



Cheshire Police Authority - Engagement Committee

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2009 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: M Chapman, Chairman
B Silvester, Vice-Chairman
A Arnold
D Cargill

M Darby
E Lam
M Ollerenshaw
T Savage

Also in attendance: D Bateman and A Doran
C Matthews, HMIC
K Brown, S Taunton and B Hodgson, Custody Visiting Scheme

Authority Officers:
M Sellwood, Chief Executive
A Collins, Engagement Manager
M Eaton, Member Services Manager

Constabulary Officers:
I Wiggitt, Acting Assistant Chief Constable
B Cowling, Head of Corporate Communications
J Roberts, Communities Unit Manager

Apologies: B Maher

29 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

30 CHESHIRE CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME: MID-YEAR REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted the mid-year report for the period April to September for the Custody Visiting Scheme. It was reported that 146 visits had been made compared to 137 in the same period in 2008. Of the 738 detainees selected and available to be seen, 715 (97%) consented to a visit, compared to 95.8% in 2008. Of the detainees seen, 366 (51%) raised issues relating to requests to see the Nurse; for drinks; for blankets; for exercise; and to make a telephone call.

The Chairman welcomed the Convenors of the Eastern, Northern and Western Custody Visitor Panels, who presented their reports and visiting statistics for the period. The Convenors highlighted a number of issues which included why some Custody Staff were introducing Custody Visitors; problems with entry into the custody suite; the number of female detention officers; and the transportation of detainees back to point of arrest/home town; the issuing of food after the meal periods. The Convenors reported that the majority of these issues had been resolved by the Chief Inspector responsible for Custody. The Chief Executive reminded the Convenors, of the agreed Escalation Policy which enabled serious issues not resolved by Custody Staff to the Custody Visitors

satisfaction to be referred to the Duty Inspector or the Duty Superintendent to be addressed.

The Vice-Chairman submitted a report on his attendance at the second North West Regional Independent Custody Visitors Conference on 3 October 2009 in Preston.

The Chairman thanked the Convenors for their attendance at the meeting and for the valuable service they provided in reassuring the local community that the correct procedures were being adhered to by the Constabulary.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Acting Assistant Chief Constable provide the Convenor of the Northern Panel with a written response to the unresolved issues which included the lack of exercise offered to a detainee who had been in detention for over 48 hours; and the availability of female detention officers.

31 CUSTODY VISITOR RECRUITMENT 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the proposed recruitment programme and appointment procedure for Custody Visitors to be undertaken in 2010. The report detailed the consultation with Custody Visitor Panels on the number of visitors to be recruited and the recruitment programme.

Members supported the proposed process of approaching the individuals on the Authority's database who had previously expressed an interest in applying to become a Custody Visitor in the first instance and were satisfied that this approach was acceptable under the equal opportunities procedures.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the recruitment programme and appointment procedure as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be approved; and
- (3) the Appointment Panels as detailed in the Chief Executive's report be established and the Authority membership be approved, as follows:-

Eastern	-	T Savage
Northern	-	M Chapman
Western	-	M Darby

32 AUTHORITY EQUALITY SCHEME

The Chief Executive submitted a draft of the Authority's Equality Scheme 2009-12 for consideration. In preparation for the enactment of the Equality Bill, the Chairman reported that the current Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes had been combined into one document, which detailed the Authority's duties with regards to equality, diversity and human rights.

Members discussed the draft Scheme and suggested a number of amendments, including a reference to the Authority's Critical Incident Protocol.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Authority's Equality Scheme 2009-12, be approved for consultation; and
- (2) an 'easy read' summary document be produced jointly with the Constabulary and used as the basis for consultation with representatives of the diverse communities of Cheshire.

33 CONSTABULARY EQUALITY SCHEME

The Chief Constable submitted the draft Constabulary Equality Scheme which incorporated the existing race, disability and gender schemes, along with the associated Action Plan for approval. The Scheme was compliant with the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance and the codes of practice issued by the former Disability Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Constabulary's Equality Scheme 2009 – 2012, be approved.

34 PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY GROUP: ACTION PLAN

The Chief Executive presented the action plan implementing the recommendations from the Scrutiny Group's review of the effectiveness of the Authority's contribution to partnership working.

RESOLVED:

That progress in implementing the Scrutiny Group's recommendations be noted and the actions be subsumed in the Partnership Strategy.

35 PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2009-12

The Chief Executive presented the Authority's Partnership Strategy for 2009-12 which set out the importance and development of partnership working; its purpose, monitoring mechanisms and links with other plans; the Authority's role in partnership working and key partnerships; specific roles of individual Members; governance, accountability and support structures; communication and consultation; opportunities for further partnership working; and support, training and development for Members. The Strategy was supplemented by a detailed action plan.

The Chairman thanked all Members involved in the development of the Strategy which was a positive outcome arising from an Authority led scrutiny review involving a number of partners.

