

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

Ethics Committee

20 November 2014

Meeting commenced: 5.30 pm

Meeting ended: 7.35 pm

PRESENT: Bishop David Walker – in the Chair
David Arnold, Catherine Boyd, Ruth Bromley, Cym Dsouza, Nasir Hafezi,
Paul Horrocks, Peter Joyce, Sally Lester, Sean McHale, and Shaid Mushtaq,
Ruth Purdie.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Battle, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Smyth Harper, Head of Communications and Advocacy
Rachael Storey, Business Support Officer

Paul Rumney, Chief Superintendent, Professional Standards Branch
Robert Pell, Greater Manchester Police
Anthony Holmes, Greater Manchester Police

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of John Amaechi.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 2014, were approved as a correct record.

16. BODY WORN VIDEO FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS

The sub-group on body-worn videos outlined the work they had undertaken and the conclusions from the consultation undertaken. Members discussed the findings.

It was noted that Greater Manchester Police should consider the following issues in the development of the body worn cameras policy:

1. the development of a leaflet to explain how the video footage should be used.
2. the secure storage of the data.
3. the issue of taking images of children.

4. the use of body worn cameras in line with the victims' code.
5. the development of a consistent form of words to be used by officers when initiating operation of the cameras.
6. the increased standard of service and the secondary use of using footage for training purposes to improve officer conduct.
7. the robustness and servicing of the equipment.
8. the use of data, involving vulnerable people in the Criminal Justice system where information used in court becomes public information.

A member raised an issue with the use of the operational red light and suggested the bright light may be intimidating. After a discussion it was concluded that a light needed to be displayed to demonstrate that the situation was being recorded but that the brightness of the light could be explored.

The effect on perpetrators was discussed. Members suggested that the footage that has been captured on film, when witnessed by the perpetrator, could help them to amend their behaviour.

It was explained that media companies have made requests to film a television programme about the use of body worn cameras in Greater Manchester. Members felt that it would be detrimental to the body worn camera programme to interact with media companies at this stage.

When questioned about how the body worn cameras would become operational across Greater Manchester Paul Rumney explained that a phased roll out would be required and that one division at a time would start to operate body worn cameras. He explained that the process would be evaluated and reviewed at each stage. A Member suggested that consultation and engagement with communities should be undertaken as part of the roll out process.

Members suggested that the broad principles of the process were okay but that the protocols would need to be brought to the committee for guidance as the process was still evolving and some ethical issues were yet to emerge.

It was noted by the chair that the use of a smaller working group speeded up the process and provided the information that the committee needed to make decisions and he recommended that this approach be used again.

It was agreed that Members were in favour of Greater Manchester Police collecting body worn evidence and agreed;

1. the recommendations of the working group outlined in the report;
2. that consultation be undertaken with communities following the roll out of the procedure.

3. that the report be amended to include the additional issues discussed at the meeting and then circulated to the committee.

4. that Greater Manchester Police circulate the body worn video protocols to the committee.

5. that the smaller working group method be used again to research future issues.

Members thanked the sub-group for their work and producing the report.

17. TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION - POLICE USE OF FORCE

Paul Rumney and Robert Pell provided members with information on the police use of force and outlined the training package that the officers complete.

Members considered the information presented and it was agreed:

1. that the use of force as a topic to debate and examine was too large as a whole and needed to be broken down into a starting topic which could then be developed further;

2. that a further meeting be used to discuss the use of weaponry in more detail in order to answer the following questions and issues:

- Is Greater Manchester Police's style of policing contributing to the increased use of force?
- Police culture and officer behaviour – to what extent does this impact on data?
- How is the use of force escalated?
- What is reasonable to have happened before the use of force is applied?
- Risk appetite for using force.
- Mental health and the use of force.
- Dis-proportionality in the use of force. Is force used more with certain groups?
- Use of force at the point of arrest.
- Use of force in custody.
- Is the correct data in relation to use of force being collected?
- Is there a different way of ensuring a positive outcome?
- What would good look like?

3. that staff from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office would work with Greater Manchester Police to ensure that the reports for the committee were appropriate for future topics to be discussed.

18. FORWARD PLAN AND FUTURE ITEMS

The chair requested that the next session be used to further discuss the Police Use of Force and that the topic of Stop and Search be discussed at the following meeting.

19. REQUEST FROM POLICE OFFICER REGARDING ACADEMIC RESEARCH

The chair outlined a letter he had received from a detective inspector requesting to study the work of the Greater Manchester Police Ethics Committee as part of her studies for a Post Graduate Diploma in Police Leadership and Management.

Members discussed the request and expressed reservations due to, (a) the group only recently being established and (b) individual meetings not being in the public domain.

Paul Rumney explained that as it was the first in the country there has been a lot of interest in the committee. It was agreed;

1. that the minutes of the committee meetings be made available to the public once approved by committee;
2. that the detective inspector be invited to observe the committee meeting in progress;
3. that the Chair of the committee meet with the detective inspector to discuss her request further.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Work Plan

A Member suggested that the question "Are Greater Manchester Police considering the same things as the Metropolitan force on employing people with criminal records?" be included in the committee's work programme.

Administration of expenses

Rachael Storey outlined the how the expenses scheme was administered and advised on the expenses that were able to be claimed by committee members.

Communications

A member suggested that the committee may want to consider how they communicate the work they are doing to the public.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 27th January, 2015, commencing at 5.30pm.

22.