



**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
15 SEPTEMBER 2010
2.00PM – 5.00PM**

PRESENT

MEMBERS: Mr C Underwood-Frost (Chairman), Mr R Palmer (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Cooper, Mr A Dezonie, Mr F Mann JP

SECRETARIAT: Mr M Burch (Chief Executive), Mr H Hunt (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr J King (Committee and Administration Officer)

FORCE OFFICERS: Mr N Rhodes (Deputy Chief Constable), Superintendent P Wood (Head of Professional Standards), C/Inspector S Taylor (Professional Standards), Mrs A Foster, (Office Manager, Professional Standards), Inspector A Leighton (CJS and Partnerships)

APOLOGIES: Mrs A Crowe JP, Mr G Dark, Mr K Smith

23/10. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND / OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None.

24/10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
1. That the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following items involved the disclosure or likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 7 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).	-

URGENT ITEM

25/10. CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING

The Deputy Chief Constable provided a detailed briefing on the outcome of a recent internal investigation.

Resolved: 1. That the briefing be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
--	--------------------------------------

INCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

26/10. MINUTES – 15 JUNE 2010

Resolved: 1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 June 2010 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	Responsible Officer: -
--	--------------------------------------

27/10. MINUTES – 1 JULY 2010

Resolved: 1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 1 July 2010 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	Responsible Officer: -
---	--------------------------------------

28/10. ACTION SUMMARY

Item E2 (14/12/09) – The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that he had met with the Head of Professional Standards to consider the format of a number of standing reports. It was agreed to defer discussion until those reports were considered later on in the agenda.

Resolved: 1. That the Decision and Action Summary be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
---	--------------------------------------

29/10. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK REGISTERS

Resolved: 1. That the report be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
--	--------------------------------------

30/10. FORCE RISK REGISTER/COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Resolved: 1. That the oral report be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
---	--------------------------------------

31/10. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITS – APRIL TO JUNE 2010

The Committee and Administration Officer presented custody visiting statistics for the period April to June 2010. Members were advised that this was the first quarter to reflect the roll out of 'Self Introduction' across the County. It was reported that 67% of detainees being held in custody at the time of a custody visit had consented to receive a visit. This compared with just 38% for the corresponding period in 2009/10. The number of detainees refusing to give consent for a custody visit had fallen from 49% in 2009/2010 to just 21% for the current period. Members were pleased to note the significant improvement in performance.

The Committee was invited to consider redefining the definition of a late night visit, which currently referred to visits undertaken between 9.01pm and 2.00am. The CAO advised that very few visits were undertaken between the hours of 12.00am and 2.00am as detainees tended to be either asleep or incapable of consenting to a visit (due to intoxication). Members agreed to amend the definition of a late night visit to between 9.01pm and 12.00am.

Resolved: That 1. the summary of custody visits to designated police stations during April to June 2010 at Appendix 1 be noted; 2. the summary of re-occurring issues at Appendix 2 be noted; 3. the analysis of custody visiting times at Appendix 3 be noted; 4. the definition of a late night visit be amended to refer to visits undertaken between the hours of 9.01pm and 12.00am.	Responsible Officer: - - - CAO
---	---

32/10. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Head of Professional Standards tabled the results of a customer satisfaction survey completed by complainants during the period June 2009 to August 2010. Members were advised that only 70 (18%) out of 386 surveys had been completed and it was therefore very difficult to draw any firm conclusions from such a small sample size. The Chairman suggested that the Committee revisited the survey results at the next ordinary meeting to determine whether data from customer satisfaction surveys was meaningful enough to be included within the performance monitoring arrangements.

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
That 1. progress with the Work Plan be noted; 2. the Committee revisit the customer satisfaction survey results at the next meeting to determine whether the data is meaningful enough to be included within the performance monitoring arrangements; 3. the completion date for action (2) be revised to December 2010; 4. the completion date for action (12) be revised to December 2010.	- HoPSD CAO CAO

33/10. CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS STATISTICS - APRIL TO JUNE 2010

The Head of Professional Standards department (HoPSD) highlighted a 2% reduction in the number of complaint allegations over the previous quarter although it was noted that the number of complainants had slightly increased. The number of allegations and complaints completed had also dropped significantly over the previous quarter. There was no obvious explanation for the downward trend although the increase in the number of recorded complaints was one possibility.

