

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE, HELD ON TUESDAY 5
DECEMBER 2017 AT CHURCH HOUSE**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Beverley Hughes | Deputy Mayor (Policing, Crime & Fire) |
| Arif Nawaz | Greater Manchester Police (GMP) |
| Clare Monaghan | GM Combined Authority (GMCA) |
| Emma Stonier | GM Combined Authority (GMCA) |

EC/17/17 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, Ruth Purdie and Smyth Harper (GMCA).

EC/17/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

**EC/17/19 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 19 SEPTEMBER 2017
AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were submitted for approval and approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

i. Communications

An update was provided to the Ethics Committee on the development of a Communications strategy. A further meeting had been held between Ethics Committee Members, GMP and the GMCA and another meeting was due to be arranged. There were two main areas which were highlighted as needing to be developed; an inward looking strategy, for developing knowledge and communication with GMP officers and an outward facing strategy for wider engagement.

Some suggestions for engagement with GMP were; Ethics Committee members visiting police stations to meet officers and members attending an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to raise awareness of their existence. Members were also informed that the new Police and Crime Plan in development was looking at ways to engage with communities and it may be possible for the Ethics Committee to feed into some of these.

The Ethics Committee noted the progress and it was agreed to bring a further update/final strategy to the next meeting.

ii. Body Worn Video

A Member highlighted Body Worn Video in relation to its use during stop and search. They had reviewed some footage in their role as a member of an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and in some of the cases the camera had been switched on after prior engagement between the officer and person being stopped and searched. The member noted that in the Ethics Committee report relating to Body Worn Video a recommendation had been that the camera was switched from the first interaction. The anecdotal nature of this was also highlighted as only a small number of stop and search encounters had been reviewed.

A potential issue about the use of Body Worn Video in prosecutions where the victim is not supportive was also raised. It was confirmed that this would be taken away to find out if there was any known intelligence related to this.

There was also instances of the video equipment producing a buffer at the start of the recording which raised subsequent issue of 30 seconds of audio not being available to reviewers. GMP noted they would find out whether this was a known issue with the technology and update the committee accordingly. It was also noted that the advice given to officers was that the camera should be switched on from the start of a stop and search encounter.

Feedback related to young people's experience of stop and search was also discussed. The GMCA had developed an app for this but the amount of feedback received from this was minimal. Currently other options for collating feedback on experiences of stop and search were being considered and any suggestions from the committee members would be appreciated. A member noted that they provided training for young people through the citizenship programme and that there could be potential for this to be included as part of this training.

iii. HMIC Recording of Crime

Ethics Committee members raised concerns with the Deputy Mayor about the resource implications for GMP following the rise in the number of recorded crimes, to ensure GMP was compliant with HMIC and the Home Office in relation to the recording of crime. It was noted that these were set by the Home Office therefore reducing the amount of solutions available to GMP to alleviate this. The Deputy Mayor confirmed this was an issue which they were aware of and discussions were taking place with GMP regarding this. Members also suggested raising this issue with other police forces.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2017;
2. To receive an update regarding any tech issues with body worn video equipment; and
3. To receive an update regarding stop and search and body worn video and use of body worn video in cases where the victim did not want to prosecute.

EC/17/20 BEVERLEY HUGHES, DEPUTY MAYOR FOR POLICING, CRIME AND FIRE

The Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime and Fire was welcomed to the meeting of the Ethics Committee.

The Deputy Mayor expressed support for the Ethics Committee and the principles underlying the committee. The independence of the committee was also highlighted as being crucial to their role.

The Deputy Mayor's priorities for policing were developing and were closely aligned to the development of the new Police and Crime Plan for Greater Manchester. The current Plan comes to an end at the end of December with the new one due to be published in January. Consultation in developing this had been extensive and had included the police, local authorities, the voluntary sector and other relevant partner agencies. There would also be strong alignment between the Plan, the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) and GMP's strategic priorities. The Plan was noted as out for public consultation imminently. Priorities which sit under the overarching priorities outlined in the Plan would also be developed in future. The priorities drafted extend further than policing and additionally crucial to its success will be the wider programme of public sector reform and partnership working. The priorities identified were noted as; protecting people (victims and vulnerability), preventing harm and reducing offending, supporting communities and places, campaign against violence against women and girls and young people as victims and offenders. How these were tackled would raise ethical issues which the committee may wish to look at in future.

Partnership and multi-agency working would be a central tenet to the finalised Plan and it was noted that this may raise some issues when negotiating the multi-agency terrain and working together in a more comprehensive and strategic way. The focus on vulnerability and victims and move towards prioritising issues using threat, harm and risk may also present some potential ethical issues and conflicts. An outcomes framework was in development to ensure progress against the Plan is measurable.

