



PRESS RELEASE

8th February 2010

SUFFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY APPEALS FOR MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP

Suffolk Police Authority is appealing for more Suffolk residents to become involved in policing matters by joining the Independent Advisory Group (IAG).

The IAG provides independent advice on a range of police issues, which can help shape the way Suffolk is policed. It may also be asked for advice on the impact of serious crime investigations or critical incidents from a community perspective. It is made up of individuals of all ages, from all backgrounds, who reflect the diversity of Suffolk's communities.

The Police Authority is keen to ensure that the membership of the IAG reflects the diverse social and cultural make up of the county and would like to urge members of the public from all backgrounds to consider becoming a member.

Members of the group can see things from a different perspective and are often able to anticipate how police responses to policing problems may be interpreted in communities.

Chair of the Suffolk IAG, Bhupindar Singh Sually said "We would really appreciate more people getting involved and taking an active role in providing independent advice to the police. The IAG allows the police to consult with people who are not usually in dialogue with them, but whose views are crucial in providing a fair and equitable police service to our diverse communities.

"The primary role of the IAG is to act as a 'critical friend' to the police, we can challenge conventional thinking and give an independent perspective on policing issues. We are not providing expert advice, rather we are providing advice on how policing services may be, or are being, perceived by communities."

Chair of Suffolk Police Authority, Gulshan Kayembe said "We are keen to make sure that we deliver the highest quality police service to all of the communities within Suffolk. However, we need advice from members of the public to make sure that our services match the needs of communities as closely as possible. For that reason, we are very keen for more people to join the IAG and assist us by reflecting their personal opinions and those of local communities."

Continues....

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The presence of the IAG provides additional opportunities for engagement between communities and the police force. It may also lead to people having greater confidence and trust in the police, knowing that their views are welcomed and valued.

Membership is open to any individual who resides in Suffolk. You need to have an interest in policing and its effects upon your community. You will be encouraged to point out any criticisms you may have, but also to offer suggestions about how the service can be improved.

You do not need any formal qualifications; members are required for opinions, advice and personal experience. The group meets at least four times a year and there may be occasions when the IAG or individual members will be asked for advice on specific issues. It is voluntary work, but the fact that individuals are giving up their time to support this initiative is highly valued, so reasonable expenses are paid.

If you would like further information and an application form, please contact:

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Ipswich
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IP5 3QS

Tel: 01473 782774

Email: sarah.carter@suffolk.pnn.police.uk or visit our website at www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk

Suffolk Police Authority and Suffolk Constabulary carefully consider the advice given by members of the IAG; however, they are not legally obliged to act on the advice given. The advice is independent of the police service and carries no responsibility or liability for the outcome of decisions based upon it. Where possible, members are kept informed of what action, if any, is taken upon the advice and why.

Ends

Notes to editors

Chair of Suffolk IAG Bhupindar Singh Sually is available for interview , please contact Lucy in the Press Office to arrange.

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