

Independent Advisory Group



for policing in Suffolk

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015/2016**

**Bhupindar Singh Sually
Chairman**

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the work of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) for the period June 2015 to May 2016.

I would like to thank the Group members for their support and attendance. I would also like to thank the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Constabulary for their continued support.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 May 2016 membership of the Group stands at nine:

Pamela Bickley (Vice Chair)
Monika Burda
Liz Harlaar
Banseka Kayembe
Pam Littlejohn
Nathan Mokhd Nasim
Adilson Rita
Bhupindar Singh Sually (Chair)
Ria Towill

Recruitment and Resignations

Shoomi Chowdhury left the Group in November 2015.

In April 2016 Yun Fai Pang, Beverley Levy and Nurul Chowdhury left the group as they had completed their term of office.

Liz Harlaar, previously a Police Authority member, joined the Group in May 2015 and Ria Towill joined the Group in September 2015.

Two applications are currently being progressed.

A small group of members met during the year to discuss recruitment and rework the IAG literature and application form. Recruitment has been paused whilst the Constabulary progress the development of an IAG micro-site and potential changes to membership structure.

SUMMARY OF IAG ACTIVITIES

Formal meetings of the Group took place on 21 July 2015, 22 September, 17 November, 25 January 2016 and 20 April. There was also an IAG Away Day on 18 May 2016.

There have been a number of key topics that the Group have discussed over the last year which are summarised below:

IAG MEETING – 21 JULY 2015

Hate Crime

The Group received a presentation on the Hate Crime Partnership from Deborah Charles, Suffolk County Council, Hate Crime Service and Helen Frayer, Senior Service Delivery Manager, Victim Support. There was discussion about hate crime reporting, work with the mental health trusts and raising awareness. It was noted that it was no longer compulsory for schools to report hate crime/incidents, now referred to as prejudice related incidents, but that they service delivered workshops in schools throughout the year where specific help was needed. Members were also provided with the latest statistical data.

Helen Frayer confirmed that the Suffolk Hate Crime Partnership was established using Ministry of Justice Funding and received a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2014/15. It enabled Hate Crime Responders in agencies and volunteer organisations around the county. The partnership was held 'in abeyance' pending a decision on further funding (later granted), however services to victims continued through the Victim Assessment and Referral Centre (VARC).



IAG Recruitment

The Group discussed membership and recruitment, including ways to make it more representative. Members agreed to consider underrepresented areas in terms of communities and locations. The Constabulary and Office of the PCC were also considering ways of working more effectively with the IAG.

Policy Documents

Members agreed that there was merit in considering policies and procedures sent for consultation as a group rather than sending individual comment via e-mail, where possible, so as to use the opportunity to share thoughts and views. It was agreed that a session on responses to policy consultations would be included at a future meeting to help members better understand how to consider and analyse the documents.

Event Response Forms

An Event Response Form, developed by a Group member, was approved by the Group to enable members to document activity and raise questions as well as feedback to the PCC and Constabulary in a timely manner.

National Police Air Service (NPAS)

Four members of the Group visited the Wattisham Airbase on 1 July and heard about changes to the air service arrangements. At the meeting members considered a report from the visit and it was agreed that the concerns raised would be followed up with Assistant Chief Constable Sarah Hamlin. The report was also forwarded to the PCC.



IAG MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2015

Meeting the financial challenge

Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Kearton gave an update of the financial challenges the Constabulary faced. She confirmed that the Constabulary was required to save £20.5 million by 2020, a significant proportion of the £125m annual budget. The final financial settlement was expected to be announced by Christmas 2015.

She updated members on changes to how the Constabulary worked, including the Local Policing Review and public access to services. Members expressed their concerns about the impact of the savings and the potential impact on staff.

Stop, Search and Encounter

The Group received a copy of the statistical report considered by the Accountability and Performance Panel on 4 September 2015 and an update from Superintendent Andrew Mason.

The report indicated that the Constabulary was making good progress but there were some actions progressing in terms of implementing new technology in a cost effective manner and reviewing partnership working. There was least progress with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children recommendations which had been published in July 2015 as they required consultation and strategic direction from Chief Officers and PCC. Supt. Mason said that a policy on whether to stop young people under a certain age was needed. When young people were stopped their parents were informed, if not present at the time, and a vulnerability form was completed for referral to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The age of legal criminal responsibility was 10 years old and there were no plans to change the law so members were asked to provide their views.

Members queried why ethnicity data was not included in the Stop and Search online mapper but assurance was given that whilst the decision had been taken, based on the advice of local groups including those in Suffolk, the Constabulary did collect and analyse this data.