Referring to earlier discussions about the format of the report, the Chairman questioned the value of some of the statistical data that was being provided. The HoPSD suggested that there should be a stronger focus on qualitative analysis to discern trends and key learning, identify solutions and inform changes to existing practices and policies. Whilst this would require a significant investment in time, it could form part of the "Learning the Lessons" work. It was agreed that the HoPSD would develop a template for consideration at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman referred to a recent BBC news story in which it had been reported that at least 2000 police officers had been subject to 3 or more complaints by members of the public during the last year. Lincolnshire had been identified as one of three forces with the most multiple complaints per officer. The HoPSD stated that the 'league table' compiled by the BBC from those forces which had responded to the information request did not compare like with like. It was also explained that the figures provided by the BBC related to initial allegations the vast majority of which had been finalised as unsubstantiated or had been locally resolved with the complainant.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the report be noted; 2. a new template report be presented for consideration at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>- HoPSD</p>
---	---

34/10. OVERVIEW OF TRAINING BEING DELIVERED TO TACKLE CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES

Chief Inspector Taylor tabled details of a number of training courses which were being delivered by Professional Standards department. He explained that training had previously been delivered on an ad hoc basis. He had therefore decided to put together a number of different training packages to enable topics to be delivered in a consistent manner. The training provisions were supplemented by quarterly inputs from Professional Standards officers to Divisional Inspectors and Sergeants with supervisory responsibilities.

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
--	---

35/10. IPCC REVISED STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON THE POLCIE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That progress with the IPCC Statutory Guidance Implementation Matrix be noted. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
---	---

36/10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: 1. That the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following items involved the disclosure or likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).	Responsible Officer: -
--	----------------------------------

37/10. LEARNING THE LESSONS REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2010

The Head of Professional Standards provided an overview of lessons learned from investigations and complaints.

Resolved: That 1. the report be noted; 2. a member of the Committee be nominated to view electronic copies of the newly revised “learning the Lessons” form with effect from January 2011.	Responsible Officer: - All
--	---

38/10. BREAKDOWN OF COMPLAINTS RECORDED – APRIL TO JUNE 2010

Members considered a breakdown of on-going complaint investigations and cases currently being overseen by the IPCC.

The Head of Professional Standards (HoPSD) department referred to previous discussions with the Deputy Chief Executive about the future format of the report. She had undertaken to look at alternative ways of providing relevant information such as outcomes from complaints. This would be presented for consideration at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. It had also been agreed that the HoPSD would provide confidential briefings to the Committee on cases/issues that could potentially impact on the reputation of the Force and the Authority.

Members discussed the possibility of placing confidential reports at the beginning of Committee agendas given their importance and influence on Member thinking. The Chief Executive expressed his uneasiness with pre-meeting briefings and the potential for simply rehearsing the formal meeting. The Chairman emphasised the importance of ensuring that he received a full briefing on agenda papers, particularly

if pre-meeting briefings were to be discontinued. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the matters should be raised with the Strategic Planning Committee.

Resolved: That 1. the report be noted; 2. the restructuring of Committee agendas and the future of pre meeting briefings be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee.	Responsible Officer: - Chair/CE
---	--

[Mr R Palmer left the meeting at 4.45pm]

16/10. EXAMINATION OF POLICE OFFICER COMPLAINT REGISTERS AND DIPSAMPLING OF COMPLETED COMPLAINTS FILES

Members dip sampled completed complaint files, performing a detailed inspection to satisfy themselves that cases had been properly and fairly dealt with. Following questions, this was confirmed in all cases.

Resolved: 1. That the complaint files be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
---	--------------------------------------

CHAIRMAN