



Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority Research and Evidence Forum

MS Teams Meeting
Thursday 17th August 2023
4pm to 5.30pm

Action Note

In attendance

Tom Halpin (Co-chair), Barry Sillers (SPA), Amanda Coulthard (SPA), Martin Smith (SPA), Jennifer Galbraith (SPA), Scott Ross (SPA), Sam Curran (SPA), Victoria Morton (SPA – Forensic Services), Director Tom McMahon (Police Scotland), James Crane (Police Scotland), Liz Aston (SIPR), David Smith (Scottish Government), Stuart Lewis (Scottish Government), Nerys Thomas (College of Policing)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting and welcoming Scottish Government's Police Division's participation.

2. Apologies

DCC Fiona Taylor (Police Scotland), Fiona Douglas (SPA – Forensic Services), Amy Wilson (Scottish Government), Kirsty-Louise Campbell (Police Scotland), Davina Fereday (Police Scotland) – all represented by colleagues.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and endorsed, with proposals to close three actions and retain one as ongoing (Work Plan development).

4. Draft JREF Workplan

An update was provided on the development of the work plan. Since the last meeting the SPA Corporate team had hosted a series of drop-in sessions to help with further population. The content at present is best described as background, supportive pieces of work that can help with the building of a culture of collaboration across JREF partners, and that more thematic pieces of work can be added as strategic research priorities begin to crystallise this year. It was proposed that each lead organisation should now scope out the work strands and propose detail and timelines for consideration by the forum to assist with prioritisation of various items. The SPA Corporate team proposes to continue coordinating the overall piece of work and report back to the Forum at each meeting on progress.

In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that the current work plan is a good start and that it needs to become more concrete and realistic now, with the items of most value to police and partners being developed as a priority.

OFFICIAL

ACTION: Lead organisations to scope/prioritise/schedule proposed work, providing updates to the SPA Corporate Team via drop-in sessions.

5. Horizon Scanning and Strategic Research Priorities

The Chair began by stipulating an absolute commitment to using the JREF to build on horizon scanning work. Activity taking place internally against own organisational priorities needs to feed into this so that the product provides a general, global picture. The Chair also hopes that it will start to give members a sense of where policing's future thinking is at. The Chair noted that the work has started off as horizon scanning by the SPA, then supported by Police Scotland, and is now about building with other partners so that it becomes multi-badged.

Presentations on horizon scanning activity and the link to priorities followed, with Police Scotland and the SPA Corporate Team presenting work to date.

A number of points were raised in the discussions that followed:

- Agreement that the work to date has been good and a willingness to join up horizon scanning processes/products more across the JREF organisations.
- An aspiration for a JREF multi-badged product to be publicly available to maximise reach and input.
- Explore the options for linking in with the College of Policing and the approach taken on horizon scanning there through their partner network.
- Academic community would be keen to be involved as there is scope to grow future thinking in the sector.
- An understanding of legislative developments would enrich the product and help the policing system to prepare and avoid unintended consequences.
- It would be an ideal outcome of the work if the JREF is sufficiently strong on horizon scanning so that it is regarded as the place that people seek formal evidence-based views on future policing developments – e.g. parliamentarians considering emerging legislative proposals.

It was agreed that work to join up and strengthen the existing product should continue, with discussions to take place between the SPA, Police Scotland and the College of Policing as a next step.

ACTION: The SPA and Police Scotland to further develop the horizon scanning approach and product by linking in with the College of Policing.

6. Member Updates

Each Forum Member spoke to pre-submitted update papers, covering recent events and publications, ongoing work, and pipeline events, publications, and emerging priorities.

An area of emerging interest, raised by the Chair for members to consider as a takeaway, is whether any research exists on evidence-based organisational development options for policing, given the current/emerging financial pressures being faced, but how the scenario is not novel. The Chair stated his intention to continue speaking to JREF members on a one-to-one basis and can explore this line of enquiry further.

7. AOB

No items.

8. Date of the next meeting

Provisionally Wednesday 25th October but tbc.

OFFICIAL