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| <b>Title</b>   | Investigation of Homicide and Unexplained Death Policy Monitoring Report  |
| <b>Version</b>                                       | 1   |
| <b>Summary</b>                                       | <p>This is the 3rd document describing the results of the monitoring of the Investigation of Homicide and Unexplained Death Policy regarding the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• extent of compliance with the policy;</li><li>• progress towards realising its intended benefits, including the effect of the policy on MPS performance; and</li><li>• the impact on people both within and outside the MPS, particularly in regard to the approach adopted by the MPS Equalities Scheme in relation to the protected characteristics of diversity (Age; Disability; Pregnancy &amp; maternity; Race; Religion or belief; Sex; Sexual orientation; Gender reassignment; and Marriage &amp; civil partnerships). It is completed in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.</li></ul> |
| <b>Branch / OCU</b>                                  | Specialist Crime Directorate Policy Forum   |
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| <b>Review date</b>                                   | January 2013  |

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to formalise guidance and specify governance of procedures for all Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) staff in respect of the investigation of homicide and unexplained death.

All suspicions or allegations of unexplained death or homicide will be recorded and fully investigated.

The relevant Specialist Crime Directorate (SCD) will work together with personnel throughout the MPS, local authorities and other agencies to investigate homicide or unexplained death with the priority of making London a safer place.

All MPS personnel will strictly adhere to the Homicide Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as documented within the London Homicide Manual.

## **Monitoring**

### **Age**

The policy produces very precise guidelines in relation to children and young persons. The statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children provides the overall principles that inform responses to all child deaths. All other persons are dealt with equally irrespective of age and there is no differential impact.

### **Disability**

There are agreed protocols for holding Gold Group Strategy meetings when a disservice has been encountered when dealing with people with disabilities. The role of this Group is to act as a strategic advisory group to the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) and consists of senior police officers and representatives from the local community. There is also improved monitoring of crimes involving victims with a disability via the crime reporting system and with regard to homicide and unexplained death, via the Homicide Support Unit (HSU).

There has been adherence to the Gold Group Strategy policy throughout the reporting period and there is internal operational debriefing within the Homicide and Serious Crime Command (HSCC) to ensure that key learning and service improvement is identified.

### **Religion or Belief**

The policy is reviewed and adapted so that it caters equally for all communities regardless of religion or belief. There is also a Diversity Forum that sits within HSCC that reviews and informs with regard to the protected

characteristics and how they are impacted on by this policy and operational activity of the Major Investigation Teams (MITs).

### **Gender**

There is no identified adverse impact upon gender in regard to this policy. All homicides are treated with the same urgency and seriousness irrespective of the gender of those impacted or affected. As identified above the Diversity Forum meets quarterly to review all protected characteristics.

### **Sexual Orientation**

Community Concern Assessments (CCAs) are completed on each investigation and enable the identification of concerns in relation to sexual orientation. Recommendations have been written into this policy and the Family Liaison Strategy.

### **Race**

As already identified CCAs provide the facility to flag any community concerns with regard to race or nationality. As part of improved partnership working with Territorial Policing (TP), each MIT is linked to a specific Borough and is working more closely to reduce serious violence. One aspect of this is greater involvement with the local Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) and attendance at their quarterly meetings. This provides an opportunity to provide timely updates in terms of the homicides and unexplained deaths on the Borough and also to respond to feedback regarding issues concerning the local community. HSSC still continue to work closely with the relevant IAG via the Gold Group Strategy meetings for each homicide investigation that requires this forum to sit.

### **Marriage and Civil Partnerships**

There is no identified adverse impact upon marriage or civil partnerships in regard to this policy. All homicides are treated with the same urgency and seriousness irrespective of the marital status of those impacted or affected. As identified above the Diversity Forum meets quarterly to review all protected characteristics.

### **Pregnancy and Maternity**

There is no identified adverse impact upon pregnancy and maternity in regard to this policy. All homicides are treated with the same urgency and seriousness irrespective of pregnancy and maternity of those impacted or affected. As identified above the Diversity Forum meets quarterly to review all protected characteristics.

### **Gender Reassignment**

Community Impact Assessments (CIAs) are carried out in relation to all homicide and serious crime which consider the impact on communities and minority groups. CCAs are also conducted to identify the concerns of any affected minority group. Consultation with IAGs will always be considered by the Gold Command, SIO or Investigating Officer (IO). As with other protected characteristics, gender reassignment is now considered at the quarterly Diversity Forum.

Over this reporting year, the London Homicide Manual was reviewed on a six monthly basis by Commander Homicide in conjunction with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and TP. Additions and amendments were made where and when required. As part of the continued review process each of the local instructions that are relevant to HSCC were also subject to Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) review and where required an EIA was completed. This is part of an ongoing process driven by the HSCC Diversity Forum to ensure that it's working processes and procedures both internally and externally are fully compliant with current protocols with regard to the protected characteristics.

The Homicide Manual working group continuously monitor the effect of any changes to the manual in respect of the protected characteristics. Each homicide and unexplained death is subject to a CIA during which the internal and external protected characteristics are checked against performance.

## **Conclusion**

There has been no indication during the reporting period of any adverse impact in relation to the protected characteristics. As identified there are a number of review processes already in place to identify issues at the earliest opportunity and provide remedial action to rectify HSCC procedures, processes and operational activity.

The CCAs, CIAs, Gold Group Strategy meetings, HSCC Diversity Forum and HSCC Operational Debriefing provide the means by which HSCC monitors its performance in respect of all of the protected characteristics.

## **Associated Documents**

Investigation of Homicide and Unexplained Death Policy