

Committee(s): Professional Standards and Integrity Committee Police Authority Board	Dated: 7 November 2023 22 November 2023
Subject: Independent Advisory & Scrutiny- Update on new arrangements	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are Safe and Feel Safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 114-23	For Discussion
Report author: Sanjay Andersen, Head of Professionalism and Trust Team, City of London Police, and Independent Advisory & Scrutiny Group Executive Committee	

Summary

At the Police Authority Board in March 2023, a report was submitted on the review of arrangements for managing and facilitating the relationship between the City of London Police (CoLP) and the Independent Advisory Scrutiny Group (IASG). The Board was reassured by the changes being proposed but asked CoLP to provide an update back to the Board in the Autumn with a view to assessing what has worked and what has not worked, with the new arrangements of Professionalism and Trust managing the relationship with the IASG.

The report highlights key activity following the changes and outlines progress made by the force single point of contact or ‘SPOC’.

This is a joint report, whereby the IASG Executive has been invited to contribute their own update on progress since the transition and has been consulted on the full content of the report.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. This report provides an update on the management of the relationship and arrangements between the CoLP and the IASG and is an update to the report provided to the Police Authority Board on the 22nd March 2023.
2. The Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) affords the City of London Police with independent advice from a group of critical friends from the City of London community, including members who are transient workers, residents, and from the business community. The Group provides feedback and challenge around stop and search, use of force, equality & inclusion, professional standards and are also invited to provide appropriate independent advice on Critical Incident Gold Groups on community issues.
3. Additionally, the IASG help to provide scrutiny of performance and service delivery, particularly following thematic reviews such as the PSD review of police perpetrated Violence against Women and Girls and Misogyny, and other reports of significance, such as the Child Q review presented at the IASG meeting on 27 September 2023 by the Director of Professional Standards.
4. In keeping with the City of London Police's new Policing Plan, which is focused on rebuilding trust, putting victims first, and creating an inclusive and supportive culture, and as a result of IASG feedback in January 2023 – responsibility for managing CoLP's relationship with the IASG was moved from the Local Policing portfolio to the Professionalism & Trust Portfolio. A Single Point of Contact 'SPOC' for the IASG was assigned from the Professionalism and Trust portfolio to facilitate better working with the group .

Professionalism & Trust Updates

5. Following the change to arrangements, regular monthly meetings take place between the Professionalism & Trust Senior Management Team and the IASG Executive Committee. These monthly meetings allow for issues and concerns to be raised and addressed outside of the quarterly IASG meetings.
6. The quarterly IASG meetings are held in person at Guildhall Yard East. In addition to representation from Local Policing and Professionalism & Trust, the quarterly meetings are now attended by a member of the Chief Officer Team. Attendance at meetings remains consistent, with the most recent meeting well attended. For a copy of the latest agenda, please refer to Appendix A.
7. Some IASG members have specific interests and small sub-groups have been formed for particular areas of policing. To support this, Professionalism & Trust remain the conduit for the relationship between the IASG and the relevant business area within CoLP. The IASG's Sub-Groups are:

- Counter-Terrorism
- Violent & Acquisitive Crime
- Fraud
- Vulnerable People
- Public Order
- Roads Policing
- Cyber Crime
- Hate Crime
- Stop & Search
- Use of Force

8. The most recent development with regard to the IASG's sub-groups is a refresh of CoLP liaison contacts for each area. These have been identified by position/ role, to ensure that when officers change roles or leave the organisation, there remains a consistent point of contact for each sub-group.

Other developments include:

9. A Ride Along was arranged for an IASG member with uniformed officers, as part of the training plan offered to the group. The feedback received was positive, and the attending IASG member recounted the experience as valuable and insightful into the role that police officers perform in the City of London.
10. Further assurance on IASG members' vetting statuses has been conducted, and further members of the group have been cleared for vetting. The IASG SPOC continues to engage with those members who are required to submit further documentation for their vetting applications to be completed. The group was reminded that they may attend Gold Groups for critical incidents to offer an independent perspective, should they elect to receive a higher level of vetting.
11. It was agreed that Local Policing and P&T leads will meet with the IASG to discuss necessary improvements to the stop search and use of force dip sampling process, to enable the IASG to more effectively scrutinise CoLP's use of police powers. Additionally, CoLP will facilitate sampling of uses of force including all taser discharges, any uses of taser involving juveniles, baton uses, and deployments of police dogs in a use of force capacity.
12. CoLP's Director of Professional Standards attended the latest IASG meeting to present an update regarding complaints and conduct statistics, juvenile strip searching following the Child Q report (all of which have been reported formally for Police Authority scrutiny to the Professional Standards and Integrity Committee (PSIC)), and P&T provided an update on Vetting Refusals i.e where potential recruits or applicants have failed vetting, for all new joiners and transferees from other police forces. An overview of *statistics* around vetting interviews for applicants to CoLP both during the vetting process and post vetting refusal, will be provided at the next IASG meeting in November, following interest in the number of candidates refused on the basis of family association and financial status.

13. The IASG also requested that Civil Claims against CoLP for police use of force to be shared with the group, to be reviewed and sampled as with other use of force incidents. CoLP agreed to consider this request but explained that there may be legal boundaries which prevent the sharing of these details. An update will be provided to the group at the November's IASG meeting.

IASG Update

14. Liaison has improved since the transfer of responsibility to Professionalism and Trust. The monthly meetings with Chief Superintendent in Professionalism and Trust are helpful. It is noticeable that responses and energy levels are heightened when third parties are in attendance or anticipated at the quarterly meetings e.g. Home Office, HMICFRS. However, there remains some dysfunction in the information flow including regularity of Stop and Search and Use of Force forms, misconduct update, and viewing BWV continues to be difficult to arrange owing to the necessity for IASG Members to attend in person at Bishopsgate. There is currently no option of viewing a shared screen online.

15. CoLP's response to the concerns raised are addressed in Appendix B.

Key Next Steps

16. In November 2023, the current IASG Executive Committee will step down, and job descriptions for the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair, and Secretary have been circulated to the other members of the group to register their interest to stand. Members have been advised to apply for positions by email to the current Chair with a covering note. Elections will take place at the next meeting on Wednesday 22 November 2023.
17. Following elections of the new IASG Executive Committee, a fresh recruitment programme will be conducted with support from the P&T Portfolio. Particular focus will be given to continuing to attract a diverse range of candidates.

Youth IASG (YIAG)

18. The YIAG is scheduled to have its second meeting on the 9 November 2023. At this meeting, discussion will be encouraged as to how the IASG and YIAG may interact according to each groups Terms of Reference/ Operating procedures. This will be discussed between Local Policing and Professionalism & Trust to ensure the groups operate in an effective capacity in providing suitable input and advice from a community perspective to policing in the City of London.
19. The YIAG consists of 13 Members and the age range of the group is 13-19. Since their inaugural meeting, the YIAG have not yet undertaken any IAG activities directly, however, they are currently evolving as a group so activity will take a little while to gather momentum. The specific activities of the group and the roles it will perform will be outlined at the upcoming meeting

Conclusion

20. The relationship between the City of London Police and the Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Groups continues to evolve and strengthen. As outlined in the paper, there remain areas requiring improvement but through more regular dialogue and engagement, progress is being made. The IASG and YIAG are valued groups who provide essential insight and feedback to the Force on matters impacting the community.

Appendices

Appendix A – IASG Quarterly Meeting Agenda.

Appendix B- CoLP Response to issues raised by the IASG

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