

Independent Advisory Group



for policing in Suffolk

**ANNUAL REPORT
2017/2018**

**Liz Harlaar
Chair**

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the work of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) for the period June 2017 to April 2018.

Following various discussions between members, the Constabulary and OPCC, about the viability of the Group, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Chief Constable and Chief Executive have decided that it is time to dissolve the Independent Advisory Group. It was felt that there were a number of other channels which are proving more effective and practical in fulfilling the objectives the IAG was set up to achieve.

These include:

- The Stop Search Reference Group
- Stop and Search reports publicly available and the report is tabled twice yearly at the Accountability and Performance Panel
- Rural group
- Business group
- Community contacts
- Strategic Equalities and Inclusion Board
- Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality contract including policy advice
- The PCCs public meetings and On Tour programme
- The community group meetings attended by the PCC
- Safer Neighbourhood Team local engagement

The IAG was originally set up as a group of diverse individuals in a time before many of the communications channels that the police now have existed, especially with the development of social media. I still think there is a role for people to act as 'critical friends' but I think there are other ways of doing it. Also, the Police have made enormous strides over the years in the arena of diversity. This doesn't mean that there's not still work to be done.

As the Chair of the Group I am supportive of this decision and feel that the time of the IAG in Suffolk has come to a natural end. I feel that the Constabulary and Police and Crime Commissioner are accessible in many ways and that links with the Community are an integral part of police work. Changes being made to the Constabulary's Community Safety and Diversity team will reflect this as we are assured that the new model of more localised delivery will be more responsive to and aligned with local need and demand.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary and IAG members, past and present, for their support for the Group over the years.

Best regards,

Liz Harlaar

MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 March 2018 stood at five:

Pamela Bickley (Vice Chair)
Liz Harlaar (Chair)
Pam Littlejohn
Adilson Rita
Ria Towill

SUMMARY OF IAG ACTIVITIES

There has been one formal meeting of the Group during this period. Unfortunately a number of scheduled meetings were cancelled due to member availability.

IAG MEETING – 13 NOVEMBER 2017

Body Worn Video and Mobile Data

Sergeant Winston Freeman gave a demonstration of Body Worn Video (BWV) and mobile devices which had been introduced through a twelve month project. He confirmed that BWV devices had been provided to all front line officers (Firearms officers, all Response officers, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Investigators on the Neighbourhood Support Teams).

Members were advised about provisions for storage, security, retention periods and assured that whilst officers were able to manage the footage in terms of adding descriptions and the incident number, it could not be altered or deleted so that the integrity was preserved. They were also assured that all subjects were told that they are being recorded; why this was necessary and what would happen to the footage. There had been no adverse feedback from members of the public but the policy did account for people who object to be recorded.

Sergeant Freeman said that the feedback from officers had been extremely positive and explained what training that was being provided.

He confirmed that officers have been equipped with robust tablets with a keyboard, a phone and the appropriate chargers. All devices are password or fingerprint protected. Training on mobile devices has not been delivered but there is a comprehensive self-help area. Various applications had been developed enabling officers to record Sudden Deaths (Death in the Community), statements, Stop and Search and traffic offences. The direct input of data reduces duplication, improves accuracy, assists in pinpointing locations and the data is more readily available for colleagues investigating cases and partners such as the coroners.

It was explained that individuals the police interact with are not provided with a copy of the report e.g. stop and search form, but provided with a receipt with the officer name and reference number. Should individuals wish to access a copy this would be obtained from a police station.

Members raised queries about 'signposting' to other support organisations, security and eavesdropping, retention of information and interoperability with other police systems and other forces. It was noted that the mobile devices couldn't be personalised to meet specific requirements or diversity needs at present but this could be an option in future. Data captured was being used for evidential purposes only but could be beneficial if replicated for training and educational purposes in the future.

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 17 – March 18) the Group has been consulted on the following policies and procedures:

Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality
Automatic Number Plate Recognition
Business Interests and Additional Occupations
Child Abduction Warning Notices'

Custody
Dangerous Dogs
Dogs Coming in to Police Possession
Estates – CCTV in our premises.
Estates Management
Events on the Highway
Family Liaison
Forensic Detainee Handling
Forensic Scene Handling
Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation'
Hostage and Crisis Negotiators
Information Security Incident and Data Breach Reporting and Management
Investigating Death
Lost and Found (2nd round)
Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders
Misconduct (Police Officers)
Mobile Device Use and Instant Messaging
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking'
Police Support Volunteers
Policing of Public Sex Activity
Post Incident Management
Public Complaints
Public Complaints
Search and Entry into Premises
Sexual Assault Referral Centre
Shop Watch
Welfare Checks

Policies in the consultation phase are included as an agenda item at each meeting for discussion by the group before submitting an individual response.

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

Members participated in the following events:

- Rethinking County Line presentation - University of Suffolk – 1 September 2017
- Domestic Violence Conference – Ipswich – 10 October 2017
- Hate Crime Vigil – Bury St Edmunds – 16 October 2017
- Stop & Search Police & Public Consultation Forum – Liverpool - Tuesday 14 November 2017
- Emergency Service Carol Service – Bury St Edmunds – 11 December 2017
- HMICFRS Hate Crime Inspection – 14 March 2018
- New Stop and Search Training - Pilot session – Elmswell – 21 March 2018
- Ideology Training Masterclass – Ipswich - 29 March 2018

The Chair met with the Chief Inspector, Community Safety in June 2017 and members also regularly attend the following Constabulary/Partnership Meetings:

- Strategic Equalities and Inclusion Board
- Stop and Search Reference Group

During the year the IAG members have been asked to provide input to Suffolk Constabulary in response to major incidents so that concerns within

Suffolk communities or tensions arising could be raised. These include continued input into the Corrie McKeague missing person inquiry since October 2016 and community impact assessment on knife crime incidents in Ipswich and Newmarket (August 2017)

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 2017/18 financial year ending 31 March 2018:

Budget	£2,500
Members' Expenses	£ 689
Catering, printing & badges	£ 11
Total Spend	£ 700
Underspend	£1,800