

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE, HELD ON TUESDAY 19
SEPTEMBER 2017 AT CHURCH HOUSE**

PRESENT:

Bishop David Walker (Chair)
David Arnold MBE
Dr Ruth Bromley
Nasir Hafezi
Peter Joyce
Sally Lester
Sean McHale
Shaid Mushtaq
Ruth Purdie
Roy Walters

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian Pilling	Greater Manchester Police (GMP)
Smyth Harper	GM Combined Authority (GMCA)
Emma Stonier	GM Combined Authority (GMCA)

EC/17/10 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members of the Ethics Committee to the meeting. The Chair informed the Committee that Catherine Boyd was standing down as a member of the Committee due to work commitments and thanked her for her work and contributions.

Apologies for absence were received from Cym D'Souza and Paul Horrocks.

EC/17/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

EC/17/12 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2017 were submitted for approval and approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

i. Human Tissue

The Committee were provided with an update on Operation Grantham. There was no further significant update to provide to the Committee. It was noted that in 2 cases GMP were struggling to identify the Next of Kin (NOK) but were continuing in their

attempts to identify them. The Committee were informed that if they could not identify the NOK then GMP may come back to them to seek guidance.

ii. Prevent

The Committee were updated that the Mayor's Office had been informed that they the Committee were interested in contributing to this work. There will be an announcement regarding the 'Greater Manchester Tackling Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission' next week and a paper will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority at the end of September which outlines its terms of reference. The Ethics Committee will be included on the stakeholder list as a group the Commission would like to engage with and a further update relating to the format of the commission will be provided at the next meeting.

iii. Report back on Ethics Framework & Response

The Committee were provided with an update regarding the response to the Ethical Framework. This had been approved by the former Police and Crime Commissioner's at the Public Forum meeting in March 2017; GMP have taken the decision to not implement this framework due to concerns about potential conflict between this framework and the Code of Ethics and the National Decision Model. It was highlighted that the College of Policing were undertaking work relating to organisational ethics and it was requested that a copy of this document was forwarded to them to be considered as part of this work. The Committee noted that there were some issues arising from this item, including the area of time being spent developing items which may not go on to be adopted. The Committee agreed that this item was now complete and that the GMCA would forward the framework to the College of Policing.

iv. Communication Strategy

An update was provided in relation to the Communications Strategy. The GMCA website now has a section dedicated to the Ethics Committee which includes Members details, a contact email and meeting dates and minutes. Discussions have taken place between the Committee and GMP communications regarding raising the Committee's profile and a meeting of the working group has been arranged which they can attend.

v. Operation Poppy

The Committee had received the IPCC Operation Poppy reports and agreed that at this time there was no further action for the Ethics Committee.

vi. Arrangements with GMCA and Mayoral Team

The Deputy Mayor will be attending the December meeting of the Committee and it is intended that they will attend one meeting of the Committee each year; with the Chair meeting with the Deputy Mayor a couple of times a year to ensure they are updated on the Committee's work. The Committee requested clarity around the point of contact within the GMCA for them to engage with and asked for further information regarding the structure of the GMCA. It was also confirmed that the Police and Crime Panel remained in place, although the membership of this had now changed.

The Committee were informed that the Police and Crime Plan was currently being updated and that input of the Ethics Committee would be sought, as a stakeholder, at the appropriate time. Timings are currently being confirmed and it was noted that views may need to be sought prior to the next meeting date. Five members of the Committee agreed to be in a small working group to support this and further information will be sent to them when available. The Committee also noted it could be beneficial if the Chair presented to the GMCA on the Ethics Committee and their work to make the existence of the Committee more widely known.

A question was raised regarding the GMCA and how the Ethics Committee fitted into this; it was explained that the Mayor was responsible for policing and crime and that this sat within the GMCA's governance structure.

The small working group will report back to the next Committee meeting on progress.

vii. Body Worn Video and Firearms Officers

GMP informed the Ethics Committee that the roll-out of Body Worn Video to Firearms Officers was a national programme and that timescales of roll-out will be determined nationally. The Committee requested that GMP found out when the expected roll out date was and that they were updated regarding this.

viii. Payslips and Expenses

An update regarding payslips and expenses was provided. It has been agreed that paper payslips will be provided and these should be with members shortly. A meeting is also being arranged to resolve the outstanding issues with payments and to establish future processes for expenses payments.

ix. Possible GM Policing Ethics Day Conference

A Member proposed that the Committee held a GM Policing Ethics Day Conference. Members of the Committee had attended a conference held by the College of Policing which they had found useful and felt that this was something which would be beneficial to hold. Following discussion it was agreed that the Committee would further investigate the possibility of holding a conference; it was felt that this should be a one day conference and held in an independent location. Additional ideas for the agenda included networking and reflective practice/learning. The number of attendees proposed to be invited to the conference would be between 80-100 people.

