

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

ETHICS COMMITTEE

15th November 2016

Meeting commenced: 17:30

Meeting ended : 19:45

PRESENT: Bishop David Walker – in the Chair, David Arnold MBE, Dr Ruth Bromley, Nasir Hafezi, Dr Shaid Mushtaq, Sean McHale, Dr Peter Joyce, Cym D'Souza

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Battle, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, OPCC

Wayne Miller, Chief of Staff, GMP

Smyth Harper, Head of Communications, OPCC

Lisa Lees, Office Manager, OPCC

Janette Cross, Business Support (Minutes), OPCC

1. Welcome and Introduction to the meeting

The chair welcomed and introduced the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Pilling, Paul Horrocks, Catherine Boyd and Ruth Purdie.

3. BBC2 documentary

Apologies had not been extended.

4. Previous minutes and matters arising 5th September 2016

The minutes from the previous meeting held 5th September 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

Originally prompted by Freedom on Information request for previous minutes, It was clarified that the minutes should be published and agreed that rather than names be redacted; members will be anonymised by being referred to as "a member".

(Agenda item 7 (v)) A member confirmed in relation to her teaching session, a meeting will take place around "train the trainers". On Thursday 24th November there is a pilot scheme being held for children to speak to adults, the member will be attending and will report back once the event has taken place.

Action: The member to report the event to the next meeting.

(Agenda item 4 – 1) Human Tissue Retention.

Wayne Miller updated members that the process in ongoing and relatives are continuing to be informed. The police are providing a full support package to families where this is required.

Action: Wayne Miller to provide the anticipated time for the process to be completed.

(Agenda: item 4 – 2) Whistleblowing Group

Members of the small group looking at whistleblowing met recently with several police officers of varying ranks, they established that a further meeting with professional standards is required. The majority (apart from 1) were aware of the GMP whistleblowing policy. The overall perception was that it consisted of a telephone line through to the professional standards branch. All staff felt the idea of a telephone was outdated. Wayne Miller reported that all front line officers now had a mobile phone and various apps are currently being explored.

It was also noted that officers expressed a lack of confidence in The Federation/Union. A member suggested that the issues raised could be described work place 'niggles' rather than those relating to when a whistleblowing / Speaking out Safely policy should actually be used.

Action: The group will continue their work, and report back to future meetings. A meeting with professional standards will take place.

(Agenda: item 4 – 3.) Use of Body Worn Video by Firearms officers Deployment of Taser

It was reported back that GMP were taking part in a national pilot concerned with the use of BWV in a range of situations.

A member suggested that audio recording was equally as important to provide the context to a situation.

Action: Discussion to remain on agenda.

5. Counter Terrorism Update

Detective Chief Superintendent Tony Mole thanked the meeting for the invite.

The presentation gave an overview of key issues:

- That the current threat in the UK was severe and this had been the case since September 2014. A range of statistical information was presented and explained, the presentation also illustrated that threats in the UK were significantly lower than other areas of Europe. Partner agencies were identified. Examples were given of identified terrorists, which highlighted there was no typical recruit.

At the end of the presentation, there was an opportunity for questions and answers.

There was a discussion relating to Prevent, Wayne Miller identified that himself, Ian Pilling and Simon Cole (Prevent) had recently hosted a nationwide meeting to get different views on Prevent. They are hoping to return to the conversation in Manchester and will extend the invitation to members. A member agreed he would attend, compile a report on the meeting in order to present to the board.

Action: A member to be invited to Prevent conference in Manchester, and provide a report to the board once complete.

6. Ethical Framework

The latest version of the Ethical Framework was presented to the meeting by Helen Wadham. Helen explained how she had spent some time with a police officer looking at police policies and aligning them

with the guiding principles. Jim Battle clarified that the objective of the document is to inform the public of the principles guiding the GMP at an organisational level.

It was reported that the College of Policing document, which was currently not available in the public domain, had been made available to the meeting. This was outlined to the meeting.

Jim suggested that Ethical framework was not at the stage when it could be presented to the Deputy Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner for them to agree and sign off. It was agreed that prior to this, a final meeting with the specialist group take place in order to discuss the alignment of the college of policing document alongside the proposed Ethical framework. This meeting will take place on 23rd November.

Action: Ethical working group to meet 23rd November to agree document, which would then be forwarded to Bishop to sign off and write appropriate letters to Deputy Chief Constable and Police Crime Commissioner.

7. Policing and Children

A member had met with Mark Warner (GMP) who informed him and the group what work GMP were currently doing to reduce the number of children and young people being held in police custody. The work of Gail Spruce (GMP) was also noted. Jim reported that the Commissioner Tony Lloyd had recently met with Clifford Morris (GM leader for child safeguarding) and Jim Taylor (lead GM Chief Executive) in relation to this work, and discussions are ongoing. The member reported that there were still areas which concerned him, one was around the cells being no different to the cells in which adults were detained, there were examples as to how this might be improved in the recently built counter terrorism cells. A member said the child detainees he had spoken to had never reported any issues. A further issue which has been highlighted during the discussions was around the delay of arrival of AA, and the difficulties in obtaining an appropriate adult, this impacted on the detainees being kept longer than necessary.

Jim said the OPCC was aware of the issues with the AA schemes, and that it should be noted that there are 2 schemes operating in the GM area one provided by the OPCC and the other a private company. Jim explained that the AA scheme was currently being reviewed. Some of the LA's are buying into OPCC scheme, and some into the private scheme.

Actions: work to be ongoing, Jim to keep board updated on developments.

8. Committee Composition and Operation

i. Period of Tenure of Members – Bishop David

The Bishop had met with Jim Battle and Tony Lloyd, it was agreed that because of the change of OPCC tenure, and in order to maintain some stability in the work programme, membership could be extended until April 2018, this will allow time for the incoming Mayor to settle in. If, however, any member wanted to step down this would be understood.

ii. Recruitment to vacancies – Bishop David

It was noted that the committee had carried one vacancy for a year, however, depending on the outcome of the previous point, should several members wish to step down, then a recruitment exercise would need to take place. Bishop David asked that members of the committee consider their position and let him know their intentions prior to the next meeting in January. When, dependant on results which will be reported in January's meeting. At this point a decision would be made about recruitment.

Actions: Can any member who wishes to step down, let Bishop David know. Carry over to next meeting.

9. Recording of Crime

A member asked that committee consider whether the recent publication reported in the MEN relating to GMP “failing to record 38,000 crimes each year”, be considered by the committee as an ethical issue or whether this was within the responsibility of local management. It was noted that this report had been published following a recent HMIC inspection.

Wayne Miller reported that the Chief Constable, Ian Pilling had already agreed that this was an area of work requiring improvements. However, he also asked that it be noted that GMP had been awarded “good” for efficiency and effectiveness by the same inspectorate. Wayne reported that IT systems are currently being developed, and the findings of the HMIC report was a key priority for the force. Wayne invited a couple of members to attend and observe one of the meetings dealing with the “operation octopus”. Two members agreed they would attend and report back.

Action: Two members to attend an “operation octopus” meeting and feed back to subsequent meeting.

10. AOB

Matters discussed for the next meeting

- Consider Confidentiality for next meeting
- Re-introduce work plan
- Wayne Miller also confirmed that Ian Hopkins and Umar Khan had arrived safely in Ethiopia yesterday.
- Invite Rochdale police to January meeting, in respect of demonstrating excellent practice.
- Invite Professional standards to January Meeting, in respect of Phone Hacking.

Action: OPCC office invite Rochdale, and Professional Standards to January meeting.
OPCC re-introduce work plan.

Further meeting Monday 16th January 2017.

