

Norfolk Independent Advisory Group

Annual Report 2013



Norfolk Independent Advisory Group

Message from the Chair - Graham Sigley

Whilst other parts of this Annual Report go into greater detail about the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and what its members have been up to during 2013, having been fortunate to be elected as Chair of the IAG, I also get the opportunity to share some thinking back over the year.

As anyone would expect, following the election of Stephen Bett as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk in November last year, there were certain to be some changes to the way that the IAG operates. In my experience though, the changes have been positive ones whilst building on existing strengths.

Early in the year, the IAG were consulted by Stephen Bett and his deputy, Jenny McKibben with plans to increase community involvement and engagement across the county. The Commissioner's staff have continued this listening approach.

As individual members of IAG, we have been invited to comment and feedback on draft policies for Norfolk Constabulary, many of which are also joint policies with Suffolk. It has been interesting and informative to see how the local community priorities are combined with national requirements. In addition, individual IAG members have been consulted for advice and guidance around a number of specific operational activities.

During the course of the year, as part of its monthly meetings, the IAG has had a number of presentations from senior officers. These have included updating the IAG on how policies are being put into practice and also reporting on their effectiveness and impact. IAG members have been able to use these opportunities very positively in being able to both ask questions and suggest improvements. It is during some of these sessions that it is very evident just how independent IAG members are. It is also evident that IAG comments and suggestions are listened to and responded to in a very positive way.

Throughout the year, both as a group and as individuals, IAG members have had the opportunity to listen, learn, question and comment. Membership of the IAG does change and has changed over the year. I would like to thank all past members for all their contributions and thank current and future members for the difference that they do make. From my own personal perspective as the Chair, it has been interesting, informative and enjoyable to be part of such a group of committed individuals.

As Chair of the IAG, though, it has also been extremely pleasing to feel and to see that IAG members are able to make a positive contribution to the excellent work of Norfolk Constabulary and the PCC.



Welcome from the Police & Crime Commissioner

Stephen Bett, Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

As Police and Crime Commissioner, a key part of my role is to be the voice of the people and the Independent Advisory Group assists in that by providing sound advice and valid opinions reflecting community views throughout the year.

I fully appreciate that the members give their time on a voluntary basis, attending regular and occasional ad-hoc meetings, reviewing policing policies and other reports and providing an important community viewpoint. And all this while they have demanding jobs and family commitments.

It is so important that I have access to the opinions of groups or organisations such as the IAG, particularly as the work of Police and Crime Commissioners expands next year to take on responsibility for Transforming Rehabilitation, Victim Commissioning and Restorative Justice to name but a few. Feedback from our 'critical friends' on the IAG will be ever more useful.



View from the Constabulary

Simon Bailey, Chief Constable

Firstly as Deputy and now as Chief Constable, 2013 has been a year of change for both myself and the Constabulary, but also one I am pleased to reflect has been another very good year for the Independent Advisory Group.

The excellent relationship that the IAG has with the Constabulary continues to demonstrate our commitment to seek advice and guidance from our IAG members, and I am especially grateful for all the work these valued members have done throughout 2013.

There have been many challenges for the Constabulary over the year, but together with the IAG we are in a better position to make a positive difference to our communities by using the knowledge and expertise of the IAG to support us in our decision making.

As we move swiftly into 2014, I look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship and, from all my team, wish you all the very best for the next year.



Independent Advisory Group members



Graham Sigley - Chair

Graham has just completed his third year as Chair of the group



Della Anverali - Deputy Chair

Della attended the PCC's Community Catch Up in Gorleston earlier in the year

Continuing members:



Kleri Balcer



Sarah Mogford and Jenni Benstead



Debbie Chedgy, Pa Musa Jobarteh and Brian Walker

Meet the new members

Ed Balls is a former UEA law student.

Florence Mae Jones has recently left further education and brings a younger person's viewpoint to the group.

Sally Fox works with the homeless, substance misusers, young people and offenders.

Po Wah Lo brings a wealth of knowledge around the Chinese community, retired soldiers and mental health.

Jennie Marston works with Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

Luke Bloomer is a UEA student and comes from Northern Ireland.

Brian Reed has returned to the IAG after a three year break.

Views from new members

Brian Reed said, " I am from Hunstanton. I am a former member of the group who came back after an absence of 3 years. My expertise within the group is physical & learning disabilities. I also have an interest in all forms of disability hate crime/incidents & vulnerable people. I re-applied to join the group because I enjoyed the work I did before & I felt I could help make a difference not just for myself but for other disabled people & give them the confidence to report crimes that affect them & know that they can approach the police with any other issues they may have.

Florence Mae Jones said, "Whilst in my final year at Easton College studying Public Services, I was offered the opportunity to join the Youth Advisory Forum(YAF). After becoming part of the YAF, I was then asked if I would like to become a member of the IAG as a Youth Representative. I see the Police Service as a future career and, therefore, I always try to take on experiences that will give me direct knowledge of how the Service operates, in it's different roles.



Brian Reed



Florence Mae Jones

Continued

Meet the new members continued

Florence Mae Jones; "Having been a part of the IAG for over 6 months now, it has been an incredible experience that has given me an insight into the operations and the community relationships within Norfolk Constabulary. Although I have studied much about the Police Service, many of the topics discussed within the IAG meetings are ones that I feel people of my age group may have little knowledge of even though they affect many people within our communities. These topics have been both fascinating and, sometimes, difficult to take in. I always come away from every meeting feeling that not only have I been able to contribute in some way, but I have had a brilliant learning opportunity that not everybody, sadly, gets to experience. I am very grateful to the IAG for letting me become a member and I hope that I can keep contributing for many meetings to come".

Farewell and thanks to leaving members

Several IAG members have stood down during 2013. Rajan Verma, Jan Stringer, Alicia Ward, Hameed Malik and David Parker all decided to bow out of the group. Each and every one of them contributed a great deal over the time they were on IAG and they were thanked with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Raj Verma



David Parker



Jan Stringer



Hameed Malik and Alicia Ward



Jane Lebreton is also standing down at the AGM and passes her Gypsy Traveller & Roma baton across to new member Jennie.

Review of the Year

2013 has been a busy IAG year with twelve meetings being held. At each meeting Community Impacts Assessments have been discussed with IAG members feeding back on their experiences offering independent advice.

At each meeting a guest speaker asked the IAG for their input and thoughts with a variety of topics being covered including, Police performance, complaints handling, Crown Prosecution Service approach to Hate Crime, The Welfare Reform, Honour Based Violence, Human Trafficking, Stop Search, Equality & Diversity, Mental Health, Child Exploitation, Domestic Abuse and Race Disproportionality in Stop Search.

The Group have reviewed several strategies this year including the Equality & Diversity Strategies for the PCC, Child & Young People Strategy for the Constabulary as well as Force Policy Documents covering many subjects.

Community feedback has been sought on a variety of local matters including murders, serious road collisions, Norwich Pride, Migrant Workers and serious sexual assaults. Local impact to national issues has also been considered especially around the murder of Lee Rigby.



Budget and Expenditure

The Police & Crime Commissioner funds the cost of the IAG and allocated a budget of £6,276 for the running costs during 2012/13. The expenditure during the year was £2,221, the majority of which was spent on travelling costs for the members to attend the monthly meetings.

The IAG is full to capacity again but there may be vacancies during the year. If you are interested in joining, please contact the OPCCN for further details or visit the website. 2014 will be a time to continue the good work achieved in 2013 and monthly meetings are already in the diary.

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