



MINUTES OF THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2023 AT CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present: Robert Mee (Chair)
Thomas Morris
Emma Shillabeer

Apologies: Steven Wong

Also Present: Damon Taylor, Chief Executive, Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Detective Chief Inspector Nikki Mason, Cheshire Constabulary

6/23 MEMBERSHIP OF PANEL

The Chair reported that Paul Manning had tendered his resignation from the Panel, meaning that the membership now stood at four members.

7/23 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 1 February 2023, be noted.

8/23 INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND INTERNAL CULTURE OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE

The Panel discussed the executive summary of the Casey Review into the MPS, and considered issues which may be pertinent to Cheshire Constabulary. The Panel agreed to consider each of the 16 main recommendations in the report and identify issues which they felt needed further scrutiny. The Panel was supported by DCI Nikki Mason from the Professional Standards Department who gave her view as to how each of the key issues related to the Constabulary.

The Panel considered each recommendation in turn, and whilst recognising the report's focus lay with the MPS, were not complacent that similar issues could or may arise in Cheshire. The Panel raised various questions relating to the current misconduct process and the role of independent legally qualified chairs; vetting and the ongoing historic data wash being undertaken in all forces; the ability for cliques to form in specialist units; how the service dealt with crimes against women and young people; the Panel's ongoing work looking at stop and search and issues of disproportionality; neighbourhood policing; and how the views of local people and those from diverse communities were captured.

The Chief Executive reported that the Commissioner was due to have an early discussion with the Chief Constable as to how the wider issues arising from the Casey report could be considered in a public forum, and suggested that the Ethics Panel may wish to be part of that process.

ACTION:

That the views of the Panel be relayed to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable and the Panel be further involved in the discussions arising from this report as appropriate.

DCI Nikki Mason left the meeting at this point.

9/23 PANEL RECRUITMENT - UPDATE

As was reported by the Chair at the start of the meeting, following the resignation of Paul Manning, the membership of the Panel now stood at four. The Chief Executive set out the plans for a recruitment campaign, with applications open from 3 April for four weeks. Shortlisting would take place in the week commencing 1 May with interviews being held the following week, with the hope that all new panel members can be fully vetted by the end of June.

ACTION

- (1) The recruitment timetable be noted and agreed

10/23 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Panel be re-scheduled to Thursday 15 June at 5pm, and the following meeting be amended to 5 September (from 7 September)

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and concluded at 7.20pm