14. COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT MATTERS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable presented the quarterly report on complaints and misconduct matters for the period July to September 2006. It was reported that during the period 124 complainants had made 157 complaints, which equated to a decrease of 3.1% in complainants and 17.8% in complaints, compared with the previous year. There had been 185 complaints made about police officers, 18 about police staff (including PCSOs) and 2 about special constables.

The Committee also received detailed information on the various categories of individual complaints; the number of referrals to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC); internal discipline cases; cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service; complaints outstanding from previous years; statistical analysis of complaints; and key performance indicators relating to complaints which showed an increase in the number of complaints finalised.

Members in considering the report welcomed the revised layout and enquired about complaints outstanding from previous years and requested further clarification on these complaints in future reports. It was noted that Cheshire's Commissioner from the IPCC would be invited to the next meeting.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be received.

#### 15. DIRECTION AND CONTROL COMPLAINTS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Head of Professional Standards presented a report on direction and control complaints which showed that 48 complaints had been received during July-September 2006 compared to 50 in the previous year. The Head of Professional Standards outlined the procedures for recording complaints and submitted examples of the standard letters used within the process.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

## 16. HOME OFFICE CITIZEN FOCUS PROJECTS: OUTCOMES

The Communication & Policy Officer presented the key learning points, good practice and areas for development from the case study evaluations of the three Citizens Focus demonstration projects (Cheshire, Merseyside and Northumbria), which had been published by the Home Office. The report highlighted the key findings which were being collated by the APA who would be issuing guidance to police authorities on their roles in consultation and community engagement.

The Clerk & Chief Executive added that the guidance would be considered by the Authority's Engagement Committee when established.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted

## 17. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS AND INSPECTORS

The Communication & Policy Officer presented a report which reviewed the role of Members with respect to their designated Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) and agreed a minimum level of engagement. The report detailed the varying levels of contact and engagement currently undertaken between the NPU and Members and outlined a number of suggested improvements to the current arrangements.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Constable remind NPU Inspectors of the purpose and role of lead Members and the need to foster a positive relationship.

## 18. POLICE FORUMS 2006: ANNUAL REVIEW

The Clerk & Chief Executive submitted a report which briefly reviewed the operation of Police Forums during 2006 and sought approval to the programme of meetings for 2007/08. The Clerk & Chief Executive reminded Members that engagement was debated at the Discussion Day on 20 October 2006, where Members agreed that the Authority's performance in relation to community engagement needed to be improved and suggested that a committee be established in early 2007 to review and scrutinise the Authority's engagement function.

The report detailed attendance by the public and partner agencies at Forums and CAMs and Members noted that attendance at Forums in 2006 had decreased slightly to an average attendance of 30 at each meeting.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the programme of Police Forum meetings in 2007/08, be approved

19. URGENT BUSINESS: INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION (IPCC) REPORT ON DEATHS DURING OR FOLLOWING POLICE CONTACT 2005/06

The Clerk & Chief Executive presented a report on the statistics issued by the IPCC on the number of deaths that had occurred during or following police contact in England and Wales for 2005/06. The report revealed that during the period, 118 people had died which was an increase of 12 from the previous year.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

20. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

*RESOLVED:*

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as applied by the Police Act 1996 as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act in the paragraphs indicated:-

Item	Paragraph
Professional Standards Department:	(7) Information relating to the prevention of crime
Review of Disciplinary Issues	(2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals

*PART 2 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC*

21. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT: PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Acting Chief Constable submitted a report detailing the progress made against HMICs Thematic Inspection recommendations; comparative information of Professional Standards Departments in most similar forces; and activity being undertaken to identify and implement areas of improvement.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

22. REVIEW OF DISCIPLINARY ISSUES: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Acting Chief Constable submitted a report on the number of written warnings and hearings for police officers, staff and CSOs and an update on those officers suspended from duty.

Members discussed the report and raised a number of issues to which the Acting Chief Constable and the Head of Professional Standards responded.

The Committee also received detailed briefings on the disciplinary hearing for three suspended officers in the Eastern Area and an investigation being supervised by the IPCC where the complainant had recently written to Members.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.10am.