

MEMO



**CLEVELAND
POLICE**
Putting People First

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From: Dave Nixon, Neighbourhood Policing Programme Manager	To: Norma Stott
Subject: Report to the Information Security Board, June 2008	

Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) between Cleveland Police and Crime and Disorder Partnerships

The Practice Advice on Professionalising the Business of Neighbourhood Policing (ACPO 2006) recognises the need to exchange information including the use of joint data hubs and shared analytical capacity as a critical success factor to the implementation of neighbourhood policing. The Force, in line with the standards imposed in the Management of Police Information, Data Protection Act and the A.C.P.O. Security Standards developed a local information sharing agreement to enable the exchange of relevant information for this purpose.

During the roll-out of Neighbourhood Policing across the Force area problems were highlighted by partner agencies regarding the ability of staff working in partnership environments to access Cleveland Police systems and the sharing of relevant and appropriate information.

HMIC Inspection of Neighbourhood Policing (April 2007) identified an area for improvement "...Comprehensive information sharing protocols are in place with key agencies and partners. The application of these protocols is not corporate and is resulting in a divergence of approach across the four districts. They are viewed as restricting the development of partnership working and their application needs to be reviewed as a matter of priority."

The reference to the non corporate application and the divergence of approach is contrary to Force Corporate policy 13 that outlines the process of developing and implementing an information sharing agreement.

The information sharing agreements were reviewed under MOPI principles and all information sharing agreements were converted to MOPI standards. In line with MOPI, Force policy 13 was reviewed and a template was devised for completion by Districts and Departments across the Force. In addition a template covering information security was implemented.

As a result of continued concerns from partnership members the District Neighbourhood Policing Programme Boards, the Neighbourhood Policing Programme Manager and the Data Protection Officer developed a single information sharing protocol between Cleveland

Police and Crime and Disorder Partners (ISA attached).

The draft ISA has encountered difficulties with partners surrounding safeguards put in place for Cleveland Police. This agreement covers all aspects of information sharing, including Neighbourhood Policing. Enquiries with NPIA have not identified a suitable example.

It must be acknowledged that the Force information sharing agreements have due regard for the relevant legislation and are in place to safeguard not only Cleveland Police but the relevant partners.

Without the partners acknowledging those safeguards and formally recording their concerns about the content of the document it is proving difficult to progress this issue for the mutual benefit of all parties.

The OPT inspection of Neighbourhood Policing identified the need to develop a simple information sharing and access policy for Neighbourhood Policing.

The Citizen Focus Programme Board has recommended that this report be forwarded to the Information Security Board to determine the feasibility of developing a single information sharing and access policy.

Dave Nixon
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