



# INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2014



## Welcome from Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Bett

As Norfolk's PCC, it is my job to make policing and crime reduction decisions which not only meet the needs of our county but also take into account the views of its residents.

To truly reflect the voices of Norfolk's people, I rely on community members, like those who make up the Independent Advisory Group, being willing to share with me their personal experiences and honest opinions.

We don't ask the IAG members to represent anyone other than themselves - they speak on their own behalf, not on that of any particular community - but they bring to the table a community perspective on what we do, and an understanding of how our decisions and actions could impact on Norfolk's diverse population. Sometimes public bodies, including the police, can be too close to a subject and that community input plays a vital part in helping us see the whole picture.

What the IAG offers is a barometer of public opinion, highlighting the key issues on which we need to do more. That puts us in a good place to look more closely at those issues, exploring wider public opinion on the subject to feed into the future action we take.

I am most grateful to the members of the IAG for their time and input and, above all, their commitment to making Norfolk a safer place for everyone who lives, works or visits here.

Here's to a very safe and successful 2015.

**Stephen**



## View from Norfolk Constabulary



Our relationship with the Independent Advisory Group is a pivotal one, contributing to the debate around key issues for policing in our communities. Without question, the IAG has been a source of very useful advice to us in 2014 and has great purpose in providing guidance to the Constabulary on a range of issues affecting our diverse communities.

For the Constabulary, it has been another year of fast-moving change, responding to changing demand profiles across the board in crime, anti-social behaviour and importantly our vulnerability profile, as well as dealing with the financial challenges set out by the Government in their funding settlements. Change will continue to be the order

of the day for policing for some years to come, but it is through such relationships as the IAG that we are able to successfully navigate these issues together with our communities.

On behalf of the Constabulary, we look forward to our relationship going from strength to strength in 2015.

**Chief Constable Simon Bailey**

## Message from IAG Chair Graham Sigley



Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) have been in existence across the country since 1999. During this time, IAGs have needed to respond to a number of changes in the national policing context. In recent years, two of these have been very significant: the effects of the coalition government's spending policies and the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across England.

These have led to changes needing to be made in the way that the Norfolk IAG operates. Some of these changes have already been implemented with, for example, a different arrangement for the day-to-day coordination and support of the IAG with Sharon Lister now in post with IAG support responsibilities as part of her role as Performance and

Compliance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

The priorities for IAG have, though, remained to be a group that operates independently and is able to advise the Constabulary and the PCC in helping to increase public confidence and trust in the police. This includes assisting the police and PCC to better understand the potential effects that their policies and practices may have on all the people of Norfolk, whether here as residents or visitors, with a particular emphasis on minority communities.

So, during 2014, the IAG has provided advice both as individuals and as a group. Individuals have had contact with police officers with regard to specific operations and actions. For individuals this has been in the form of telephone conversations or by attending meetings. Individual members have also attended police training sessions as observers and have provided feedback to the training providers. Members also comment on policy papers prior to their final adoption.

The IAG has met as a group on 12 occasions during the year, with one meeting being a strategic review meeting with the Deputy PCC to look at how the IAG can provide the best support for the police and the PCC in light of the two major changes mentioned above. During its other meetings, IAG has had briefings from the police and PCC staff.

The IAG itself has also been looking at how it is best able to respond to the major changes that have been taking place. This process has involved all IAG members and senior officers and staff at the constabulary and the PCC's office. The key priorities have been to develop a way of working that still enables IAG to fulfil its requirements, make best use of PCC and Constabulary staff and members' time, and provide clear evidence of the difference that IAG makes.

The results of this process will be discussed as part of the Annual General Meeting agenda.

### During 2014, IAG members have had the opportunity to comment on:

- The strategic use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition
- Using social media to support young people
- How best to resolve a call so as many calls as is appropriate can be resolved at the point of contact
- Human Trafficking
- Clare's Law (the right to ask for information about an individual where there are concerns over a relationship)
- Stop and Search
- Mental health training and additional professional support to enable staff to better respond to incidents and calls.

## Norfolk's IAG in 2014

The current membership of the IAG is as follows:

- **Graham Sigley - Chair**

Graham has a particular interest in socio-economic and culturally diverse communities, young people and education.

- **Pa Musa Jobarteh**

Pa Musa has been a member of the IAG for a number of years and has strong links with BME, migrant and new arrival communities in the county.

- **Jenni Benstead**

Jenni's areas of particular interest include transgender communities, homelessness, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, dual diagnosis and disabilities.

- **Brian Walker**

As well as offering a general community perspective, Brian shares his views and experience of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual communities, drug dependency, hate crime and probation.

- **Sarah Mogford**

Sarah brings to the group a particular interest in and awareness of physical and psychological impairment, pre- and post-operative gender re-alignment, domestic abuse, disability abuse and elderly abuse, adapting workplaces for the disabled and residential homes for the elderly.

