



Scrutiny & Accountability Board

Escalations Meeting

Microsoft Teams

26 July 2022

Attendees	
Police and Crime Commissioner Team	
Suzi Graham (SG)	Policy & Research Officer
Hannah Jenkins-Jones	Strategic Lead – Scrutiny, Assurance & Equality
Lee Jones (LJ) (CHAIR)	Chief Executive
Lisa Morgan (LM)	Policy Officer (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion)
Emma Neale (EN)	Policy Officer (Criminal Justice)
Claire Perrin (CP)	Policy Officer (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion)
Nia Scourfield (NS)	Governance Support Officer - Scrutiny, Assurance & Equality
Jayne Woodward (JW)	Strategic Lead - Quality, Standards & Compliance
South Wales Police	
Rachel Bacon (RB)	Deputy Chief Constable
Kathryn Chadd (KC)	Head of Resources & Reward
Lisa Cloke (LC)	Corporate Services Project Manager
Superintendent Matthew Codd (MC)	Head of Operations – Mid Glamorgan BCU
Martyn Stone (MS)	Chief Supt (Head of Communities, Partnerships & Cohesion)
Carol Woodward (CW)	Assurance and Inspection Manager

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1.	Introductions & Apologies	1.1 LJ welcomed attendees and thanked the Board for the work ongoing in the background to enable these meetings to run effectively.
2.	Minutes of Previous Meetings	2.1 The minutes of the previous Escalations meeting were agreed as a true record. It was agreed that the actions would be discussed and monitored outside of the meeting.
3.	Updates from the previous meeting in relation to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panels - Mental Health Markers 	<p>3.1 MC referred to three Out of Court Disposal (OoCD) cases that had been escalated to the Board at the last Escalations meeting via the Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel. The issues raised had been considered and they had since led to reflective practice for officers and a discussion of lessons learnt.</p> <p>3.2 HJJ referred to the previous meeting's discussion on the lack of recording of rationale for OoCD use on NICHE and she asked for an update on how this had been addressed. MC shared that this was ongoing and referred to the national working group and what the minimum standards were for recording rationale. MC shared that Mid Glamorgan BCU was trialling all restorative approaches being signed off by an Inspector or above for additional scrutiny on a street level. The Board agreed this would continue to be monitored.</p> <p>3.3 LJ referred to the written update report which was circulated prior to the meeting in relation to the concern on Mental Health markers and the need for better communication and guidance to review these on NICHE. This updated had been appreciated and would continue to be reviewed.</p>
4.	Business Assurance Report: Recommendations from Deep Dive meeting on Fraud	4.1 HJJ summarised the findings and conclusions of the last deep dive on fraud, summarising that the deep dive had found there was a lot of investment of resources and time in this area and potentially more than some victims and members of the public realised. HJJ outlined the recommendations in her report, including raising awareness on how to prevent people from becoming victims of fraud and also the support that they would get from the police. The recommendations were accepted and the Board agreed to revisit the performance on fraud next year to look to see if there were any emerging issues.
5.	Review of Scrutiny Recommendations from 2019/20	<p>5.1 HJJ explained that the Commissioner's team had been reviewing force progress against all previous scrutiny recommendations arising from the Scrutiny & Accountability Board deep dives. The Board was presented with all scrutiny recommendations from the first year of the Commissioner's scrutiny programme in 2019, along with all associated force updates.</p> <p>5.2 It had been concluded that all of the 2019 recommendations could now be discharged, apart from a small number that were being monitored and/or escalated. These included the ongoing need to enable hate crime recording categories to be sub-categorised, but it was noted that this was a national issue and it would continue to be lobbied for.</p>

6.	Business Assurance Report: Update on Independent Custody Visiting Scheme	6.1 LJ referred to the update report in relation to the Independent Custody Visiting scheme. This included details of the continued oversight of custody by volunteers and a recent recruitment campaign that had improved the diversity of volunteers. The report was noted and the volunteers thanked for their ongoing commitment.
7.	Gender Pay Gap Report update	7.1 KC presented the force's Gender Pay Gap Report for the previous year, which had recently been published. The Board was pleased to note that improvements had been made in relation to the gender pay gap when compared with the previous year, and this included in relation to bonus payments.
8.	Scrutiny Forward Plan	<p>8.1 HJJ explained that the scrutiny forward plan for the current financial year was in development. The next topic had already been agreed at the previous deep dive on the Joint Race Equality Action Plan, where a focus on positive action for Black and Minority Ethnic recruitment had been decided upon. This would take place in September 2022. HJJ stated that the other topics for the year would be discussed at the scrutiny away day scheduled for September, reminding the Board that the topics would be evidence-based and in relation to Police and Crime Plan topics, engagement feedback and/or other national emerging issues.</p> <p>8.2 RM referred to the Chief Constable's Delivery Plan and reminded the Board that governance boards were in place to hold the force to account in relation to those priorities. RM suggested that the Scrutiny Board deep dive topics for the year ahead could therefore be flexible and more responsive to force performance and issues. HJJ agreed with the need to be responsive to emerging issues and stated that the Board escalation meetings (every other meeting) would continue to be used for that purpose. HJJ and LJ welcomed opportunities to explore future ways of working, which again could be discussed at the Scrutiny away day in September.</p>
9.	HMICFRS update	<p>9.1 CW shared that the PEEL inspection had concluded, and the findings report had been drafted. The final report would be issued in due course and would be discussed at a future Board meeting.</p> <p>9.2 CW shared that another inspection would commence around November, focusing on TARIAN. CW stated the force had also been informed that it would be visited in relation to a thematic inspection on Child Sexual Exploitation.</p>
10.	Any Other Business - Automated Facial Recognition Update	10.1 LJ acknowledged the update report circulated prior to the meeting in relation to Automated Facial Recognition and noted its contents for the Board to consider. LJ shared that the developments of AFR were discussed at various forums, including the Commissioner's Police Accountability and Legitimacy Group, which involved members of the public and partner organisations.

No Actions arising