

DECISION NO: PCCG-2012-005

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

TITLE: Animal Welfare Scheme

DATE: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012

TIMING: Routine

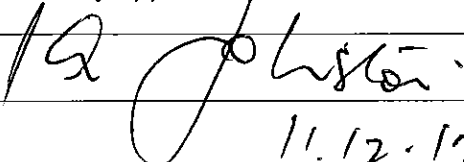
PURPOSE: Decision

1.	<p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></b></p> <p>That the Commissioner agrees to the continuation of the Animal Welfare Scheme and that the Scheme should be chaired by a member of the scheme.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>INTRODUCTION &amp; BACKGROUND</u></b></p> <p>The Animal Welfare Scheme is the system whereby volunteers attend police stations/other locations as agreed to check on the welfare of police dogs and the environment in which they are kept. It offers protection to both police dogs and the police and provides reassurance to the community at large. The responsibility for organising and overseeing the delivery of Animal Welfare Scheme lies with the Commissioner in consultation with the Chief Constable. Dog section staff work closely with the OPCC. Dog section staff and OPCC staff contribute to training sessions and meetings. We are also well supported by the RSPCA.</p> <p>There are current 13 visitors in Gwent. They visit in pairs on a monthly basis. We provide a rota and the visitors themselves decide what day and time to visit. They choose which station to attend and Sergeant Maria Henry of the dog section arranges for handlers to attend with their dogs at the appropriate time. The volunteers are vetted to a basic level.</p> <p>We previously had dog kennels in Gwent based at ROF Glascoed in Usk, however due to changes in the infrastructure made by BAE who own the site, Gwent dogs are now kennelled in Waterton, Bridgend. Gwent dogs are only taken there if their handlers are on holiday or on a course. All handlers keep their dogs at home with them the rest of the time. A Memorandum of Understanding with South Wales Police is in place for this arrangement. Whilst in Waterton, Gwent dogs are visited by South Wales Animal Welfare Visitors who report to us if there are any areas for concern.</p> <p>The Scheme is satisfied that the dogs are well cared for however, visitors remain vigilant. There are no current issues of concern. The visitors meet as a group 3 or 4 times per year.</p> <p>As a matter of interest, Summerhill Vets provide a service to owners of retired police dogs in exchange for the display of the logo on police dog vans. As it is not possible to obtain medical insurance for retired police dogs, Summerhill have offered to provide free vaccinations, cost price medication and free euthanasia, when appropriate.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u></b></p> <p>The Commissioner will need to consider who will chair the scheme. Previously this role was carried out by a Police Authority member. The options would be</p>

	for the scheme to be chaired by the Commissioner, his Deputy, the Senior Business Manager or a visitor.
4.	<b><u>NEXT STEPS</u></b> Given more staff time and resources, the scheme could be developed further.
5.	<b><u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></b> Animal Welfare visitors are appointed on a voluntary basis and as such there is no facility for financial remuneration. However, all reasonable travelling expenses are reimbursed. The majority of visitors do not claim expenses and training is run in house. Therefore expenditure for the scheme is minimal.
6.	<b><u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u></b> The scheme is administrated by Siân Curley, Senior Business Manager and supported by Michelle Vaisey-Baker, Business Support Officer.
7.	<b><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u></b> There is no statutory requirement to run a scheme. However, the scheme provides a level of protection for those involved.
8.	<b><u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u></b> This project/proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.  Consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 in preparing this report. Human Rights matters and legislation are of vital importance when considering custody matters.
9.	<b><u>RISK</u></b> A risk assessment has been undertaken and measures have been put in place to eliminate or minimise the risk to those involved in the visiting process. The level of risk is assessed as low.
10.	<b><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u></b> We publish the minutes of the scheme meetings to the website.
11.	<b><u>CONTACT OFFICER</u></b> Siân Curley, Senior Business Manager (Scheme Administrator)
12.	<b><u>ANNEXES</u></b> None.

For OPCC use only

Consultation:	Tick to confirm (if applicable)
<b>Financial</b> The Treasurer has been consulted on this proposal.	√
<b>OPCC (insert name)</b> The Chief Executive has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and consistent with the PCC's plans and priorities.	√
<b>Legal</b> The legal team have been consulted on this proposal.	√
<b>Equalities</b> The Equalities Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	√

<b>Chief Executive/ Deputy Chief Executive:</b>  I have been consulted about the proposal and can confirm that financial, legal, equalities etc... advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.  I am satisfied that this is an appropriate report to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.
<b>Signature:</b>  S A Brown
<b>Date:</b> 09/12/12
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent</b>  I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct.  The above request has my approval.
<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Date:</b> 11.12.12

## Public Access to Information

Information in this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. This submission will be made available on the OPCC website following consideration by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Are you satisfied that the contents and observations made are necessary and suitable for the public domain?	√
In producing this submission, has consideration been given to 'public confidence'?	√
If you consider that this submission should be exempt from the public domain, please state the reasons.	