



Scrutiny & Accountability Escalations Meeting

South Wales Police Headquarters

14th April 2023

Attendees	
Police and Crime Commissioner Team	
Suzi Graham (SG)	Policy & Research Officer (Scrutiny & Equality)
Lee Jones (LJ) - Chair	Chief Executive
Charlotte Amoss (CA)	Strategic Lead for Scrutiny, Assurance & Equality
Tamara Lafferty (TL)	Governance Support Officer
South Wales Police	
Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Bacon (RB)	Deputy Chief Constable's Portfolio
Chief Inspector Donna Llewellyn (DL)	Head of Territorial Policing Portfolio
Carol Woodward (CW)	Assurance and Inspection Manager

.	Agenda Item	Content
1.	Introductions and Apologies	1.1 LJ welcomed attendees and introductions were made.
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.
3.	Recommendations from Deep Dive meeting: Child Exploitation and Vulnerability	3.1 CA provided an overview of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) report circulated prior to the meeting about the Conclusions and Recommendations from the Deep Dive meeting into Child Exploitation and Vulnerability.

		<p>3.2 CA gave positive feedback to the group regarding the Deep Dive and commented that the Force are focused on the recommendations from the recent His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection Report.</p> <p>3.3 CA provided an overview of the Conclusions and Recommendations Report and explained that the recommendations focus on South Wales Police's engagement with external partners on the vast amount of work being undertaken in this area. CA explained that the OPCC can provide support with this and help raise awareness to the public on how they can recognise signs of Child Exploitation and the reporting mechanisms in place.</p> <p>3.4 CA explained that the OPCC want to revisit this area again in 2024. LJ explained that the impact of the changes in this area needs to be monitored.</p> <p>3.5 RB explained that the performance framework around Child Exploitation will need further work. RB confirmed that she is pleased with the feedback from the Deep Dive.</p> <p>3.6 CW provided an overview of the national work happening in this area and the further work being undertaken internally to enhance South Wales Police's approach to Child Exploitation.</p>
4.	<p>Review of Scrutiny & Accountability Recommendations from 2022/23</p>	<p>4.1. LJ confirmed that a Police and Crime Panel meeting will take place in April 2023. The panel will scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner and hold him to account.</p> <p>4.2. LJ explained that the Recommendations from the Deep Dive meetings will be considered by the Police and Crime Panel.</p> <p>4.3 CA thanked CW and her team for the level of engagement they have given with the recommendations.</p> <p>4.4 SG provided an overview of the ongoing recommendations following previous Deep Dive meetings. SG referred to the recommendations from the Fraud Deep Dive and asked RB to confirm if she is happy to mark the recommendation as complete.</p> <p>4.5 RB explained that there is a lot of ongoing regional and national work into this area and confirmed that she is happy for the recommendation to be marked as complete. Other areas that do not have such a high level of national support could perhaps be focused on instead.</p> <p>4.6 CA asked the group for feedback on the recommendations and if they wanted to raise anything in this meeting. CW explained that she is confident that her team is in a good position in terms of the recommendations and can gather the information and provide this to different forums and HMICFRS. This has helped reduced demand on the team and Force Leads.</p>

5.	Business Assurance Update: Governance & Forward Planning – 2023 and beyond	<p>5.1 The group discussed the current OPCC Scrutiny model and ways that it can be developed to add further value to meetings and reassure the public that there are checks and balances in place.</p> <p>5.2 RB remarked that the relationship between South Wales Police and the OPCC has blossomed and there is significant sharing of information. RB commented that a challenge with the current model is the broadness of Deep Dive topics given the amount of work involved certain areas.</p> <p>5.3 RB queried whether she is involved in the Deep Dives and Escalations at the right point and whether an ‘information giving’ meeting should occur between CW’s team, CA’s team and subject matter experts prior to a higher-level meeting that includes RB. CA to discuss further with CW regarding a meeting structure for Deep Dives. ACTION</p> <p>5.4 LJ raised the practical elements of the Deep Dives and Escalations such as meeting schedules and finding a schedule that is suitable for all teams. CW asked that herself and DL be used as a single point of contact for all correspondence so that they can ensure they are involving the correct subject experts.</p>
6.	Update on Independent Custody Visiting Scheme	<p>6.1 TL provided an update to the recent recruitment campaign for the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme and gave a general update on future training plans.</p> <p>6.2 CA thanked South Wales Police for their support on social media in promoting the recruitment campaign.</p> <p>6.3 LJ explained that the intention of the recruitment campaign is to encourage volunteer diversity so that the Scheme can be more representative of the community.</p> <p>6.4 CW explained that in these meetings going forward, it would be useful for the OPCC to share the feedback from Custody Visitors as internal reviews on Custody take place. CA agreed that there is an opportunity for us to bring the feedback from volunteers into the main forums.</p>
7.	Force Briefing on Child Strip Searches – Written Brief	<p>7.1 CW explained to the group that there has been a lot of interest in Child Strip Searches since the Children’s Commissioner released the report ‘Strip Search of Children in England and Wales’ in March 2023.</p> <p>7.2 CW confirmed that South Wales Police are reviewing all challenged strip searches that have taken place since April 2018. In addition, there is work ongoing to review occurrences of strip searches and provide reports on the findings. CW to share findings with OPCC. ACTION.</p>
8.	HMICFRS update	<p>8.1 LJ referred to the recent letter from HMICFRS reminding Police Forces of their powers should they not receive information requested. CW confirmed that this letter is not necessarily relevant to South Wales and they endeavour to get information to HMICFRS on time and will communicate with them if there is an issue.</p>

		<p>8.2 CW confirmed that HMICFRS are with South Wales Police in May 2023 for 'information gathering'. This will occur twice a month until October 2023. The official HMICFRS Inspections starts in November 2023.</p> <p>8.3 The group discussed close working between the OPCC and South Wales Police to develop partnership engagement.</p>
9.	Any other business	<p>9.1 No one raised another business.</p> <p>9.2 LJ thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.</p>

Action Table

Number	Action	Owner
1.	CA to discuss further with CW regarding a meeting structure for Deep Dives. ACTION	CW & CA
2.	CW to share findings of Child Strip Searches review with OPCC when complete.	CW