- **Florence Jones**

Florence is the youngest member of the IAG. Being keen to pursue a career in the police service, she offers a young person's perspective on crime and policing in Norfolk.

- **Sally Fox**

Sally's interests lie in substance misuse, homelessness, Travellers, young people, gangs, sex workers and offenders. Through her work, she is particularly aware of how these issues affect communities in the Norwich area.

- **Jennie Marston**

Jennie has a particular interest in Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

- **Brian Reed**

Brian brings to the group an understanding of physical and learning disabilities and has a keen interest in the policing of West Norfolk.

During the year, the IAG said goodbye to the following members:

**Debbie Chedgey, Della Anverali, Luke Bloomer and Po Wah Lo.**

A big thank you to them for their contribution to the work of the IAG.

## My 2014 experience of being an IAG member

### By Pa Musa Jobarteh

I am one of the longest serving members of the current IAG. Being an IAG member is a very simple task but one with a wider community implication. Although I know that as a member I represent my personal views and experience as a minority living in Norfolk, I also realise that that voice speaks volumes for minorities all over the county.

I think it is very important that such a voice continues to be represented at other relevant levels because although black, asian and minority ethnic people are just a small percentage of the wider population, they continue to be disproportionately represented on the wrong side of the law.

It is in understanding of this wider implication that I continue to be motivated to be a member of the police IAG.



### By Sarah Mogford

This year saw changes in the staffing of the PCC's office and so, as IAG members, we experienced change in the PCC personnel responsible for co-ordinating the group. This has naturally brought discussion and reflection from both IAG members and the Constabulary on how to get best use of the IAG's skills and experience.

Change has continued, as consultations about IAG function naturally led to decisions - many of these are still to be implemented. However, this should ensure that the IAG is a vibrant reflection of the community acting as a critical friend to the Constabulary - exciting times ahead.

Personal circumstances have prevented me attending a couple of meetings this year, but I have attended the majority of them. I was privileged to attend the Suffolk IAG AGM with Graham Sigley, where we not only built on our existing good working relationship, but were able to take differences and ideas between the two organisations.

I have continued to review draft policy and procedure - a task I particularly enjoy. I find seeing the policy does give me a greater understanding into why (and sometimes how) the police work and progress matters the way they do. It is always satisfying when we receive feedback that our comment or question has been considered and the policy re-worded.

I have also attended a police training (officer training) session regarding interview. This was very interesting and I was happy to be asked questions pertinent to the particular areas I bring experience of.

In terms of the lay input or opinion we give to the Constabulary, I was asked to attend one Gold Group and been able to offer input and a different viewpoint to consider on some diverse cases over the telephone.

It also gives me great satisfaction to see the information/ communication flowing both ways. On three very different cases this year, I was approached by a member of the public to raise matters on their

behalf. On each of these cases, I was impressed by the response and received very positive feedback from a particularly sensitive case.

Personally, I gain so much from working with my IAG colleagues. We do have some pretty lively and challenging debates; because we have respect for our diverse values and backgrounds, we are able to be open and indeed be challenging. Hearing a contrasting view from a different perspective and being able to discuss and question allows a far better understanding.

Although our role is to assist the Constabulary in gaining a better understanding, I too have gained in understanding of our community and have greater insight into views that may not reflect my own experience.

## Would you like to join the IAG?

### Would you like to get involved in the work of the Norfolk Independent Advisory Group?

We are actively looking to increase our membership of the IAG.

If you have an interest in policing and its effect upon your community and are willing to share your own views and experiences then you can help us shape the policing service received by Norfolk's communities.

#### To get involved, contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk:

By post: OPCCN, Building 8, Jubilee House, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0WW

By telephone: (01953) 424455

By email: [opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)

More information about the IAG can be found on the OPCCN website - [www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk)



## Would you pay more to help fund your police service?

Norfolk's PCC Stephen Bett will soon have to decide whether to increase or freeze the policing element of Council Tax - and he wants to know what you think.

The Commissioner is running a public consultation throughout January 2015 on whether the police precept should rise by 2pc (an average of £4 per year) or be frozen.

You can have your say via the online survey at [www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk) or come along to one of our public meetings with Stephen and Norfolk's Chief Constable:

**Monday 19 January 2015, 6.30pm**  
Council Chamber, Norfolk County Council, Norwich.

**Wednesday 21 January 2015, 12 noon**  
Assembly Room, Town Hall, King's Lynn.

**For more information, visit the OPCCN website at [www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk)**

The Norfolk Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is hosted by PCC Stephen Bett, and supported by the PCC's staff team and officers and staff of Norfolk Constabulary.

If you require the information in this annual report in an alternative format, please contact the **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk**:

Telephone: (01953) 424455

Email: [opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)



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