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Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority Research and Evidence Forum

MS Teams Meeting
Thursday 18th May 2023
09:00am – 10:30am

Action Note

In attendance: Tom Halpin (Co-chair), Barry Sillers (SPA), Amanda Coulthard (SPA), Martin Smith (SPA), Matthew Kirk (SPA), Victoria Morton (SPA – Forensics), Director Tom McMahon (Police Scotland), Kirsty-Louise Campbell (Police Scotland), Liz Aston (SIPR), and Amy Wilson (Scottish Government)

Apologies: DCC Fiona Taylor (Police Scotland) and Nerys Thomas (College of Policing), Fiona Douglas (SPA – Forensics)

1. Welcome and action log update

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The action log from the previous meeting was acknowledged and accepted by members.

2. Apologies

Apologies from DCC Fiona Taylor (Police Scotland), Nerys Thomas (College of Policing), and Fiona Douglas (SPA – Forensics). Director Tom McMahon and Victoria Morton attended for Police Scotland and SPA – Forensics, respectively.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Log

It was noted that work will continue to feed into JREF relevant developments from the International Development Unit. It was also noted that the SharePoint database of active research is still a work in progress.

4. Draft JREF Workplan

A draft work plan was introduced for discussion among the group.

Forensic Services noted that a research innovation and develop manager is now in post and relevant priorities are feeding into the work plan. SIPR noted that a brief paper will be brought for Point 5 on the draft workplan, and that a medium-

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to long-term project is ongoing for Point 7, noting that the input of policing partners will be valuable.

Police Scotland noted the work of the performance and impact group, including commissioned work on the probationer journey, as well as anti-racist research, and benchmarking work which are both works in progress.

SPA added that there would be benefits in bringing in the SPA's horizon scanning work, and it was noted by Police Scotland that conversations would be useful about areas to build upon. SIPR also added that there is an interrelationship between strategic research priorities and horizon scanning activity, and therefore these could be combined into a singular piece of work. Police Scotland also mentioned the Futures work and offered to bring a paper outlining the Futures approach to the next meeting of the Forum.

Scottish Government noted the potential role of the forum in developing a process to assess research impact.

In conclusion, SPA offered to progress the workplan further in collaboration with members through additional meetings, with a view to firming up content and timescales. The existing action on the action log will be updated to reflect this.

ACTION: Police Scotland to bring a paper to the next meeting on the work on Futures/Horizon Scanning.

5. Member Updates

Each of the Forum Member organisations outlined their current and near-future priorities and activities that would likely be of interest to the Forum as a whole.

a. Police Scotland

- Rural policing and what local community engagement looks like
- Training strategy and the focus of Learning and Development
- Seldom Heard Individuals in practice

b. SPA Forensic Services

- Successful acquisition of funding for Clara's Project which examines language, digital forensics and bias.
- Ongoing exploration of other funding opportunities.

c. SIPR

- Law Enforcement and Public Health conference at end of May in Sweden.
- SIPR conference planning for November 2023 – provisional holding dates of 28/29 November for Members.

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d. SPA Corporate

- Annual Report and Accounts in progress, including assessment of performance evidence across the year.
- Public polling activity – next round of polling in August, with ASB as a thematic, and working with SCSN to shape questions.
- Local scrutiny work with COSLA on planning and performance activities
- Community Confidence Project – active fieldwork around the country, moving towards evaluation later in 2023/24

e. College of Policing

N/A as not in attendance.

f. Scottish Government

- Forthcoming publications on CCTV, recorded crime (including Cybercrime), repeat violent victimisation, the cost of living crisis on its impact on crime and the criminal justice sector.
- Recently published work on end-to-end journeys in the criminal justice system, and ethnicity and the justice system.
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey planning and reporting, with findings from 2022 expected later in the autumn, and the next round of fieldwork commencing in the summer of 2023.

DECISION: It was agreed among members that for future meetings there would be benefit to all in receiving written updates in advance of the meeting, and to use the time at the meeting to discuss as a group.

ACTION: SPA secretariat to develop a template for written updates and share this for feedback among members ahead of the next meeting.

6. AOB

The Chair offered his reflections on how the JREF is working since taking over its Chairing, based on experience to date, as well as meetings with Forum partners outwith formal meetings of the forum.

The Chair also offered perspectives on future aspirations for the forum, focussing on its coordination role, oversight of commissioning processes, collective priorities and the promotion of collaborative working. There would also be value in being able to articulate clearly where the forum sits (and its distinct contribution) within the wider system of governance around research, evidence and the criminal justice / policing system. A collaboratively built and delivered workplan would be key to this.

Other forum members concurred about the JREF's value from this perspective, and how it had grown from its initial narrow focus on event planning to becoming more focussed on maximising the value, impact and awareness of evidence-based policing.

7. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 26th July 10am to 11.30am

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