



Lancashire Constabulary Tactical Ethics Committee

Background

The Lancashire Constabulary Tactical Ethics Committee has held quarterly meetings since May 2015. In late 2018, the committee was subject to a review, the membership refreshed and reviewed and added to, and a new Terms of Reference drafted and agreed.

Superintendent Stasia Osiowy was selected to chair the Committee.

Focus

The new Terms of Reference focussed on the need to promote good ethical practice in the Constabulary, and to support and enhance trust and confidence in the ethics of those working in policing in Lancashire. It is a view of some of the long standing members of the committee that whilst ethical matters had been discussed, the value and learning from those discussions did not permeate through the wider organisation post meeting. How to communicate key messages to the wider workforce is now a standing agenda item.

Planning

The new Committee met initially on the 26th of February 2019 and was opened by the then Deputy Chief Constable Sunita Gamblin.

Subsequent Meetings

Further meetings have taken place on the following dates:

24th of May 2019

10th of September 2019

28th of November 2019

The next meeting is scheduled for the 28th of February 2020. The meetings will be scheduled to pre-date the Joint Audit and Ethics Committee by about 2 weeks in order that matters raised at the Tactical Meeting can be fed across for consideration.

A communication link between the two groups is well established. A member of the JAEC permanently sits on the Tactical meeting.

Discussion Topics

Ethical Decision making – the Detective Superintendent from Covert Tactics gave a demonstration about how the code of ethics impacts on his thought process and decision making in a fast moving deployment.

Taser - discussion around the merits of a wider role out of Taser for operational police officers. A paper detailing our considerations were forwarded to the Chief Constable.

Abuse of position for Sexual Purpose – Presentation by DCI Jane Webb in relation to the threat to public trust and confidence from those who use their position to form relationships with vulnerable members of the public. Members were tasked with promulgating the key messages back to their teams. Some learning was identified which was fed back to the force lead.

Algorithms – Chief Superintendent Dawson sought the view of the committee in respect of the potential introduction of algorithms to decide on solvability factors when crimes had been reported. This in turn would then be used to assist decision makers when considering whether to allocate a resource to investigate crime.

Points on Driving License – the committee was asked by the Roads Policing Team Management to consider what action to take when officers accrue a high number of points on their license. The input will help steer an upcoming change in policy.

Future

The hope is that as we get more embedded and we continue to publicise the work we do and our influence is seen as a positive for change, we will see an increase in the number of referrals from staff across the organisation. There are number of policies that we have already identified that need to be reviewed to reassure ourselves that they will stand scrutiny from an ethical perspective. These include; work force representation, codes and standards of dress and the uplift in police numbers.