



BRITISH  
TRANSPORT  
POLICE

Agenda Item 8

---

**REPORT TO:** Stakeholder Relations & Communications Strategy Committee  
**DATE:** 20 January 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Independent Advisory Network (IAN)  
**SPONSOR:** Chief Superintendent Miles Flood (Area Commander)  
**AUTHOR:** Inspector Amanda Withers

---

## 1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Stakeholder Relations & Communication Strategy (SR&CS) Committee on the progress of British Transport Police (BTP) Independent Advisory Network (IAN).

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The IAN was the first Independent Advisory Group (IAG's) to be established for BTP in 2006 following the MacPherson Report recommendations. The groups aim being to act as a "critical friend" to the BTP's three London Areas; providing constructive feedback and advice in respect of critical incidents and policing issues with the potential to impact on the community.
- 2.2 The term Independent Advisory Network was selected to differentiate between other IAG's when working alongside other forces, whilst also reflecting the importance of networking with existing groups to access community issues.
- 2.3 The MacPherson Inquiry report on the murder of Stephen Lawrence recommended that Police Services establish IAG's. This recommendation was further reinforced by subsequent Inquiry recommendations which viewed IAG's as a vital component in pulling together many of the Police Service's delivery issues e.g. recommendation 14 of the 'Damilola Taylor Murder Investigation Review' further commended the formation of IAG's.
- 2.4 IAG's have been acknowledged as good practice by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) in the report *Policing London – Winning Consent* and the series that comprise '*Winning the Race*'.



2.5 The development of the Force wide National Independent Advisory Group (NIAG) enabled the IAN to focus on tactical and operational issues within the M25 area whilst providing the opportunity to share good practice on a national level through formal links with NIAG.

### **3. REVIEW**

3.1 The stewardship of IAN is under the portfolio of the Community Safety and Engagement Unit. As a result of a departmental restructure in January 2008, the development of NIAG and observations made by the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) it was considered beneficial to review the IAN working practices and procedures.

3.2 Due to the early establishment of the IAN, unique protocols were implemented which did not reflect either the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) draft protocols or those that were finally introduced in April 2008. As a result the opportunity existed to conduct a review to address these issues and establish a plan for the group's development.

3.3 The review was conducted in two phases:

#### Phase One

An analytical review of protocols and engagement against national guidelines which highlighted the following issues:

- Independent Advisory Network (IAN) and National Independent Advisory Network (NIAG) Interaction & Engagement
- Accountability
- Diversity representation
- Conflicts of interest
- Allowance differentials.

This was submitted on 5 March 2008.



#### Phase Two

This consisted of an IAN consultation and development day where members were involved in workshops to establish:

- What was working well
- What was not working well
- What would the group change over the next 6 months
- What would the group change over the next 12 month?

#### 3.4 The development day produced the following actions -

- Alignment to Neighbourhood Policing
- Communications
- Development and Engagement:
  - Invite representatives from staff groups to attend (SAME, AMP etc).
  - IAN briefing package to be considers for new recruits.
  - Guest speakers 20 minutes allocation at future conferences.
  - Development Days.
- Terms of Reference – it was agreed that Terms of Reference would be reviewed once the process had been completed within NIAG to ensure a coordinated and corporate approach and compliance with national guidelines.
- Required youth representation.

#### 3.5 Following feedback from both phases and following discussions between the NIAG & IAN Chairs the following actions were agreed.

##### 3.5.1 NIAG to retain a strategic overview at a force and national level with IAN continuing tactical operational function within London area. As part of the process the IAN Chair has been co-opted onto NIAG.



- 
- 3.5.2 A NIAG review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for both NIAG and IAN to ensure parity between the two groups and compliance with national guidelines. This approach also addresses the issues identified during phase one of the review. IAN ToR has now been aligned with NIAG and is due to be introduced in January 2009 following a further review of national guidelines which took place in November 2008 and were ratified at the National Conference in December.
- 3.5.3 As a consequence of the new ToR the Chair will be asking two existing IAN members, who are Special Constables, to step down following completion of their current term.
- 3.5.4 IAN Executive meetings have been reintroduced to provide clear governance and accountability whilst also addressing the development issues highlighted in the Review. The Executive have also asked for bi-annual development days to ensure full consultation and engagement with members. In addition the Executive has worked to align members to Neighbourhood Policing, produced a communications plan and future agendas to include guest speakers on relevant and topical items.
- 3.5.5 There has also been a recruitment drive in accordance with national guidelines to ensure a reflective make up in respect of diversity and geographic considerations exist within the IAN. This has resulted in seven new members being recruited and four being requested to leave the group by the Chair. This brings the complement to 27 members.
- 3.5.6 Following feedback from IAN, a Youth Think Tank was held on 9 October 2008 to scope the viability of a BTP Youth Board. The relevance of this was also confirmed by the feedback from the Ofsted *Tell Us* survey which stated that 30% of young people felt unsafe whilst travelling on public transport. Following this event a Youth Board was established within the context of:
- understanding young peoples' perception of safety whilst on public transport.
  - and improving two-way communication between young people and the BTP.



To date there have been three meetings under the stewardship of Umar Kankiya of the UK Youth Parliament which has resulted in the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair, an agreement regarding their ToR and implementation of a code of conduct for members. The group is currently looking at engaging with their peers in regard to perceptions of safety and are also in the process of providing feedback in respect of the L Area Policing Plan for 2009/10.

#### 4. General Overview

4.1 During the year Members have also been given the opportunity to attend events and locations to provide insight into policing operations equipping them to make informed decisions with relevance to the policing context. These have included:-

- CTRL St Pancras
- CCTV Edmonton
- Community Shield
- Launch of the Kingston Loop Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Consultation regarding Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Stop and Search report and the Force's Single Equality Scheme.

4.2 In addition there have been 53 engagements during the year encompassing a wide range of issues including:

- New Years Eve
- Chinese New Year
- Notting Hill Carnival
- Operations Shield, Merlin, Pulse and Gain
- Africa Day In the Square
- DSEI Arms Fair
- Carling Cup Football fixture.

4.3 The IAN Chair attended the National IAG Conference in Middlesbrough in November 2008 and was duly elected to the position of Vice-Chair.



**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 L Area is funding the annual running costs of the IAN including the cost of a part-time coordinator.

**6. DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 6.1 The IAN will assist BTP in meeting its "Gold Standard of Diversity" as outlined in the BTP's Single Equality Scheme.
- 6.2 The IAN will also assist the Force in meeting its statutory obligations under the Race Relations (Amendments) Act.

**7. RISKS IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Issues regarding a two tiered approach to payment of its independent advisors have now been addressed. The new ToR is due to be adopted in January 2009.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Committee Members to note the content of this paper.