



**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
30 JUNE 2011
1.30PM – 3.20PM**

PRESENT

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

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

FORCE OFFICERS: Mr N Rhodes (Deputy Chief Constable), Superintendent R Hatton (Head of Professional Standards department), Superintendent M Staniland (Operations Support), Inspector J Morris (Custody Lead), Mrs A Foster (Professional Standards department)

APOLOGIES: Mrs A Crowe JP, Mr N Cooper, Mr K Smith

06/11. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND / OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None.

07/11. MINUTES – 15 MARCH 2011

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 March 2011 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	-

08/11. MINUTES – 27 MAY 2011

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 May 2011 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.	-

09/11. ACTION SUMMARY

Agenda Item B6 (15/03/11) – The Head of Professional Standards confirmed that the new performance framework for Professional Standards would be presented to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

Resolved: 1. That the Action Summary be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
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10/11. POLICE AUTHORITY RISK REGISTERS

Resolved: 1. That the report be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
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11/11. FORCE RISK REGISTER/COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive referred to critical risk (1) within the Force risk register relating to the potential loss of data in the Case and Custody Server. Members were advised that the issue was no longer considered a high risk and had been appropriately re-scored.

Resolved: 1. the oral update be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
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12/11. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITS – JANUARY TO MARCH 2011

The Committee and Administration Officer presented custody visiting statistics for the period January to March 2011. Members were advised that the custody suite at Gainsborough police station had been decommissioned and would be converted into storage space. Gainsborough had subsequently been removed from the list of designated stations covered by the Scheme.

Members were advised that the target of 80% for the number of detainees consenting to receive a custody visit by 31 March 2011 had been exceeded, with

92% of detainees who were available to receive a visit giving their consent. Members also noted a range of performance indicators and targets developed by the Regional Custody Visiting Scheme Administrator's Network to help raise performance across the East Midlands in areas such as volunteer selection, retention and training.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the summary of custody visits to designated police stations during January to March 2011 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 removal of Gainsborough from the list of custody suites covered by the Scheme be noted; 5. performance against the target set for the proportion of detained persons consenting to receive a custody visit for 2010/11 be noted; 6. regional performance indicators and targets set for 2011/12 be noted; 7. regional performance be included in future update reports. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>CAO</p>
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13/11. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That progress with the Work Plan 2011/12 be noted. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
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14/11. CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS STATISTICS – JANUARY TO MARCH 2011

The Head of Professional Standards provided a brief summary of complaint statistics for the period ending March 2011. There had been a decrease in the number of allegations in comparison with the previous quarter and in relation to the number of complaint cases and complainants, which was welcomed by Members. The number of appeals against the local resolution process also remained low which suggested that the process was being carried out correctly and that agreed plans between the complainants and police officers had been satisfied in the majority of cases.

The volume of complaints relating to neglect/failure in duty and incivility, impoliteness and intolerance remained a concern. Members were advised that a public

confidence analysis was currently being progressed which would help tease out some of the underlying issues behind the complaints. A summary of the analysis would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee. The Training department was also running a series of public confidence courses, which would initially be targeted in areas where complaints were more prevalent. Courses would eventually be rolled out County wide.

Members were advised that the Force Equalities and Diversity officer had identified concerns with the existing recording standards used for complainants in terms of their age, gender and ethnicity. It was hoped that revised recording standards would be incorporated in time for the next quarterly update.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the report be noted; 2. a report summarising the findings of the public confidence analysis as it relates to Professional Standards be presented to a future meeting of the Committee. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>- HoPSD</p>
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15/11. CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOINT INSPECTORATE (CJJI) UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF POLICE CUSTODY SUITES IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Superintendent (Operations Support) invited the Committee to consider progress with the Action Plan Matrix of recommendations which were made following the Criminal Justice Joint Inspectorate (CJJI) unannounced inspection of police custody suites in Lincolnshire in January 2011. Members were advised that of the 34 recommendations, 25 had already been completed. However, there were 3 particularly challenging recommendations, highlighted as “red” in the Matrix, relating to the provision of places of safety for detainees with mental health problems and around the deployment of staff in custody suites. It was confirmed that the Force was in active dialogue with the NHS and its examining bodies to find a suitable solution for the care and treatment of offenders whilst various options were being explored to address capacity and capability issues in custody.

The Committee was extremely critical of the Lincolnshire NHS Trust for its failure to comply with statutory obligations under section 136 of the Mental Health Act to provide places of safety for offenders with mental health problems. The Chairman also expressed his concern at the use of police cells as a place of safety as this had significant resource and cost implications for the Force. The Deputy Chief Executive suggested that in light of the Committee’s concerns and potential reputational risk, that the CJJI inspection be included on the Authority’s Assurance Framework as a key issue.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. progress with the Action Plan Matrix be noted and Governance Methodology approved; 2. the CJI inspection be included on the Assurance Framework as a key issue. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p> <p>RPO</p>
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16/11. ANIMAL WELFARE SCHEME – ANNUAL REVIEW 2010/11

The Committee and Administration Officer presented the Annual Review of the Authority’s Animal Welfare Scheme for 2010/11. Members were advised that only 2 out of 3 planned visits to the Force Dog Training Establishment had been undertaken. RSPCA Inspectors had also been unable to observe a session of dog training during the course of the year. These issues had been fully discussed with the RSPCA and were also due to be raised with the Force to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Scheme were fully achieved for 2011/12.

In noting the report, Members requested a copy of the Force policy on keeping police dogs in vehicles following the recent deaths of two Metropolitan police dogs from heat exhaustion after being left in a police car.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Annual Review be noted; 2. a copy of the Force policy on keeping police dogs in vehicles be provided to the Committee for information. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p> <p>CAO</p>
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17/11. 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: -
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18/11. IPCC INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Resolved: That 1. the oral update be noted; 2. the Committee has sight of all future IPCC investigation reports as they relate to Lincolnshire Police.	Responsible Officer: - CAO
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19/11. LEARNING LESSONS REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Head of Professional Standards provided an overview of lessons identified from Professional Standards investigations and complaint cases. Members were advised of the various mechanisms used to disseminate lessons learned to police officers and staff including the publication of a bi-monthly newsletter and attendance at senior management and team briefings.

Resolved: 1. That the report be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
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20/11. POLICE OFFICER DISCIPLINE – JANUARY TO MARCH 2011

Resolved: 1. That the report be noted.	Responsible Officer: -
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**21/11. EXAMINATION OF POLICE OFFICER COMPLAINT REGISTERS AND
DIP SAMPLING 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: -
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CHAIRMAN