



Police Accountability and Legitimacy Group (PALG)

Date	24 October 2018	Chair	Lee Jones (Commissioner's Chief of Staff)	Meeting Place	Police Headquarters, Bridgend
Attendees	<p>Commissioner's Team: Lee Jones (LJ), Hannah Jenkins-Jones (HJJ), Jacqueline Trow (JT) Sarah Mahon (SM)</p> <p>South Wales Police: Assistant Chief Constable Jenny Gilmer (JG) Chief Inspector Steve Jones (SJ), Carol Woodward (CW), Amy Thomas (AT) Chief Inspector John Wainwright (JW)</p> <p>PALG Members: Claire Cunliffe (CC), Gareth Hughes (GH), Steve Warner (SW) Graeme Johnston (HMIC)</p>				
Summary of Discussions					
1. Welcome and Introductions					
<p>LJ thanked members for their attendance and noted apologies from those who were unable to attend. LJ emphasised the importance of the PALG forum and reassured members that their commitment to attending and contributing to the meetings was valued and appreciated. To illustrate how feedback provided by PALG members had shaped and influenced policy and service design since PALG was established in 2017, LJ referred to the 'PALG feedback monitoring log' that had been circulated at the meeting. LJ explained that the log captured feedback and recommendations from members and showed how these had been utilised. It was hoped it would enable members to see that their feedback and suggestions had influenced positive change.</p> <p>LJ explained that the Commissioner and his team had recently been re-developing their governance and scrutiny structure and that PALG played a key role in this model. LJ also advised that the Police and Crime Panel, who hold the Commissioner to account, had shown an interest in PALG and that they were keen to receive updates from the meetings.</p>					
2. Minutes and Actions					
No issues or amendments raised regarding the minutes from the previous meeting. The actions from the previous meeting were discussed and the following updates were provided:					
1	Share stonewall research	Alex Drummond	Completed – this had helped the feed into the Commissioner's Engagement Strategy		
2	Apprenticeship scheme	Debbie Nugent			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share local and national documents around apprenticeships to the group. - Update the group on the psychometric test PEQF EIA progress - Ensure that there was communication on flexible working options for those applying to the new apprenticeship scheme – clarify what the position was from the university provider. 		<p>Completed - National documents had been circulated to the group.</p> <p>Ongoing - The equality impact assessment process was continuing. SWP had gone out to advert on and would be analysing data looking at dropout rates, especially across minority groups.</p> <p>South Wales Police were currently working with the provider to ensure that communication outlined opportunities to work flexibly (post 39 weeks)</p>
3	<p>Consider feasibility of monitoring the make-up of watch lists used for AFR.</p> <p>Consider linking with missing person charities to promote the positive use of AFR technology</p>	Scott Lloyd	<p>The rationale behind the 'make-up' of watch lists are captured 'pre deployment' and recorded in the 'deployment report'. Watch lists that include all images and personal information are currently deleted immediately post deployment and in any case within 24 hours.</p> <p>Ongoing – SWP are currently having ongoing conversations with the National Police Chief Constable lead for AFR regarding this. Outcomes following discussions at the AFR Strategic Board would be fed back to the PALG meeting in December.</p>

HJJ also informed the group that Inspector Scott Lloyd was planning an engagement event on AFR, primarily for PALG members. HJJ would be able to provide further information about this event at the next meeting in December.

ACTION: HJJ to provide further information in relation to the AFR engagement event at the meeting in December.

3. Mental Health and Policing

HB introduced herself and provided a brief overview of her career in mental health and nursing. HB explained the intelligence-gathering phase of the mental health project. This had involved shadowing frontline officers, gathering data from custody and facilitating focus groups with officers to understand their experiences. In addition to this, HB had worked with third and public sector organisations in order to identify best practice across the country. HB informed the group that South Wales Police had experienced a steady increase in the number of mental health related calls year on year since 2012 through both the Public Service Centre (PSC) and on the frontline. This had placed both officers and staff in a difficult position, as they did not have the level of expertise to determine the best outcome for an individual with mental health crisis.

During October 2017, the ACC Lead for Mental Health in Wales commissioned a Mental Health Demand Day. The objective of the demand day was to record and analyse all incidents in respect of Basic Command Units and the Public Service Centre, focussing on the time taken dealing with people and incidents where mental health was a factor. In addition to this, South Wales Police Internal Inspection Team undertook a review of how the force identified and supported individuals in mental health crisis. The average time overall that officers had committed to the incidents in the review was three and a half hours, which correlated with the findings of the mental health demand day. However, in a quarter of cases reviewed, officers committed in excess of five hours.

HB advised that in response to findings that had emerged from internal evidence gathering and identified best practices such as Birmingham's 'street triage', South Wales Police had now allocated funding to progress the placement of mental health professionals in the public service centre. The aim would be for mental health calls to be triaged by mental health professionals who could provide consistent advice, and where required, be able to arrange appointments for assessment in non-urgent cases. The Police and the Health Boards joint approach to triage at first point of contact would enable both services to focus resources and demand using evidence based interventions. HB advised that they were aiming to launch by the middle of the December, however they were still in the process of appointing a candidate – there could be delays based on the outcome of this process.

In addition to this, HB explained that SWP was developing a mental health app to record in real time officer actions and observations in relation to mental health calls. It was anticipated that the app would play a vital role in evidencing the commitment South Wales Police had to openness and transparency in its procedures as well as demonstrating procedural fairness and the incorporation of collaborative decision-making.

