

Committee(s):	Date:
Professional Standards and Integrity Committee	5 th February 2021
Subject: Integrity and Code of Ethics Update	Public
Report of: Assistant Commissioner	For Information
Report author: Head of Strategic Development, City of London Police	

Summary

This report usually provides Members with an update of the Force's Integrity Standards Board (ISB) together with the dashboard considered at that meeting, regional and national developments following those meetings, and an update on the Integrity Standards Development plan. The report for this quarter is shorter than would normally be the case as the ISB has not yet taken place, and there have not been any regional or national meetings since your last Committee.

Integrity Standards Board:

The Force's Integrity Standards Board last met on 18th November 2020. A draft dashboard (which did not change) was submitted to your Committee for information. The next ISB is scheduled to take place on 9th February, four days after your Committee. It is not therefore possible to provide Members with a dashboard for this Committee, however, it can be circulated to Members for information following the ISB.

Code of Ethics Update:

Under Transform, it is proposed to transfer responsibility for leading on the Code of Ethics to PSD, which is in line with most other forces and reflects a similar change that has recently taken place in the MPS. In the City of London Police, as PSD will sit within HQ Services, the area will still report into the Assistant Commissioner.

A further impact of the move within the MPS is that the future of the London Police Challenge Forum (LPCF) is now in doubt. The continuing absence of any LPCF events has resulted in CoLP setting up its own internal event, scheduled for 18th February 2021. A link to the event will be sent to Members should any wish to observe or take part in the panel.

No national meeting of the UK Police Ethics Guidance Group has taken place since your last Committee.

A regional meeting was scheduled to take place on 14th January 2021, however this was cancelled and is still to be rescheduled.

The Integrity Standards Development Plan is appended to the report for Members' information, there are no outstanding RED areas.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Current Position

Integrity Standards Board

1. The Integrity Standards Board (ISB) was constituted to monitor the dashboard on a quarterly basis and to consider other issues relating to integrity. The Board is chaired by the Assistant Commissioner and is attended by the Chairman of the Professional Standards and Integrity (PS&I) Committee and a representative from the Town Clerk's department.
2. The Force's Integrity Standards Board last met on 18th November 2020. A draft dashboard (which did not change) was submitted to your Committee for information. The next ISB is scheduled to take place on 9th February, four days after your Committee. It is not therefore possible to provide Members with a dashboard for this Committee, however, it can be circulated to Members for information following the ISB. Where ISBs take place immediately before your Committee it is usual to provide a verbal update at the meeting; as the ISB is post your Committee, that is not possible on this occasion.

Code of Ethics Update

3. The last reported situation regarding the London Police Challenge Forums (LPCF) remains the same, with none having been held since December 2019. To mitigate the continuing absence of these events, the Head of Strategic Development has set up a City of London Police (CoLP) specific event on the 18th February 2021. The event will use MS Teams and will coincide with a refresh of information on the Force intranet and a drive to recruit additional 'ethics associates', which is an action in the Integrity Development Plan. A link to the meeting will be circulated so that any Member who wishes to observe or take part in the event can do so.
4. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has transferred responsibility for leading on ethics to their Professional Standards Directorate (PSD). CoLP is likely to do the same as part of the Transform Programme (and in line with the most forces nationally). This supports the continuing move to 're-brand' PSDs into units that support professionalism and good behaviour and not just departments that are responsible for investigations and discipline that they have been historically.

5. The LPCF Coordinator is in discussion with the MPS PSD regarding the continuation of the London panels. It is not clear at the moment if they will continue in their current format or at all. Consequently, the British Transport Police (BTP) are taking similar action to CoLP and setting up their own internal panel.
6. This development has also impacted one of the actions in the Integrity Development Plan, which is for the Head of Strategic Development to work with the LPCF coordinator to revise the Terms of Reference for the LPCF. This was done; however, the revision had not been consulted on with the other members of the LPCF. Given the current uncertain status of the LPCF, the revised ToR is effectively out of date. Depending on the action taken by the MPS regarding the future resourcing of the LPCF, a decision will be made whether they are still required.

UK Police Ethics Guidance Group and Regional Police Ethics Network.

7. No national meeting of the UK Police Ethics Guidance Group has taken place since your last Committee.
8. A regional meeting was scheduled to take place on 14th January 2021, however that was cancelled and is still to be rescheduled.

Integrity Standards Development Plan

9. The Integrity Standards Development Plan is appended to this report for Members' information.
10. Members are asked to note that the action relating to the LPCF ToR has been CLOSED pending any decision on the future of that group (see para. 6).
11. The previous RED (no 2.4) has now been remedied. The relevant software has now been procured and will be installed during February 2021.

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