IAG MEETING – 17 NOVEMBER 2015

Integrated Offender Management Scheme – Foreign Nationals Pilot

Inspector Danny Kett, the Joint Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Scheme Manager gave an overview of the scheme (also referred to as the 180 degree scheme) and asked IAG members to consider and provide feedback on a new pilot on Foreign Nationals.

The scheme is run by a joint team in Suffolk and Norfolk and works with the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), Probation, Housing, drug rehabilitation and the Department for Work and Pensions. Around 270 individuals are supported in order to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. The scheme has shown to reduce offending by 60%, achieving the aim of preventing crime and disorder and rehabilitation.

The pilot scheme will be aimed at Eastern Europeans in the Western area, based on evidence from CRC and Probation. Members raised issues such as the sharing foreign criminal records, language and cultural barriers that would need to be addressed.

Terrorism

The terrorist attacks in Paris and community tensions were discussed with an update from ACC Kearton who requested that the IAG reinforce safety messages in their communities and ask for people to get in touch with the Constabulary should they have information.

IAG MEETING – 25 JANUARY 2016

The meeting in January was held at the Bury St Edmunds Police Investigation Centre (PIC). Members received a tour of the facility and then held their meeting there. Plenty of positive feedback was received from members who said it was also nice to get to the West of the county.

For the second part of the meeting Chief Inspector Matt Rose gave a presentation on the Prevent element of 'CONTEST', the national counter terrorism strategy.

IAG MEETING – 20 APRIL 2016

Development of the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Websites

Members received a presentation from Kathryn Fitzgerald and Moira Hurlock from the Corporate Development and Change Team on the development of the new websites.

The project started in 2015 with the approval of a business case followed by a procurement exercise. Members were advised of the various functions of the website which was due to go live at the end of August 2016.

It is hoped that more people would be able to use the website to find information as an alternative to using the 101 non-emergency number or attend a police station. Members were invited to assist in testing of the website and offer feedback and they made some suggestions about letting people know the new site was up and running.

IAG Micro-Site

Alongside the website work Chief Inspector Matt Rose advised that he had been working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to see how technology could be used to work with IAG more interactively. In particular it was felt that there was a need for the Constabulary to engage more people, from more diverse backgrounds, more interactively. Further consideration will be given to this during 2016.

IAG AWAY DAY – 18 MAY 2016

Members of the Group met informally at Kesgrave Community Centre on the 18 May 2016 to discuss various topics, including the development of this report, a review of the year, plans for 2016/17 and to consider a number of policy documents. The Police and Crime Commissioner also attended for part of the day and members received an input from the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department. In addition to this members led individual sessions on topics of their choice to explore other interesting subjects.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

One of the key roles of the Group is to provide the police with independent advice on developing plans, policies and procedures, which help shape the way Suffolk is policed. On a regular basis, outside of the meeting structure, members are consulted on new and revised policies and procedures as part of the Constabulary's Equality Impact Assessment process. In the last year (April 15 – March 16) the Group has been consulted on the following joint policies and procedures:

- 129 - Police Use of Firearms
- Absconders And Failure To Return From Release On Temporary Licence (ROTL)
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Accreditation of new Information Systems
- Business Interests and Additional Occupations
- Child Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Children
- Collisions, Damage And Offences Involving Police Vehicles/Police Drivers
- Common Law Police Disclosures
- Communications Data Acquisition
- Contact and Control Room Call Grading (2)
- Custody Based Needle Exchange
- Data Protection
- Digital Devices
- Dispersal Powers
- Drink Drug Driving
- Freedom of Information
- Identification Policy
- Information Asset Owners (IAOs)
- Information Sharing
- Job Related Fitness Testing
- Leave and Time Off
- Limited Duties
- Managing Misconduct - Police Staff
- Mobile Welfare Units
- Police Use of Dogs
- Potentially Dangerous Persons Procedure
- Privacy Impact Assessment
- Provision of ICT Equipment
- Records Management
- Remote Access
- Requests for Deletion of Records from National Police Systems
- Review, Retention & Disposal of Crime Related Information
- Review, Retention and Disposal of Non-Crime Related Information'
- Risk Management
- Social Media
- Stalking and Harassment (3rd Consultation)
- Visiting Forces
- Voluntary Exit Scheme
- Welfare and Support of Police Staff and Officers affected by Domestic Abuse

I believe IAG input on policies and procedures has improved this year with introduction of an opportunity for the group to discuss current policies at each meeting before submitting an individual response. We continue to welcome more interaction with the Constabulary on the context of policies so that more meaningful comment can be provided by members.

