



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes – Policing Strategy and Performance Committee Meeting

Date: 06 December 2018

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7

Part A – Committee Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Ronan Nolan, Vicky Conway, Moling Ryan

Secretary: Fiona Larthwell

Executive: Helen Hall, Margaret Tumelty, Karen Shelly, Gráinne Curtin, Úna Ní Eigearthaigh

Apologies: Maureen Lynott

1. Closed session – Committee members

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 19 November

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

The Committee received a briefing on developments from Authority meetings. The Committee received an update on the status of the Commission on the Future of Policing (CFP) report and issues in relation to youth diversion. The date and time of the next meeting of the Committee was discussed and agreed.

3. Data Quality

The Committee discussed potential issues relating to data quality to be raised with the Interim Chief Data Officer in Part B of this meeting, including issues highlighted by the Central Statistics Office. The Committee was updated on the recruitment process for the Head of the Garda Síochána Analysis Service (GSAS). Work done by the CFP on ICT and data was flagged and the Committee recommended that the Executive review the relevant CFP papers.

The latest quarterly results of the Public Attitudes Survey were discussed. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of the Authority commissioning related research, such as an independent victims' survey. The Committee was updated on the meeting between members of the Executive and GSAS, which followed on from issues discussed in the November Committee meeting.

4. Executive update on site visits and other work

The Committee received a briefing from the Executive on engagements in weeks since its last meeting, including:

- A briefing on the progress in relation to recommendations in the Crowe Horwath report; and,
- Executive attendance at the recent conference for Senior Investigating Officers.

The Committee noted the reports provided by the Garda Síochána in relation to the public order incident on North Frederick Street. Concerns were raised over the quality of the reporting and it was agreed to bring this to the attention of the Authority.

5. 2019 meeting planning, including proposed thematic approach

The Committee considered its draft work plan for 2019, agreed the themed meeting dates (June, December), and agreed that the Committee meeting scheduled for May would be moved to April. Potential themes were discussed and it was agreed that the proposed theme for June of 'Vulnerable Victims' would be moved to December.

It was also agreed that themes of interest to the Committee that are outside the scope of the Policing Plan would be proposed to the Authority for its 2019 themed meetings. These included Financial Crime, Brexit, Use of Force, Detention, and GRECO.

The draft 2019 Terms of Reference for the Committee were reviewed and approved for submission to the Authority.

Part B – Meeting with Garda Síochána representatives

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Ronan Nolan, Vicky Conway, Moling Ryan, Josephine Feehily

Executive: Helen Hall, Margaret Tumelty, Fiona Larthwell, Karen Shelly, Gráinne Curtin

Garda Síochána: Orla McPartlin (Assistant Commissioner, Western Region), David Sheahan (Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing), Bill Limond (Interim Chief Data Officer), Brian Sutton (Chief Superintendent), Rose Sweeney (Community Engagement and Public Safety), Lois West (Deputy Head, Garda Síochána Analysis Service), Gráinne Shortall (Policing Authority Liaison Office)

6. Closed session

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised. No comments were made with respect to the minutes.

7. Data Quality and Governance

The Committee welcomed the Interim Chief Data Officer, Bill Limond, and agreed to take the presentation supplied in advance of the meeting as read. A number of factors affecting data quality (positively and negatively) were discussed, including:

- Long-term lack of investment;
- Lack of consistency regarding training;
- Variable attitude towards PULSE across the organisation;
- The impact of PULSE updates 6.8 and 7.3;
- Reinforcement of the role of GISC in classification of incidents;
- Improvements in the management process through PAF;
- Technological barriers and potential solutions; and,
- Ownership vs custodianship of data.

Further areas discussed included:

- The position and use of GSAS and its resourcing requirements (technology and staff);
- The development of the Data Protection function;
- The response to the CSO data improvement plan;
- Duplicate entries, including the potential for an Eircode solution;
- Collection and analysis of additional data (operational and organisational); and
- Next steps, such as the review of benchmarking and best practice.

8. Q3 Public Attitudes Survey

The Committee asked about the organisational response to the results of the Public Attitudes Survey, and how it informs policy development and operational initiatives. The Committee was advised to follow this up with the Deputy Commissioner.

9. Update on the progress of the Garda Síochána homicide review (standing item)

The Committee received an update on the third report of the homicide review. Garda Síochána representatives confirmed that the members of the homicide review team are in agreement about the conclusions in the report. The Committee was informed that the investigative actions are to be addressed by Assistant Commissioner John O'Driscoll, as the policy owner of the majority of the relevant policies.

The Committee noted that the third report is on the agenda for the next public meeting of the Commissioner and the Authority. The Committee was informed that the fourth report is now in progress and the final report will include further observations regarding investigative issues.

The Committee thanked the Garda Síochána for the invitation to the recent conference for Senior Investigating Officers and noted that it was encouraged by the feedback that it received regarding same.

10. Action plan in response to the Crowe Horwath report

Garda Síochána representatives confirmed that the data issues highlighted by the Crowe Horwath report have been resolved and are not expected to arise again. However, it was noted that some issues regarding governance have yet to be dealt with.

The Committee was informed that if the mobility project does not progress quickly enough, some revisions to the plan will be necessary. The benefits of the mobility project were emphasised, including its effect on data quality and perception of ownership of data.

The Committee welcomed that tangible progress has been made in relation to the recommendations although it noted that training is recurring as an issue.

11. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and Garda Reserves Strategy

The Committee was informed that the draft EDI Strategy has gone out to stakeholders, and that the Garda Síochána are awaiting feedback. The Committee was also informed that the draft definition of hate crime will be discussed at the upcoming consultation event on the 17th of December (ref Action PSP_029_06). The Committee was informed that training for front line officers will be included in the community policing framework training and will include online learning.

Garda Síochána representatives stated that a number of proposals regarding the Garda Reserves Strategy were discussed by the Senior Leadership team, taking into account the recommendations of the CFP. It has now been confirmed that the role of the Garda Reserves will be embedded in the Community Policing Framework. The Community Policing Unit are now developing a strategy, the first draft of which is expected by the end of January 2019. Garda Síochána representatives requested that the Authority share its internal report on the Authority's recent engagement with members of the Garda Reserve.

12. Any other business

The Committee received a brief update on a recent incident in Granard, Co. Longford.