

## **LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

### **Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee Meeting held at Police Headquarters, Enderby on Thursday 2 April 2009**

#### **Present**

Mr P Brown, Dr S Chowdhury, Mr U Dholakia, Mr D Prince, Mr B Roper and Mrs M Sherwin.

#### **Officers**

Mr R Swinfield (Chief Executive) and Mrs A Perry, (Deputy Chief Executive).

#### **Representatives from the Constabulary**

Mr C Eyre (Deputy Chief Constable), Supt C Moore and Ch/Insp J Ball (Professional Standards).

#### **Mrs M Sherwin – in the Chair**

##### **01/09. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

##### **02/09. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

##### **03/09. Declarations of Code of Conduct Interests**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of any Code of Conduct interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No such declarations were made.

##### **04/09. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 December 2008**

The minutes of the Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 15 December 2008, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.

##### **05/09. Police Complaint Statistics – 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Constable presenting figures on complaints received for the period 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with the minutes.

Ch/Insp Ball made the following comments:

- Due to the rise in complaints recorded against officers at Blaby LPU an action plan had been put in place. However, analysis of the statistics did not show any repeat complaints regarding specific officers or type of allegations.

- In relation to complaints received from under 19 year olds, of the 17 listed in the report, 9 were resolved by local resolution, 1 received dispensation from the IPCC, 1 received dispensation from the Force, 2 were unsubstantiated, 1 withdrawn and 3 were live investigations.
- Table 14 would not appear in future reports as the three categories of investigation listed no longer existed. In future complaints would either be locally resolved, investigated or dealt with under misconduct regulations.
- A number of complaints had been received on the seizure of vehicles. This was a forcewide problem and as a result the policy on this had been reviewed. The Professional Standards Dept. had issued guidance highlighting factors to take into account when dealing with such issues.
- Nationally, 80% of all complaints were unsubstantiated.

Members requested that any lessons learnt from the action plan in place at Blaby be included in a future report.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**06/09. Independent Custody Visiting Scheme - Update**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive updating members on the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme in Leicestershire. A copy of the report marked 'B' is filed with the minutes.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Executive and the Members Services Officer for their hard work and in particular the recently held regional advanced training day which had been a first class event.

The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

**07/09. Exclusion of the Public and Press**

It was RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds specified on the agenda.

**08/09. Examination of Complaint Files**

*(Exempt by virtue of paras 1 & 7 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to an individual and action taken in connection with the investigation of crime)*

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive providing information on the dip-sampling of complaint files undertaken by members since 15 December 2008. A copy of the report marked 'C' is filed with the minutes.

The Chairman requested that consideration be given to amending the words 'always regrettable', contained in the letter forwarded to complainants following the resolution of a complaint.

The Committee RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the findings of dip-sampling undertaken;

- (b) that the next dip-sampling focus on complaints where satisfaction surveys had been received indicating that the complainant had not been satisfied with the outcome, and complaints made by under 19 year olds; and
- ( c ) that all members meet on a date to be arranged to dip sample complaints prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

**CHAIRMAN**

2.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

2 April 2009