



**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
15 JUNE 2010
10.30AM – 1.00PM**

PRESENT

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

SECRETARIAT: Mr M Burch (Chief Executive), Ms A Wood (Legal Adviser), Mr J King (Committee and Administration Officer)

FORCE OFFICERS: Superintendent P Wood (Head of Professional Standards), C/Inspector S Taylor, Mr D Robinson (Professional Standards), Inspector A Leighton (CJS and Partnerships)

APOLOGIES: Mr R Palmer (Vice-Chairman), Mr K Smith, Mr N Cooper, Mrs A Crowe JP

01/10. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND / OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

The Chairman declared a personal interest in item 15/10 as he was registered disabled.

02/09. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010

Resolved: 1. That Mr C Underwood-Frost be elected Chairman of the Professional Standards Committee for the municipal year 2010/2011.	Responsible Officer: -
--	--------------------------------------

03/09. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010

Resolved: 1. That Mr R Palmer be elected Vice Chairman of the Professional Standards Committee for the municipal year 2010/2011.	Responsible Officer: -
--	--------------------------------------

04/10. MINUTES – 19 MARCH 2010

Resolved: 1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 March 2010 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendment: Minute 36/09 Resolution 1 – date amended to 14 December 2009.	Responsible Officer: -
--	--------------------------------------

05/10. ACTION SUMMARY

Item C1 (14/12/09) – Mr Mann confirmed that he had met with the Professional Standards department to discuss monitoring complaints from juveniles. He had discovered that a higher proportion of complaints were made by adults on behalf of children rather than by the young people themselves. Consequently complainants were categorised as adults, which hampered effective monitoring. The Head of Professional Standards suggested that a potential solution might be to use some form of word search to identify complaints involving children.

Resolved: That 1. the Decision and Action Summary be noted; 2. Mr Mann meet with the Head of Professional Standards to explore ways of identifying complaints that have been submitted by adults on behalf of children and young persons.	Responsible Officer: - Mr F Mann/HoPSD
---	---

06/10. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITS – JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

The Committee and Administration Officer presented custody visiting statistics for the period January to March 2010. Members were advised that Mablethorpe police station had recently lost its designated status and was only capable of detaining individuals for up to 6 hours. Consequently, it was likely that very few if any detainees would be taken to the station in future. The custody suite at Mablethorpe was currently receiving one custody visit per quarter and the Committee was invited to consider whether to maintain the frequency of visits or remove it from the Scheme altogether.

The Committee was also notified of a request received from the Chairman of South Division Visiting Panel to represent volunteers on the Appointment's Panel.

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
<p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the summary of custody visits to designated police stations during January to March 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 considered; 4. Mablethorpe police station continue to receive 1 custody visit per quarter before being reviewed again in 12 months time; 5. Custody Visitor representation on the Appointment's Panel be approved; 6. the Chairman of South Division be appointed to the Panel subject to the agreement of the Chairs of West and East Division Panels. 	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>CAO</p> <p>-</p> <p>CAO</p>

07/10. COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee and Administration Officer presented the draft 2010/11 Committee Workplan for consideration and approval.

Resolved:	Responsible Officer:
<p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the 2010/11 Committee Workplan be approved; 2. the completion date actions 1 and 2 be set as September 2010; 3. the IPCC be contacted periodically with an open invitation to attend future meetings of the Committee. 	<p>-</p> <p>CAO</p> <p>CAO</p>

08/10. CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS STATISTICS - JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

The Head of Professional Standards Department presented a summary of complaints statistics for the period January to March 2010. Members noted that fewer complaints had been completed for the period under review than in either the previous quarter or for the corresponding period in 2009/2010. There had also been

general increases in most categories of complaint during the last quarter, most notably in relation to neglect or failure in duty, incivility, impoliteness or intolerance, and oppressive conduct or harassment. It was confirmed that steps would be taken to try and identify reasons for the recent dip in performance.

The Chairman suggested that at the next Committee meeting Members dip sampled completed complaint files relating to neglect or failure in duty, incivility, impoliteness or intolerance, and oppressive conduct or harassment in order to better understand the context within which complaints were being made. It was further agreed that the Committee receive an overview of training being delivered to tackle conduct and behavioural issues.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the report be noted; 2. Members dip sample completed complaint files relating to neglect or failure in duty, incivility, impoliteness or intolerance, and oppressive conduct or harassment, at the next Committee meeting; 3. Members receive an overview of training being delivered to tackle conduct and behavioural issues. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p> <p>HoPSD</p> <p>HoPSD</p>
--	---

09/10. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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

10/10. IPCC REVISED STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON THE POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

The Head of Professional Standards department provided an overview of the revised statutory guidance, detailing some of the key implications for the Force.

The Chairman questioned how Members could monitor progress by the Force in implementing the new guidance. The Head of Professional Standards undertook to update Members as a standing item at future meetings of the Committee.

<p>Resolved:</p> <p>That</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the presentation be noted; 2. Members receive an update on the implementation of the revised statutory guidance as a standing item at future Committee meetings. 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>- HoPSD</p>
--	---

11/10. POLICE AUTHORITY INSPECTIONS

There was some uncertainty around whether the inspection of the Authority scheduled for September would still go ahead in light of government plans to replace police authorities with an elected individual. However, it was reported that police authority inspections scheduled to take place in July would still go ahead.

Members were advised that the inspection framework was being used as a basis for developing the Authority's improvement plan and that work would continue regardless of whether the inspection went ahead or not.

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

12/10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

<p>Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>-</p>
--	---

13/10. LEARNING THE LESSONS REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

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

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

14/10. BREAKDOWN OF COMPLAINTS RECORDED – JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

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

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

[Force officers left the meeting prior to consideration of item 15/10]

15/10. SENIOR OFFICER COMPLAINT NO 1 – 2010/11

Resolved: That 1. the issues raised in senior officer complaint No 1 – 2010/11 do not constitute matters that require to be recorded and investigated as a formal complaint about the conduct of the senior officer as they are considered to be matters of direction and control; 2. the Authority's Legal Adviser draft letters to both the complainant and the senior officer advising on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations. 3. the complainant be advised that they have a right to appeal the decision to the Independent Police Complaints Commission; 4. the Committee remind the Force that complaints made against senior police officers are the responsibility of the Police Authority.	Responsible Officer: - Legal Adviser Legal Adviser -
---	---

**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