

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE, HELD ON TUESDAY 18
JULY 2017 AT CHURCH HOUSE**

PRESENT:

Bishop David Walker
Paul Horrocks
Dr Ruth Bromley
David Arnold MBE
Sally Lester
Sean McHale
Catherine Boyd
Cym D'Souza
Shaid Mushtaq
Nasir Hafezi
Roy Walters

IN ATTENDANCE:

Adam Allen	GM Combined Authority (GMCA)
Emma Stonier	GM Combined Authority (GMCA)
Wayne Miller	Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

EC/17/01 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members of the Ethics Committee to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Joyce, Ruth Purdie, Ian Pilling and Nicola Spragg.

EC/17/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

EC/17/03 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2017 were submitted for approval and approved as an accurate record subject to the changes below;

-) Agenda item 2 'Matters arising': amend the wording regarding 'challenged the whistleblowing policy' to 'Chief Superintendent AA had provided an updated on actions which had been taken and requested that the whistleblowing paper reflected these'.
-) Agenda item 8 'Sharing Information – Verbal update': The last two lines should read 'the DCC said some interesting ethical debates had been generated on the back of the email shared and the Committee noted that at this time there was no immediate action for them'.

Matters arising

i. Local Ethics Panels

Rochdale division had attended the last Committee meeting regarding their Local Ethics Panel. Since the last meeting members had reflected on this presentation and highlighted a few areas of potential concern; conflicting advice between divisional ethics panels and/or this Committee; liability of SPOCs where advice is offered and published or referred to by police staff; and how local ethics panels are provided with oversight both at a strategic level and within divisions by senior police officers.

Members also noted that the role of the local ethics panel could be seen as different but complementary to that of this Committee; local panels evidenced that police officers were thinking about ethical practice and embedding this into day-to-day police officer practice whilst this Ethics Committee provided strategic level support.

GMP confirmed that Chief Superintendents held divisional meetings with front line staff and that this is the forum in which information is passed upwards to force command; noting that any issues arising from local ethics panels would be picked up through these meetings.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to review this in 6 months' time to reflect how the local ethics panels are working in practice. It was suggested that a senior officer from Rochdale could attend a Committee meeting to provide this information and that some real life scenarios from the local ethics panels could be produced for the Committee to review.

ii. Recording of Crime

Recent communication to GMP regarding their recording of crime was highlighted; this had noted that the recording of crime was separate from the investigation of crime. A Member said they would be interested to receive the Deputy Mayor's response to this. GMP confirmed that the new IT system should assist with this issue. The Committee were also informed that Nick Hurd MP was the new Minister of State for Policing and Fire.

iii. Expenses

Members noted there had been a few issues with expenses and allowance payments during the change from the OPCC to the GMCA. Members were informed this issue would be taken away and looked into.

RESOLVED/-

1. To review the work of Local Ethics Panels in 6 months' time.

EC/17/04 REPORT BACK ON ETHICS FRAMEWORK AND RESPONSE

The Committee asked for an update on the response to the Ethical Framework developed and asked whether this had been submitted to the Police and Crime Panel.

It was confirmed that this had been taken to the former Police and Crime Commissioner's Public Forum and that an update in relation to submission to the police and crime panel would be requested.

RESOLVED/:

- 1. To be provided with an update re; the response to the Ethical Framework.**

EC/17/05 GMP UPDATES

- i. Human Tissue

The Committee were provided with an update on Operation Grantham. As of June 2017 138 cases were now closed, 25 were still awaiting a next of kin decision and 9 cases had not yet been allocated; 5 where the next of kin had not been traced and 4 where the next of kin resided overseas. By September it is anticipated the operation will have concluded. It was confirmed that no further complaints had been received since the last update in May. The Committee requested a further update be brought to the September meeting. The work which GMP had undertaken to ensure this operation was handled sensitively was noted.

- ii. Qatar Training Programme

The Committee were informed that Qatar had withdrawn from the training programme earlier this year due to a reprioritisation of funding. The Committee requested that they received early notification if the training programme was resumed.

