

What will the police do with the advice I give?

Suffolk Police Authority and Suffolk Constabulary are committed to ensuring the police carefully consider the advice from members of the IAG.

However, the police are legally responsible for the actions they take. We value members contributions but there might be occasions where no action is taken on the advice given or the police will act differently from the way you advise. Whatever action is taken, the police will act with your views in mind.

Where possible, we will make sure you are told what action, if any, is taken upon your advice and the reasons why.

How often will the IAG meet?

The group will meet at least four times a year (once every three months).

There may also be occasions when the IAG, or individual members, will be asked for advice on specific issues, such as to advise on the impact that the investigation of a serious crime could have on a specific community.

In cases like this, the police might call upon your advice at short notice but this will only be done in exceptional circumstances.

Will I get paid?

No. This is voluntary work. By using volunteers we are assured of independent advice. If it were a paid job, people may question the independence of the advisers.

However, we do value your advice, and the fact you are giving up your time to support this important initiative, so reasonable expenses will be paid.

How to apply

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

Chief Executive
Suffolk Police Authority
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk, IP5 3QS.
Tel: (01473) 782774

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



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Independent Advisory Group



for policing in Suffolk

Getting it right for you



Your questions answered

Introduction

We are looking for volunteers to help us make sure we provide a quality service to ALL the communities of Suffolk.

The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) provide the police with independent advice on a range of issues, including developing plans and policies which will help shape the way Suffolk is policed in the future.

Suffolk Police Authority and Suffolk Constabulary are committed to providing a fair and equitable service to all our communities.

However, we need the advice of people who are willing to help us understand the issues affecting your communities, while questioning and challenging current practices in a constructive way.

This leaflet is designed to answer your questions about the IAG.



Why do we need independent advice?

The Authority and Constabulary are keen to make sure that we deliver the highest quality police services to our communities.

We need the advice of people who are independent of the police to make sure that our services match the needs of communities as closely as possible.

What is an Independent Advisory Group?

It is a group of people of all ages, drawn from all communities, who provide independent advice to the police. They help us enhance the service the police offer local people.

Who can join?

An Independent Adviser may be any member of the community. You need to have an interest in policing and its effects upon your community. We want you to point out any criticisms you may have, but we also want you to be able to offer suggestions about how we could do things better.

Your own experiences, and those of people you know, put you in a position to advise us. In particular, we are looking to attract people to reflect the interests of:

- Minority ethnic communities
- Bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people
- People with physical, sensory and/or learning disabilities
- Gypsies and Travellers
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Faith communities

Do I need to represent a group/community?

No. We are asking for people who reflect the diversity of our communities, not necessarily to represent them. Consultation through representation takes place in other ways.



Although you are naturally likely to reflect the opinions of other people you know, as well as your own, ultimately the only person you will represent is yourself. As member of a community, you will have a better understanding of the issues affecting its members.

Do I need any qualifications?

No. You do not need any formal qualifications. We want you for your opinions, advice and personal experience.

To carry out the role, it is important that you can:

- Express and explain your views to others
- Listen and consider other people's views
- Question and challenge the views of others in a constructive way
- Work as part of a diverse team
- Offer advice on the development of police plans and policy