GH asked what the priority would be for the police if an individual with a mental health condition conducted a crime and was at crisis point at point of arrest. HB advised that ideally, the priority would be to deal with the crisis in the first instance, followed by the crime. However, this was currently a contentious issue. Group went on to discuss accessibility of services to younger individuals requiring mental health support. HB agreed that this would be explored with appropriate organisations.

LJ thanked HB for her input and suggested it was a topic to revisit in the future, considering the huge pressures on resource and demand.

ACTION: SM to share HB contact details should PALG members require further information.

4. Stop and Search

SM provided an overview of the quality assurance process conducted by the Commissioner's team. Quality assurance checks ranged from stop and search records, hate crime victim satisfaction, body worn video and complaints. Although South Wales Police conducted its own quality assurance checks, the role of the Commissioner's team was to provide an independent layperson viewpoint.

SM shared the findings from the stop and search dip sample which was conducted in February 2018. The review looked at 112 samples that had been randomly selected from each of the basic command units (BCUs) as well as from each of the ethnic minority categories. A total of 12 forms had provided grounds for search that appeared to be questionable. Reasons included individuals being stopped and searched primarily based on their previous

convictions or little or no written evidence to suggest an objective basis to conducting a search. SM concluded her presentation by informing the group of upcoming quality assurance work. She also advised that reports would be published on the Commissioner's website as it was important for the public to see that the Commissioner's work was open and transparent.

HJJ provided an update in relation to the body worn video dip sampling that she conducted in August. This had been the first body worn video dip sampling exercise that had been conducted by the Commissioner's team. For this process, 10 randomly selected videos had been identified, all of which had been categorised as 'stop search' footage. All videos came from a sample of stop searches that had taken place across South Wales Police between 1st July and 1st August 2018. Similar to the dip sampling of stop and search records, it aimed to provide an independent layperson viewpoint i.e. what would the public think if they witnessed or experienced this.

The key points that were considered during the exercise was the extent to which the 'GOWISELY' protocol had been adhered to during each search. In addition to this, the overall politeness and civility of officers during each search was considered. Of the 10 videos that were observed, 8 showed that 'GOWISELY' had been adhered to, 1 was difficult to judge due to the timing of the video being switched off and 1 case showed that 'GOWISELY' was mostly adhered to but the fact that a search was about to take place was not made explicit. HJJ informed the group that she had not witnessed any receipts offered by or provided in any of the 10 videos, which was a concern. This was particularly important, as individuals had the right to this information should they wish to complain about their experience. As SWP currently had no stop and search complaints, it was an important observation to note, as individuals would need the information provided on the receipt to refer to, should they wish to make a complaint.

SJ referred to the SWP stop and search performance report that had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting. The report provided substantial statistical figures on stop and search incidents across the force area. SJ provided a breakdown on the number of stop searches and outcome rates. SJ also outlined the force's stop and search scrutiny process, which was in place to ensure powers were used fairly and lawfully. The process focused on grounds for search, disproportionality and inappropriate use of stop search powers and correct completion of forms for data accuracy. SJ also advised that the force had communicated extensively the mandatory requirement for all stop searches to be recorded using body worn video. All BCU staff had now been trained and officers allocated the devices for use when on operational policing patrols. CW informed the group that ongoing discussions regarding the allocation of discreet body worn cameras to plain clothed officers were also ongoing.

GH asked whether body worn videos could be shared with the public following a subject access requirement and if so whether the videos would need to be edited. The group briefly discussed data protection issues for releasing body worn video and agreed it would be appropriate to continue discussions outside of the meeting.

SJ presented a number of crime vs stop search heat maps that had been produced by the force analyst. The maps had been developed to correlate recorded crime against stop searches conducted, as this evidenced that officers were targeting their powers in the right areas. SJ advised that overall, the increase of stop searches coupled together with the positive outcome rates highlighted the force was tasking its resources effectively. CW added that an increase in stop searches was also likely as a result of 'county lines' criminality. All 43 forces had agreed stop and search was an effective crime prevention method in response to this national issue.

LJ thanked SM, HJJ and SJ for their input and suggested it would be worthwhile having a presentation on county lines at a future meeting, which would provide context to the increase in knife and drug related crimes.

LJ advised that although it was positive to see regular internal quality assurance checks that monitored the legitimacy and assurance of stop search records, it was also important to ensure that we were actively developing the public's understanding of the tactical response to these emerging threats. The public's perception in response to tactical responses such as stop and search may not always be positive and it was important that we provided transparency to the communities that were more likely to be affected by this.

ACTION: SM to schedule county lines presentation at a future meeting.

5. South Wales Police Strategic Assessment Report

Group agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as the meeting had run over.

6. Any other business

LJ thanked attendees for their contributions and reiterated the importance of group. Unfortunately, on this occasion there were a number of late apologies, which had resulted in low attendance. LJ asked members to think about additional organisations who could attend, as it was important that PALG was representative. LJ also advised that he would be contacting existing PALG members to confirm whether they were still committed to attending PALG meetings.

ACTIONS – Contact existing PALG members and consider additional organisations for the membership.

Action Table

Action	Description	Person Responsible	Action update
1	Provide further update in relation to the AFR engagement event at the meeting in December	Hannah Jenkins-Jones	Update to be provided at December meeting.
2	Share Helen Bennet's contact details to PALG members.	Sarah Mahon	Completed – Shared via email
3	Schedule county lines presentation for future meeting.	Sarah Mahon	Completed – scheduled for 12 th December
4	Contact existing PALG member and consider additional members.	Hannah Jenkins-Jones	Completed – Letters have been sent to existing PALG members to confirm who the main representative and substitute would be for PALG. Additional organisations have also been invited.