A member noted the differences between consultations with partners and working in partnership; they noted the multi-agency hub in Holts as being an example of successful partnership working where conversations had taken place with residents regarding capacity of

the police. The balance between this and police response when required was also drawn attention to. The Deputy Mayor informed members that the ambition was for multi-agency working to be achieved across Greater Manchester. Robust information sharing was noted as being crucial to this and particular ethical issues arising from this were highlighted.

A member noted areas in which the Ethics Committee could be of use as; looking at the ethical implications of resources/funding for GMP and providing advice, assistance and guidance to GMP in priority areas sitting underneath the Police and Crime Plan.

A member raised health care and the inter-related nature of problems tackling in health which are linked to policing. The importance of strategic planning and working together to tackle problems was highlighted as well as the potential of devolution to drive this forward. Additionally all agencies being invited and attending multi-agency meetings was noted as being crucial to ensuring joined up working was a success. The importance of locations driving partnership working forward was recognised alongside the pilot – colocation hubs. Information sharing was again noted as being crucial to support this work.

A member asked whether consideration had been given for the inclusion of cybercrime as a priority, as this was a growing crime where members of the public in particular were unclear on how to report and follow up. Action Fraud was noted as being the organisation which records these crimes and then distributes to the home police force. The Ethics Committee were informed that an Economic Crime Fraud desk had been set up to try and support victims within Greater Manchester; problems highlighted included this type of crime often being committed in other cities and countries which made tackling this more complex. The police use the threat, harm and risk assessment when responding to these crimes. Other areas of online crime, including child abuse and grooming, were also noted as being a growing concern.

A member highlighted changes to the data protection legislation which would be implemented in May 2018 and the potential impact of this on information sharing between organisations. The current review into CSE arrangements was highlighted, which included information sharing. Each organisation had lawyers which reviewed information sharing policies and procedures. The committee was also informed that the GMCA were looking at the potential impacts of the introduction of this legislation. The Deputy Mayor also informed the committee that a Health and Justice Board had been set up, which they would jointly chair with Jon Rouse, Chief Officer, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership,. This was intended to make connections between health, the police and justice more strongly and data was one of the areas they would be taking forward.

Potential areas for the Ethics Committee to consider were summed up as follows; economic crime, information sharing, online abuse and grooming, the identification of key partners for the committee to formally work with and the possibility of the committee meeting other groups across Greater Manchester to articulate what the committee means for Greater Manchester. Members also highlighted cases they had received in past from GMP which had raised particular ethical concerns and where advice and guidance from the committee had been sought. This type of work seemed to have reduced and the committee felt this was one area in which they had been able to have meaningful input and make a difference. It was confirmed that the GMCA would raise this with GMP offline.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the update and potential areas for future work; and
2. For conversation to take place between GMCA and GMP re; Ethics Committee input into cases which posed particular ethical concerns.

EC/17/21 TACKLING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION COMMISSION - UPDATE

The Ethics Committee were provided with a brief update on the Tackling Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission. The Commission had started their work and the first meeting had taken place three weeks ago.

The Committee had started to look into Prevent when the commission was announced and expressed interest in being involved in this work as it progressed. It was agreed to provide the lead officer at the GMCA with a contact point from the Committee so that they were able to feed into this work at the appropriate stage.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the update; and
2. To provide a members contact details to the relevant officer at the GMCA for the Committee to input into the Commission at the appropriate stage.

EC/17/22 ETHICS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The small working group provided an update on progress made regarding the potential of holding an Ethics Committee conference. The Committee were informed that a potential date and venue had been identified and conversations had taken place with GMP. Additionally if a conference was to be held there was a confirmed maximum budget of £2000 from the GMCA to support this. It was confirmed that the maximum number of potential delegates was 120. It had yet to be agreed whether there any event administrative support could be provided from GMP and/or GMCA, issues with capacity from both organisations was highlighted.

Discussions took place around the potential venue with the following alternatives being suggested; Sedgely Park and Media City UK. The timescales, between now and March, for organisation of a conference were also highlighted. The date discussed had also not as yet been considered by the Deputy Mayor.

It was agreed that the potential conference would be discussed offline between senior officers in GMCA, GMP and the Deputy Mayor and the Ethics Committee would be provided with an update following these discussions.

RESOLVED/-

1. To receive confirmation about the holding of an Ethics Conference.

EC/17/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Payslips and expenses

Committee members raised one item of other business in relation to payslips and expenses. Some Members had received paper payslips whilst others were still awaiting these. Additionally online logins had been provided but members were unable to access payslips online. It was agreed to take these issues back to payroll services and request that paper payslips continued to be sent to committee members.