

Agenda item

Police and Crime Panel

Meeting to be held on 12th October 2015

IPCC – ENSURING ACCESS TO THE POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out information relating to the IPCC's recent publication of 'Ensuring access to the Police Complaints System; Key principles for police forces'.

Recommendation

That the Panel note the report and consider including a review of the response made by the PCC in the Panel's forward plan for 2015/16.

Background and Advice

As reported elsewhere on this Agenda the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has recently issued revised guidelines to improve the handling of discrimination complaints made against the police.

Throughout the consultation process for the discrimination guidelines the IPCC report they were consistently told by stakeholders that the complaints system is difficult to access. The IPCC have used this feedback to inform an additional piece of work looking at how the police provide access to the complaints system. The IPCC have developed a set of key principles for police forces on providing access to the complaints system which they expect forces to implement. Ensuring access to the police complaints system: key principles for police forces alongside a report on the findings of their review work in this area: Access to the police complaints system is attached as Appendices ' ' and ' '.

This report is for information however, the Panel may consider that as part of their scrutiny programme this year they review the plans/work of the PCC in overseeing a review of the complaints process in Lancashire in light of these principles published by the IPCC.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal Implications

The IPCC has a statutory obligation to secure and maintain public confidence in the police complaints system in England and Wales.

The aim of this report is to ensure that people who are dissatisfied with the service they have received from the Police are better able to make a complaint. This in turn will increase levels of confidence in the complaints system and in policing itself. The report sets out a set of principles for police forces to follow to ensure that there are accessible and supportive channels for people who want to make a complaint. The principles will also help police forces to comply with their equality obligations

Financial Implications

N/A

Risk management

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

<u>Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact/ Directorate/Tel</u>
Ensuring Access to the Police Complaints System: Key Principles for Police Forces	September 2015	David Fairclough 01254 585642
Access to Police Complaints Systems	September 2015	David Fairclough 01254 585642