



Scrutiny & Accountability Board

Escalations

Microsoft Teams

29 March 2022

Attendees	
Police & Crime Commissioner Team	
Helen Bennett (HB)	Mental Health Consultant
Suzi Graham (SG)	Policy and Research Officer
Hannah Jenkins-Jones (HJJ) (CHAIR)	Strategic Lead (Scrutiny, Assurance & Equality)
Lisa Morgan (LM)	Policy Officer (Equality Diversity & Inclusion)
Claire Perrin (CP)	Policy Officer (Equality Diversity & Inclusion)
Nia Scourfield (NS)	Governance Support Officer
Jayne Woodward (JW)	Strategic Lead (Quality, Standards & Compliance)
South Wales Police	
Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Bacon (RB)	Deputy Chief Constable
Superintendent Matthew Codd (MC)	Head of Operations
Chief Inspector Dave Gordon (DG)	Head of Criminal Justice
Chief Superintendent Joanna Maal (JM)	Head of Corporate Services
Caroline Smart (CS)	Head of Corporate Management
Assistant Chief Constable David Thorne (DT)	Head of Specialist Crime
Carol Woodward (CW)	Assurance & Inspection Manager

No	Item	Content
1.	Introductions & Apologies	1.1 HJJ welcomed attendees and introductions were made. On this occasion HJJ would be chairing the meeting as LJ had provided apologies due to illness. HJJ welcomed new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Officers, CP and LM, to the board.
2.	Minutes of previous Deep Dive meeting	2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. It was agreed that the actions would be discussed during the course of the meeting.
3.	Actions and Updates of previous meeting; - Mental Health Markers - Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panels	<p>3.1 HJJ provided an overview of the report discussed during the last meeting regarding concerns around mental health markers on Niche, in particular that there were no time limits to their use or review dates and the implications they could have on people's futures. DT shared that this had been progressed since the last meeting and a task and finish group had been established. It had been agreed that the work would sit under the Information Assurance Board and other markers of concern would also form part of the work. DT stated that the force also recognised that the group would also need to establish policy and procedure to undertake this work to ensure that markers were reviewed and audited.</p> <p>3.2 JW queried whether the group that had been established would be looking at historic markers and if training would be given to staff in terms of use of markers and how to use them appropriately going forward. DT confirmed that this would form part of the policy and practice of this area of work. CP queried whether other markers would be included in this piece of work and DT confirmed that the initial focus was on child sexual exploitation, however mental health markers had now been prioritised but confirmed that several markers on vulnerability would be looked at. HB shared that she would be happy to be involved in this area of work.</p> <p>3.3 HJJ invited MC to provide an update on the lack of recorded rationales for the use of out of court disposals on Niche and the concerns of use of street restorative disposals, which were discussed in the last Scrutiny & Accountability board meeting. MC shared that there was a structured governance process in place whereby any escalations were reviewed and monitored and provided an opportunity for learning. MC stated that he was a member of the national working group in relation to restorative approaches. MC also shared that the force was working to create a data portal where staff would have access to data on restorative approaches and the journey of victims. JW queried what type of refresher training would be given to officers and what the force was hoping to achieve from this training. MC shared that the Learning and Developing department were developing a series of videos for guidance and support and that the force's policy would be updated in relation to restorative approaches. JW and HJJ asked if there was a subtle pressure for officers to use restorative approaches in order to have a positive outcome. MC stated that the outcome must be victim focused and that all restorative approaches were scrutinised for suitability.</p> <p>3.4 HJJ referred to the cases highlighted in the report and queried the role of the supervisor and whether they check if the restorative approaches had been appropriately used. MC stated that there was a checklist that supervisors would work through to ensure that officers had chosen the correct approach, and these would be scrutinised by a working group. The point was made that this may need more focus as the</p>

