

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 26 November 2019

Subject: Standards

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Purpose of the Report:

To provide an update on matters related to standards.

Recommendation:

That the report is noted.

1. Standards Overview

1.1 Standards was introduced to the Alliance Joint Audit Committee in September 2018. This was to enable standards and audit issues to be looked at together, rather than at two separate committees as had previously happened.

1.2 The Warwickshire Committee will continue to include standards and audit together as there is a natural synergy between the two.

1.3 Standards issues that will be considered include, but are not limited to:

- The College of Policing Code of Ethics.
- Complaint dip sampling.
- Attendance at the Police Internal Ethics Committee.
- Providing a standards perspective to reports and policies, for example, HMICFRS reports, gifts and hospitality registers, and new police processes, policies and initiatives.

2. Standards Update

2.1 Helen Knee has kindly agreed to continue to lead on standards for the Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee.

2.2 Work areas will be developed to specifically look at areas of policing from an ethical viewpoint. Early suggestions include, Use of Force, Stop and Search, and Body Worn Video.

2.3 If members come across other areas that would benefit from scrutiny from a standards perspective, please do feed these in.

2.4 If any members would be interested to be involved in some of the standards work areas, then please do inform the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. Complaint Dip Sampling

3.1 Helen will recommence dip sampling of closed complaint cases on a quarterly basis, looking at Warwickshire cases. This will include an update on Professional Standards matters comprising, current performance, misconduct matters and Police Appeals Tribunals.

3.2 The first sessions of dip sampling are due to take place on 6th and 26th November 2019 and will be supported by Debbie Mullis from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. A report covering these areas will be submitted to future JASC meetings.

3.3 As the dip sampling develops, consideration will be given to whether it would be helpful to look at themes of complaints or to focus on particular complaint type categories at each session. This will become evident as we start to look at the complaints and identify any patterns or concerns.

4. Warwickshire Police Internal Ethics Committee

4.1 Warwickshire Police intend to launch an Internal Ethics Committee to look at ethical issues in relation to policing. This could include scenarios being considered and recommendations being made on what the police officer or staff member should do if faced with this circumstance. Helen will attend this meeting where possible and we will look to send a substitute if she cannot attend. Dates will be shared once available.

5. Code of Ethics

5.1 The College of Policing published the policing Code of Ethics in July 2014. It applies to all Forces in England and Wales. The aim of the Code is to support each member of the policing profession to deliver the highest professional standards in their service to the public. It outlines policing principles and standards of professional behaviour.

5.2 The Code considers the National Decision Making Model for making ethical decisions, providing information on how to deal with breaches. It should be embedded in to every day policing.

5.3 The Committee might wish to establish how the Code is embedded in to every day policing as part of the standards work going forward.