

DYFED POWYS POLICE AUTHORITY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

25th January 2012 at 11am

PRESENT: Mr A M S Kenwright (Chair)
Mr H W Jones
Cllr J T Davies
Mr P R White OBE
Mrs L Pepper
Mrs A Williams
Cllr A L Jones

In attendance: Ms J Roberts (Deputy Chief Constable)
Det Supt M Evans (Professional Standards Dept)
Det Inspector R Oliver (Professional Standards Dept)
Mrs C Morgans (Assistant Chief Executive) [*Items 1 – 6 only*]
Mr G Lemon (Policy Officer)
Sgt D Gaskins (Police Federation)
Sgt P Herdman (Police Federation)

Observers: Mr K Howell
Cllr T H Lewis

S29. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr K Reeves (Chief Executive) and Cllr K Curry.

S30. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

S31. To note the Terms of Reference

Members considered the Terms of Reference that had been approved at the Police Authority meeting of 19th December 2011.

RESOLVED

That the Terms of Reference be noted

S32. To consider the minutes (Public Summary) of the Standards Committee meeting of 27th October 2011

Members considered the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting of the 27th October 2011. Members agreed that they were a true and accurate record.

Mr Lemon updated members as to the action log. The majority of actions had been or were being taken forward.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting of 27th October 2011 be agreed as a true and accurate record

S33. Matters arising

Mr White highlighted the issue of training. It was agreed that this would need to be discussed further in light of the uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the standards provisions of the Localism Act, and also in light of a possible change to the membership of the Committee (i.e. post May 2012).

S34. To consider the appointment of two additional Members to the Standards Committee

Mrs Morgans informed Members that the Association of Police Authority Chief Executives (APACE) was advocating the exemption of police authorities from the standards provisions of the Localism Act which were due to be implemented on 1st July 2012. Mrs Morgans indicated that, if successful, this would enable police authorities to continue with their current standards arrangements which would negate the need to introduce a new voluntary code and subsequent training requirements, as well as the need to appoint independent persons.

Mrs Morgans highlighted that if APACE was successful with its proposal it would result in Standards Committees continuing as "currently constituted" which could allow the two co-opted Independent Members (P White and H Jones) to remain on the Committee. In this eventuality, there would not be two spaces available on the Committee. However, it was agreed that in order to be prepared for both eventualities, it would be prudent to continue with the provisional appointment of two additional Members on the premise that those appointments were dependent on whether or not police authorities are granted exemption from the Standards Provisions of the Localism Act.

Mr Kenwright indicated that 3 Members had expressed an interest in joining the Standards Committee – Cllr K Curry, Cllr H Lewis and Mr K Howell. Cllr Lewis and Mr Howell had attended the Committee meeting to provide a verbal presentation, but unfortunately Cllr Curry was unable to attend as his vehicle had broken down earlier in the morning and he was therefore not able to get to the meeting. However, Cllr Curry had indicated that he still wished to join the Standards Committee, and had asked Mr Lemon to present a number of points on his behalf.

Mr Howell and Cllr Lewis spoke in turn to the Committee about their reasons for wishing to join the Standards Committee. Mr Lemon presented, on behalf of Cllr Curry, the reasons why he wished to join the Committee. Members then voted by means of a secret ballot. The two Members with the most votes were Cllr Lewis and Mr Howell. By way of delegated power both were provisionally appointed to the Committee subject to the above proviso.

Members also had a discussion around the future membership of the Police Authority following the local authority elections in May 2012.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Lewis and Mr Howell be provisionally appointed to the Standards Committee (*with formal appointment being dependant on the implementation of the Standards Provisions of the Localism Act*)

S35. To receive a presentation from the Head of Professional Standards on complaints and misconduct statistics, service recovery, IPCC Performance Framework, and lessons from recent dip sampling sessions

Supt Evans gave a detailed presentation to Members that covered:

- Latest IPCC National Performance Framework statistics
- Complaints and Misconduct Statistics
- Service Recovery
- Dip Sampling

Supt Evans informed Members that there had been a noticeable improvement since the release of the latest set of the IPCC Performance Framework statistics. Supt Evans stated that improvements had been made in relation to the recording of complaints (i.e. within 10 days) and that the Force was continuing to see a low number of upheld appeals.

