

**To:** Professional Standards Committee

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

## **LEARNING THE LESSONS BULLETIN 8**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To summarise the Force response to the eighth “Learning the Lessons” bulletin circulated in October 2009. The Learning the Lessons Committee is a national body comprising IPCC, ACPO, APA, Home Office, NPIA and HMIC.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Committee is to review significant complaint and misconduct cases primarily investigated and directed by the IPCC, and circulate the learning points arising from the investigations within the Police Service and partner agencies.
- 1.4 The eighth Learning the Lesson bulletin considers 12 cases. The Learning the Lessons Quick Time Bulletin 3 circulated in October 2009 considered learning with respect to the management of abnormal loads. Each case listed in the bulletin is accompanied by one or more learning points for Forces to address.

### **2. Methodology**

- 2.1 On receipt the bulletin was reviewed by the ACC, who tasked the heads of the Investigations and Safer Communities Directorates to identify and act on any weaknesses with current procedures. Each Directorate has considered the issues raised and has responded. The responses from each Directorate are available to Members.

### **3. Learning actioned from Bulletin 8**

- 3.1 The learning points identified by the IPCC have been brought to the attention of the appropriate lead officers. Any issues raised have been acted upon or are in the process of being acted upon.
- 3.2 Following circulation of the bulletin action has been identified as being necessary in the following areas.

3.3 2.2 – Getting medical help for a violent patient

iii – Need to establish a timescale for the calibration and servicing of all defibrillators. Four new defibrillators have been purchased that do not require maintenance but will indicate when necessary to renew batteries. Batteries to be purchased when required.

3.4 2.3 – Homeless man dead from hypothermia. (Please note that this was an IPCC independent case that occurred in Cambridgeshire)

i - Need to ensure that the information passed to and from operational Officers and communication centre is accurate:

Existing arrangements are to be revitalised to ensure that poor information handling procedures are robustly challenged.

ii - Need to request an ambulance for anyone reported ill if Police are unable to attend:

Establishment of a Force policy directing that *all* reports of ill persons (or where unknown welfare status prevails) to be immediately passed to the Ambulance Service irrespective of whether Police resources will be attending the scene, or indeed what grading Police have assigned to such an incident.

3.5 2.6 - Recognising Suicide Risk- Responding to threats of self harm

iv) Need to develop appropriate training on suicide intervention for front line Officers:

Consideration is being given to incorporating training in suicide awareness and prevention into the Officer Safety Training programme. All Officers receive annual safety training and this is considered the most effective means of delivering this training to front line Officers.

3.6 2.9 – Sharing Information Between Forces – Fall from a third floor window

ii – Review of policies concerning the consistency of warning markers on both local and national intelligence systems:

In line with the mapping of all data across systems for the Police National Database (PND) project, warning markers and flags on Forces local systems are being looked at to see what can be transferred for viewing across from all Forces systems onto PND. It is a work in progress, but should be done for when the project goes live nationally next year. Due to the vast amount of items on the current system, past matters cannot be rectified however the process will inform how things can be improved for the Athena Project thus ensuring a more consistent approach that is aligned with what is required nationally.

**5. Recommendation**

5.1 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
	ACC Mark Hopkins (01480) 422205	Cambridgeshire Constabulary Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6NP.
<p>Originating Officer .....ACC Mark Hopkins.....</p> <p>Is it considered that this report contains 'exempt information' and should be considered in private?                      No</p> <p>If the answer is "YES", please state the nature of the exempt information <b>and the relevant clause</b> in Part 1 of revised Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>The attached report has been cleared with the undermentioned Officers: (delete as appropriate)</p> <p>Chief Constable and Chief Executive</p> <p>Others .....</p> <p>Submitted on .....25<sup>th</sup> February 2010.....</p> <p>A report will not be sent to the Authority unless this box has been satisfactorily completed and all necessary consultation carried out - the responsibility for which rests with the originator (except for consultation with the Chairman and this will be undertaken by the Chief Executive).</p>		