- iii. Operation Poppy

The IPCC report on Operation Poppy, which the Committee were informed was investigations relating to whistleblowing, was now available and the report will be shared with the Committee. This will be considered more fully at a future meeting.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. To be provided with a further Operation Grantham update at the next Committee meeting; and**
- 2. To receive the IPCC report into Operation Poppy and consider this at a future meeting to assess if there are any issues the Committee would like to look into further.**

EC/17/06 PREVENT – VERBAL UPDATE

A Member had met with the OPCC and GMP to discuss Prevent. The meeting had focused on Prevent from a safeguarding perspective, for example in a neighbourhood/community setting or health setting, and information shared had been limited.

The Committee were informed that the Mayor had announced a review into Prevent and Counter Extremism which will be led by Cllr Rishi Shori. This review will bring in a cross sector of views and organisations as Prevent is relevant across lots of public sector organisations, including the police, schools, councils and health. The Ethics Committee have been offered as a resource to feed into this review.

The Committee discussed how to contribute to and engage with this enquiry throughout the process as it was felt they would be able to offer valuable assistance to the group convened to carry out this review. It was agreed that a letter would be sent from the Chair to the Mayor regarding input into the Terms of Reference of the review and requesting that the Committee are involved in this work when it is convened. The Committee agreed three members would be the primary liaison and that they would bring updates back to the wider Committee.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. For the Chair to write to the Mayor re; the Ethics Committee involvement in the Prevent and Counter Extremism Review; and**
- 2. To receive further updates about the progress of the review from the three assigned Committee Members.**

EC/17/07 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Members discussed the development of a Communications Strategy to assist with the communication and publication of the work which the Committee had carried out and with increasing the awareness of the Committee with key stakeholders, such as GMP and the GMCA. The Committee's role and offer to key organisations was highlighted as needing to be more widely publicised, to ensure that the message regarding what the Committee can assist with is better communicated. It was suggested that a starting point would be to have information about the Ethics Committee on the GMCA website; including minutes of meetings, reports produced and short biographies of individual members. The possibilities of a presentation to the GMCA and media presence were also discussed as potential ideas to increase the Committee's profile.

The Committee agreed that a small working group would be convened to take this work forward.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. For three Committee members to form a small working group to develop a Communication Strategy; and**
- 2. To have an Ethics Committee page on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority website.**

EC/17/08 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS TO NOTE

i. Arrangements with new Combined Authority and Mayoral Team

The Committee hoped that the new Deputy Mayor will be at the next meeting to enable connection with the Mayoral team. The Chair was meeting with the Deputy Mayor at the end of July and this was one of the areas for discussion.

ii. Neighbourhood policing

The Committee discussed reviewing neighbourhood policing and what this would look like in future in the context of funding cuts. The role of neighbourhood officers was outlined; there is the neighbourhood beat officer and the neighbourhood police officer who is responsible for resource allocation, prioritisation and response. It was suggested that the Committee may wish to look at these roles. The Committee requested that this was included on the agenda for the next meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

iii. Use of media during operations

The Committee discussed looking at the use of media during operations; in particular how the privacy of victims and suspects is protected. It was noted that the NPCC had produced guidance for police officers around the use of social media at protests. As far as GMP were aware there wasn't official guidance in relation to potential reputation damage. The Committee requested that this was included in the agenda for the next meeting.

iv. Recording of Crime

A member had suggested that the Committee may wish to look at the reporting of road accidents by GMP at a future meeting. To look into this issue advice would need to be sought from GMP regarding their policies.

v. Stop and Search Report

The Committee were informed that a report into Stop and Search was currently being produced by GMP and that this would be brought to the Ethics Committee for consideration once finalised.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. For neighbourhood policing to be a substantive agenda item at the next meeting;**
- 2. For the Use of Media during Operations to be a substantive agenda item at the next meeting; and**
- 3. To receive the GMP report into Stop and Search once finalised.**

EC/17/09 AOB

There were no items of other business.