Supt Evans referred Members to the quarterly PSD statistical report that covered Quarter 3 (October to December 2011) and the year to date. As Members had been provided in with copies in advance of the meeting, Supt Evans did not present the package in detail but rather highlighted some of the key issues and invited Member questions.

In respect of the package, Cllr Lloyd Jones raised the issue of 'White Welsh' as a category. Supt Evans stated that as Centurion was a national database it was not possible to have this as a category, but stated that he would raise the matter with the regional representative who sits on a national user group.

Supt Evans briefed Members as to the latest position with the Service Recovery/Dissatisfaction System, and highlighted some of the key findings of a recent dip sampling exercise that was undertaken by caseworkers from the IPCC. The results of the dip sampling exercise were, on the whole, very positive with only minor issues highlighted in a small number of the 20 cases that were dip sampled.

In relation to one of the highlighted dip sample cases, Cllr Davies' stated that it was important for officers of the Force to be conveying the appropriate message in terms of budget cuts and the consequent impact upon front line policing. Members discussed the different messages that officers should convey when dealing with difficult questions from Members of the public. Mr White commented that it was positive to hear that Police Officers were being open and transparent in their communications with local residents.

In respect of the dip sampling of PSD files that Members undertook prior to the last meeting on 27th October, Supt Evans and Mr Lemon confirmed that the feedback was positive and that there were no significant issues that required highlighting.

RESOLVED

1. That the presentation be noted
2. That Supt Evans contact the Regional Centurion User Group Representative

S36. To receive a verbal update from Professional Standards on the Force 'Learning the Lessons' Working Group

Det Insp Oliver informed Members that the Learning the Lessons Working Group had not met since May 2011, but highlighted a number of cases that were to be taken to the next 'Learning the Lessons' meeting that was planned for 31st January 2012.

RESOLVED

That the verbal update be noted

S37. To receive an update on the IPCC quarterly liaison meeting of 10th January 2012

Supt Evans and Mr Kenwright updated the Committee as to the discussions at the last IPCC liaison meeting. Members were informed that the meeting was positive, and that the IPCC had recognised that the Force was performing well and making improvements in terms of the timeliness of recording.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted

S38. To consider a briefing on the HMIC Report 'Without Fear or Favour – a Review of Police Relationships'

Members considered a briefing report on a recent HMIC Review/Report.

Supt Evans informed Members of the work that the Force was planning and already undertaking in response to the recommendations within the report.

Members agreed that in order to maintain governance and to review progress, update reports should be brought to the next two meetings of the Standards Committee.

Members agreed that it would be a good idea for a Police Authority representative to have an involvement in the drafting of the final report in response to the recommendations. It was agreed that this should be discussed further with the Chief Executive and at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

That progress reports be brought to the next two meetings of the Standards Committee

S39. Exclusion of the Press and the Public

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following three items of business pursuant to section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

S40. To consider the Exempt Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting of the 27th October 2011

Members considered the Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee meeting of 27th October 2011.

RESOLVED

That the Exempt Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting of 27th October 2011 be agreed as a true and accurate record

S41. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. All matters had been dealt with during consideration of the open minute.

S42. To receive a verbal update from the head of Professional Standards Concerning exempt statistics /investigations

Supt Evans updated Members as to a number of exempt matters.

RESOLVED

That the verbal update be noted

S43. Any other business that the Chair considers urgent

Mr Lemon updated members as to recent developments with a Freedom of Information/Data Protection matter. Mr Lemon indicated that a sub group had previously been formed to consider the matter, but a meeting of that sub group had been deferred. As Cllr K Curry was appointed to the sub group it was necessary to appoint another Member in his place (as he was no longer a Member of the Standards Committee). Cllr Lewis was nominated and appointed.

RESOLVED

1. That Cllr Lewis be appointed to the sub group
2. That the sub group (Mrs Williams, Mr Howell, Cllr Lewis) be convened as soon as possible to review the matter and report back to the Committee

Meeting ended at 1.15pm