		<p>issues raised in the cases provided had suggested that they had not been overseen by a supervisor. CP queried if recent College of Policing guidance had been circulated to officers, in relation to applying discretion to out of court disposals. MC felt that the force's guidance was fit for purpose and that a streamlined communications process was the current priority.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Business Assurance Report – 2021/22 Recommendations Summary overview Update</p>	<p>4.1 The board discussed the process of how updates were requested and received between the Commissioner's team and the force in relation to the Board's work. It was agreed that SG would request updates on progress of Recommendations from CW every three months and NS would request updates on actions.</p> <p>4.2 HJJ discussed the progress of the Recommendations from the Scrutiny and Accountability Deep Dive board meetings from the last year. HJJ requested an update on the recommendations from the deep dive on Child Protection in relation to accurate and detailed completion of PPNs (Public Protection Notice). DT shared that the force's Gold Group had been monitoring performance of PPNs for the last 18 months and a centralised model was being established. DT also shared that the force had managed to reduce the number of outstanding PPNs. HJJ requested a further update at a future meeting and referred to the recommendation of dip sampling PPNs and sharing the findings with the board. RB queried whether there was an opportunity for HJJ's team to receive updates from existing force processes, including the Gold Group minutes, as these would be detailed with updates and information. This was agreed to be helpful, and RB asked CW to share these with HJJ's team.</p> <p>*ACTION (1)* - Gold Group minutes to be shared with the Commssioner's team in relation to monitoring PPNs.</p> <p>4.3 HJJ referred to the Recommendations from the Deep Dive on the Role of the PCSO and confirmed that these were escalated and discussed at the Commissioner's Strategic Board. HJJ suggested that as a result of the board, it was likely these recommendations were now complete and could be formally discharged but requested final updates as confirmation . JM shared that contact details had been provided between councillors and key members of communities and had been emphasised across all the BCUs. JM stated that this also forms part of the ongoing realignment of neighbourhood policing and captured all the recommendations that were identified during the deep dive. HJJ agreed that the recommendations on this topic would therefore be discharged and thanked the force for positively taking this forward. She emphasised that the Commissioner remained keenly interested in this topic and suggested it may therefore be revisited at some point to see how the new structures were embedding.</p> <p>4.4 HJJ referred to the recommendations from the Deep Dive on Knife crime and confirmed that meetings were due to be held in the coming weeks to discussed these. DT shared that the force was working on the recommendations under a transitioned governance system including the Serious Violence Governance Group, which recently broadened its scope to four separate strands including, knife crime, robbery, serious youth violence and the night-time economy.</p>

5.	Scrutiny Future Planning 2022	<p>5.1 HJJ shared that the Commissioner’s team would be arranging a joint training day facilitated by external consultants for members of the Scrutiny and Accountability Board. The aim of the training day would be to receive input on scrutiny principles and to utilise this to discuss how to best align and develop current processes.</p> <p>5.2 CW asked if the themes of future deep dive meetings could be shared with the force. HJJ shared that she would be developing the Scrutiny programme for the year ahead in the coming weeks but confirmed that the programme for the current year went up until May 2022. The next deep dive in May was to be on Fraud. It was hoped that the upcoming away day may provide opportunity for topics for the next yearly programme to be jointly discussed.</p>
6.	Automated Facial Recognition Update	<p>6.1 A report had been circulated to the board to provide an update on the current AFR position and this was noted. HJJ suggested that members of the Police Accountability and Legitimacy Group should be updated on how AFR was being used in some of the new ways being outlined in the report. For example, the report referred to using AFR when people did not provide their details and HJJ noted it was unlikely that use in this way had been communicated before. She wondered if this new usage may have additional concerns for the public.</p> <p>6.2 JW shared that during the last Joint Ethics Committee there was a presentation on the pilot exercise that taken place and queried whether an update could be provided to the board on outcomes and lessons learnt from that pilot.</p> <p>6.3 HJJ queried whether there was any public concern or interest following its recent use in Cardiff. CS stated that the force would query this and provide an update at the next Escalations meeting. HJJ stated that the Commissioner’s office had not received any correspondence from the public in relation to the recent deployment of AFR. CP felt that a discussion in relation to ethnic recognition and disproportionality would be helpful and welcomed in the next update.</p>
7.	HMICFRS Update	7.1 CW confirmed that the PEEL inspection was complete, and the force was awaiting formal feedback and a report.
8.	Any Other Business	8.1 No other business was discussed

Action Table -

Number	Action	Owner
(1)	Gold Group minutes to be shared with the Commissioner’s team in relation to monitoring PPNs.	CW