

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 064-21
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme for Dogs Memorandum of Understanding
Area of county/ stakeholders affected: County-wide
Report by: Carla Bailey
Date of report: 21 April 2021
Enquiries to: carla.bailey@essex.police.uk

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To endorse the signing of the Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme for Dogs Memorandum of Understanding supporting the partnership arrangements between the Dogs Trust, PFCC and Essex Police Dog Section.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the PFCC to sign the Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme for Dogs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. Signing the MoU will enable the partnership work between the Dogs Trust, PFCC and Essex Police Dog unit to continue supporting the continuation of the Animal Welfare Independent Visitor's Scheme (AWS). The scheme provides independent checks on animal welfare and reassurance that animals in the care of Essex Police are being cared for appropriately.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The training and welfare of dogs engaged in police work must be open and be seen to be open. The Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme (AWS) was piloted by Lancashire Police and then rolled out across other forces.
- 4.2. In 2006 the Animal Welfare Act brought in an even greater responsibility for police forces to provide for the needs of the dogs in their care. The Dogs Trust has supported chief constables and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners to set up

and run the Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme for their force, through the provision of information, meetings and training for both police officers and Independent Visitors.

4.3. The Dogs Trust ensures that the scheme is running in accordance with the guidelines and awards those who are complying with the scheme with a certificate of compliance.

4.4. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the expectations of each party regarding the AWS.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. The PFCC has the option not to sign the MoU however this would be of detriment to Essex Police's involvement with the scheme and effectively result in the partnership not being able to continue.

6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. This partnership supports the PFCC priority for more local, visible and accessible policing, improve the transparency of the force and supports the Essex Police Dogs Section to continue to carry out their important operational role.

7. Police operational implications

7.1. No direct operational implications, though the MoU does support the Essex Police Dogs Section which in turn provides an important operational contribution to Essex Police.

8. Financial implications

8.1. No direct financial implications.

9. Legal implications

9.1. No direct legal implications as the MoU is not intended to be legally binding.

10. Staffing implications

10.1. There are no PFCC staffing implications.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

11.1. There are no equality and diversity implications.

12. Risks

12.1. No risks anticipated.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. There are no governance boards related to this matter.


14. Background papers

Animal Welfare Scheme MoU
Essex Police Dog Unit Certificate
Animal Welfare Scheme Booklet 2021

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DP FCC.

Deputy M.O.

Sign: 

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 26.4.2021

Chief Finance Officer I
Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 28 April 2021

Publication (double click box to add a tick)

Is the report for publication? Yes No

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

.....
.....

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction (double click box to add a tick)

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? Yes No

2. Of Appendix? Yes No

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

.....
.....

Date redaction carried out:

.....

Treasurer/ Chief Executive Sign Off - for Redactions only

If has redaction been is completed. required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed

Sign: _____

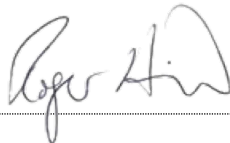
Print: _____

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: _____



Print: _____

ROGER HIRST

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date Signed: _____

4 May 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

Sign: _____

Print: _____

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date Signed: _____