FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 000004/13

Thank you for your request for information regarding ACPO Policy or Guidance which govern the responsibilities of Safer Schools Officers which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Such ACPO policies or guidance as may exist which govern the responsibilities of Safer Schools officers.

ACPO Response:

ACPO do hold information captured by your request in the form of:

ACPO Safer School Partnerships Guidance:


The Safe School Partnerships (SSP) is a joint initiative between the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) the YJB and ACPO, and was the result of the YJB/ACPO proposal to develop a new policing model for schools.

Launched in September 2002, SSP programmes initially provided a focused approach to address the high level of crime and anti-social behaviour committed in and around schools in some areas – crime committed by and against children and young people.

Broader benefits have since been recognised, including improved community cohesion, a stronger sense of citizenship among children, and an increased quality of life and opportunities for young people, their families and the wider community around the school.

After the pilot phase was completed, SSPs were brought into mainstream policy by ministers in March 2006. This has enabled partnerships to be arranged according to local needs.

The Safer School Partnerships (SSP) programme enables local agencies to address significant behavioural and crime-related issues in and around a school. The development of a localised, multi-agency partnership will ensure that such issues are addressed more effectively and with an increased likelihood of longer term benefits. All agencies and partners, from police, local authorities, councils, teachers and parents, should recognised the significant opportunity that an SSP provides for engagement with a thousand or more young people.

ACPO Prevent, Police and Schools Guidance for Police Officers and Police Staff to help Schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism:

In 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) published advice for school leaders in England: Learning Together to be Safe: a Toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism. The Toolkit acknowledges that preventing violent extremism is a challenging issue which needs to be a shared endeavour across local partners and communities, with activities tailored to the needs of local areas. To support this, the Home Office and DCSF provided funding to some police forces and Local Authorities (Las) in England and Wales to work together to develop activities to support police activity within education institutions. This role forms part of the Police Prevent Implementation Plan (2008).

Prevent, Police and Schools’ is for police officers and police staff who work with schools. Written in consultation with the DCSF and the Home Office, the guidance aims to explain Prevent in a school context, indicate ways in which police teams and teachers can work together and highlight some of the different approaches that have been taken across the country to date.

I wish to stress that ACPO guidance and practice advice defines nationally agreed good practice for forces, but accountability as to whether to adhere to such guidance rests with Chief Constables who are operationally independent.

ACPO brings together the expertise and experience of Chief Police Officers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, providing a professional forum to share ideas and best practice, coordinate resources and help deliver effective policing which keeps the public safe.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.acpo.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with ACPO to have the decision reviewed within 2 months of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to ACPO Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with ACPO, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.