It was agreed that GMP and the GMCA would identify whether there was any support which they could offer the Committee with this. Additionally it was noted that the resources the Committee had access to, to help with the organisation of the conference, would be confirmed by the GMCA.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2017;**

2. To receive an update regarding the 'Greater Manchester Tackling Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion' at the next meeting;
3. To send a copy of the Ethical Framework to the College of Policing;
4. To receive a point of contact for engagement within the GMCA;
5. To receive information regarding the structure of the GMCA; and
6. To look into holding a GM Policing Ethics Conference.

EC/17/13 USE OF MEDIA DURING OPERATIONS

The Committee received the national guidance on the use of media during operations and discussed whether there were any issues arising from this that they would like to look into further. The guidelines are broadly intended to balance the individual's right vs. operational need to use the media. GMP also confirmed that in the majority of cases a person would not be named until they had been charged. Decisions about using the media are taken on a case by case basis, with the decision making process being well documented and, in some instances, discussed with the Crown Prosecution Service. The national guidance was noted as framing current practice.

It was noted that a lot of 'wanted' images were taken from CCTV images and that this was a more clear-cut decision as the images were public. The Committee were informed that, overall, GMP felt that the majority of decisions made were correct and that the decision making process underlying the use of media during operations was a robust one.

The Committee asked whether there were consistent communications strategies in place across organisations when responding to major incidents. It was confirmed that in these cases there were clear protocols in place which all organisations followed; if it was a police incident then in those cases communications would be led by the police to ensure investigations were not compromised. Communication would also take place between organisations to ensure a joined up approach.

It was also confirmed that a similar procedure would be followed regarding the release of victims' names to the media.

The Committee agreed that at this time there was no further action for them related to the use of media during operations.

EC/17/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

The Ethics Committee discussed neighbourhood policing and whether this was an area which they would like to consider further. The Committee highlighted one of the main potential issues as being whether neighbourhood policing could be resourced effectively in the context of budget cuts. They were informed that GMP had been inspected on this 12 months ago and had received a reasonable rating. During the past year demand continued to remain high and resources continued to be diverted elsewhere when required. GMP have recognised this issue and problems arising from this and are currently looking at ways to resolve this. It was agreed that at this time the Ethics Committee would not further investigate neighbourhood policing.

A Member of the Committee raised GMP's recent 4 steps campaign and the potential negative impact this may have had on vulnerable people contacting the police when

necessary. The reasoning's behind the campaign were highlighted which were the increase GMP had seen in 999 calls and the volume of calls received which would be more appropriately dealt with by other agencies. Members also received information regarding alternative ways members of the public could contact GMP and how 999 calls were prioritised and answered within the control room. The need for consultation with other agencies across GM was noted as being important for future campaigns and for partnership working across GM.

Discussion took place surrounding the distinction between 999 and 101 calls and some of the difficulties people reported when using the 101 number. The Committee were informed that the Deputy Mayor was undertaking a review of 101 and that they would be informed of the outcome of this review.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. To receive an update when available regarding the outcome of the review into 101.**

EC/17/15 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

i. Uniform Policy (including tattoos, piercings etc.)

The Committee considered GMP's Uniform Policy to assess if there were any areas they would like to look into further. It was confirmed that GMP permitted arm tattoos, as long as the tattoo was not offensive. Other visible tattoos such as those on the hands, neck or face are not allowed. It was also noted that GMP's policy differed from that of the College of Policing Guidance.

Following discussion the Committee agreed that their queries regarding the policy had been answered and that they did not wish to look into this in more detail.

ii. Use of facial recognition technology

GMP confirmed that there was, currently, no policy relating to the use of facial recognition technology. They expected that this would be developed over the next couple of years as this technology advances. The Ethics Committee requested they be consulted when policies were in development.

EC/17/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. GMP's Four Step Roll-Out

This was discussed under item EC/17/14.