TRAINING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

As highlighted in last year's report members were keen to revive their role in observing Constabulary training Members attended, observed and provided feedback on the following Constabulary training:

- Public Protection Awareness Training
- Public Order Training
- High risk Personal Safety Training
- Personal Safety Training - Stop and Search

Members participated in the following events:

- Individuals provided input to the Courts and Tribunal Service consultation on Court Closures
- Visit to Wattisham Airbase
- Prevent Suffolk County Council Event
- Hate Crime Vigil / Week, October
- Disability Focus Day
- Multicultural Festival
- Emergency Services Christmas Carol Concert
- Learning Disability Awareness
- BBC Radio Suffolk interview 1:32/33 minutes <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03lwjhh>
- A member of IAG now attends the Stop Search Reference Group regularly and the Chair provides regular input to the Constabulary Diversity Board.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Group has scheduled the following meeting dates in 2016.

- Wednesday 21 September
- Monday 14 November

BUDGET

The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for administering the budget for meeting the running costs of the IAG. The main costs arise from the meetings of the IAG e.g. travel expenses and catering.

The Chief Executive reports the following outturn position for the 2015/16 financial year ending 31 March 2016:

Budget	£2,500
Members' Expenses	£1,073
Catering, printing & badges	£ 262
Total Spend	£1,336
Underspend	£1,164

The IAG budget for 2016/17 will remain at £2,500

MY SUMMARY

I would like to offer congratulations to Tim Passmore on his re-election as the Police and Crime Commissioner and am confident that the mutual support will continue. I would also like to thank Gareth Wilson, Chief Constable, for his support and the support of the Constabulary.

The Group received a number of inputs this year for which we are very grateful – thanks in particular to the following members of Suffolk Constabulary: Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Kearton, Superintendent Andrew Mason, Chief Inspector Matt Rose, Inspector Danny Kett and Sergeant Jon Moos, Custody Sergeant Andy Mallet, Sergeant Ali Livingstone, Carl Errington, Katherine Fitzgerald and Moira Hurlock.

The group has successfully delivered on the aims set out in my summary last year including

- Hate Crime
- Involvement in Constabulary training
- Improved links with the Constabulary
- Links with other IAGs - Essex in particular.
- Policies (as covered above).

ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

Over the next year we will be very interested to find out more about police recruitment and developments following the Suffolk Local Policing Review.

ACC Kearton has invited IAG members to observe the work of the Constabulary's Confidence and Satisfaction Board where we look forward to hearing about planned action to address victim satisfaction and public confidence.

We also look forward to taking part in further discussions on how IAG can work with the Constabulary (Chief Inspector Matt Rose) to exploit digital capabilities to reach a wider group of individuals and work more efficiently and effectively.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

I have been given the opportunity to contribute to the policy development for Suffolk Police and the Office of the PCC, by commenting on various draft policies and how they might affect the diverse individuals and communities in Suffolk. I've also been able to attend several police training sessions and observe the professional way in which officers and staff are trained and supported to deal with issues, ranging from the 'everyday' to some of the deeply distressing and difficult problems that the police are faced with.

A particular highlight was attending the public protection (often misnamed 'riot training') and observing how the protection and safety of the public was paramount in very challenging circumstances. Personally, I find it rather satisfying that Suffolk Police are not just willing, but keen to engage, listen and are sensitive to the advice given by the Independent Advisory Group and its members.

Liz Harlaar

The visit to Wattisham Airbase was exciting and a learning experience. IAG members were left feeling that our opinions mattered and we could be a positive influence.

The Vigil during Hate Crime Week was most moving and it was obvious the huge amount of work that had gone into the planning and delivery. This important annual event needs more input from IAG members in support and publishing the work of the IAG.

Thanks to Liz Hollingworth, Sarah McNulty, and Liz Harlaar in regards to Policy Documents. It is useful to have the form to complete attached and additional information. Liz Harlaar's often humorous training session on policies was useful. One document that especially interested me was on Absconders and failure to return. The Waterfront Community Centre has people working on the resettlement programme.

Guest speakers from Suffolk Constabulary have been most informative and interesting, our sincere appreciation is noted. We need to be more active in pursuing matters that are of a concern and of interest to our members, especially topical news items. Our attempt at creating a new leaflet to re-launch the IAG has started but needs more input.

Pam Littlejohn

I had heard very little about the IAG until I joined in the Summer, It has been an interesting and enjoyable time, finding out how the Police don't just Police but also support and engage with the local communities. I have enjoyed, as an IAG member seeing how Police Officers are trained and now have a better understanding of how the Police are open to new ideas and partnership working to improve relationships with communities and marginalised groups. I have also found it very positive that my views and opinions have been listened to and that the IAG committee members are very supportive to each other.

Ria Towill