

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Planning and Consultation Committee

15 November 2005

Open for the purposes of FOI

Joint Report of the Deputy Chief Constable and the Chief Constable

Evaluation of Community Engagement with minority communities in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Force Area

Recommendation(s):

- (i) That the Committee note the progress of the review**
- (ii) That the Committee acknowledge the need for an intermediate Race Independent Advisory Group to help manage consultation and engagement as an interim measure prior to receipt of the full report and recommendations.**

Introduction / Summary

1. The independent review has yet to conclude because difficulties have been experienced with engaging members of communities for interviews. Staffing issues within the force diversity unit have contributed to this.
2. The force has Independent Advisory Groups in respect of the Disability and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans diversity strands. There is no similar Independent Advisory Group in respect of Race and engagement and consultation with ethnic minority communities is ad hoc and less structured as a result, despite the statutory requirement under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act.
3. A Race IAG should be established soon with the proviso that it may be subject to evolution/revision once the review is complete. This will enable us to press ahead more efficiently and effectively with consultation around policy and function to help ensure continued compliance with the Race Relations (Amendment) Act.

Background Information

4. The force identified that there was a need to undertake a review of the way in which it engages with minority communities. This was partly as a result of national work undertaken by the Commission for Racial Equality where they examined the police service for compliance with Race Relations legislation.
5. In line with procurement policy, the force commissioned AHG Associates to carry out the review, and work started in May of this year.
6. The original intention was for the review to take three months but problems have been experienced with engaging interviewees from the community, particularly over the summer period.

7. The review is still ongoing and interviews are still taking place. It is unlikely that we will receive a final report before Christmas.
8. The report will contain recommendations. These will require reviewing and implementing and a further significant delay is inevitable.
9. It seems reasonable to establish, if possible, a Race Independent Advisory Group which will meet the immediate needs of the Constabulary, even if the Independent Advisory Group structure for the force changes as a result of the review.

Contact: for further information

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