The Committee suggested a number of amendments to the Strategy and discussed the remit of Members representing the Authority at partnership meetings. The Chief

Executive agreed to review the draft Strategy in the light of Members comments on and referred to the role profiles, adopted by the Authority on 29 September 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the Partnership Strategy, subject to Members comments, be approved.

36 INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP: ANNUAL PRIORITIES

The Acting Assistant Chief Constable presented an overview of the Independent Advisory Group's (IAG) ongoing aims and objectives, together with their annual priorities which focused on increasing public confidence; preventing violent extremism; raising awareness of the IAG; tackling hate crime; assisting support staff networks; and ensuring a representative membership.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

37 HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

The Chief Executive presented the Authority's Human Rights (HR) Policy. The Committee discussed the draft policy

Members noted that the requirements of the Association of Police Authorities "Human Rights Guidance for police authorities, monitoring compliance with the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998" were being progressed with a lead Member for human rights appointed; the production of the HR policy; the delivery of awareness training for Members; and refresher training for Custody Visitors programmed.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority's Human Rights Policy, be approved.

38 'YOUR POLICING': APPROACH IN 2010

The Chief Executive presented a report which detailed a number of options for the publication of 'Your Policing' in 2010.

The Committee considered that the production of one publication a year fulfilled the Authority's statutory requirement, and in addition, incorporating a page within each of the four Borough Council's publications, would raise the profile of the Authority and demonstrate partnership working for the benefit of the people of Cheshire. It was reported that the Constabulary was considering a similar approach.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the publication of 'Your Policing' in July 2010 to meet the statutory duty to publish and distribute local policing summaries, at an approximate cost of £48,000 to be divided equally between the Authority and the Constabulary, be approved;

- (3) Option 3: the July edition of 'Your Policing' and pages in partner publications be supported, and the Chief Executive be authorised to conclude negotiations with the four Borough Councils; and
- (4) the potential saving of £31,000 in the Chief Executive's budget be considered as part of the review of the budget and reported to Finance Panel on 26 January 2010.

39 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 a number of alternative formats to improve communication via the website; and the public consultation undertaken throughout Cheshire on the policing priorities; and plans for future years budget consultation.

The Chairman acknowledged the value of the current consultation exercise, which informed the Policing Plan and local policing priorities.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the proposal to use a "budget simulator" for the 2011/12 budget consultation, as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be supported in principle and more details be reported to the Committee in 2010; and
- (3) the proposal to install 'readspeaker' on the website, as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be approved and the costs be included in the report to Finance Panel on 26 January 2010, on the Chief Executive's budget.

40 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: UPDATE

The Engagement Manager presented an update on the work of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group. The report detailed the Group's progress in developing a number of areas of work including youth offending; multi-agency child protection processes; safer schools partnership; marginalised young white males; the viability of establishing a Young People's IAG; and the work of the four Children's Strategic Partnerships.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

41 PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on discussions at recent meetings of Local Strategic Partnerships, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Children's Trust meetings attended by Members. The Committee considered a financial contribution towards the administration costs of each of the Children's Trusts in 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a financial contribution of £2,000 for 2010/11 to each of the four Children's Trusts, on behalf of the Authority and Constabulary, be approved.

42 COMMUNITIES UNIT: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Communities Unit Manager presented the quarterly report on the key strands of work being undertaken by the Communities Unit, which included the various community engagement activities undertaken; work to implement the Confidence Strategy; the plans for tackling anti-social behaviour; the results of HMIC's inspection of the Implementation of the Policing Pledge; activity to combat hate crime; and the promotion of Restorative Justice.

Members in considering the report, discussed a number of issues in relation to tackling anti-social behaviour including the whether the Constabulary had the appropriate mechanisms in place to prevent a repeat of the Pilkington tragedy. The Acting Assistant Chief Constable advised that the Constabulary were considering the introduction of a Customer Relationship Management system which would enable repeat incidents/callers/local priorities to be identified at an early stage. Currently, repeat calls about certain incidents were managed by NPU officers.

The Head of Corporate Communications gave an update on a recent 'Justice Seen, Justice Done' meeting with the Home Office where issues relating to the re-launch of the Policing Pledge were discussed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Chief Constable submit a report on the progress of the development of a Customer Relationship Management system to Service Improvement Panel on 5 January 2010, if the Outline Business Case for the system is not submitted to the Authority on 15 December 2009.

43 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETINGS: JANUARY 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the issues to be considered at the January cycle of 'Have Your Say' meetings which included in addition to the usual Area Commander report; a presentation on the policing priorities, budget proposals and council tax for 2010/11; and a short presentation on the Custody Visiting Scheme in Cheshire. The Committee asked that the performance report include data relating to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:

That the agenda for the January 2010 cycle of 'Have Your Say' meetings as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 11.45am.