

GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY

Community Safety and Engagement Committee

Date: 5 March 2008 **Item No:** 6c

Heading: Rotary International Group Study Exchange to Japan.

Report Author: Chief Constable

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Police Authority that the Chief Constable has granted permission for Police Constable 2069 James GARDNER (Newport Central) to participate in a Rotary International Group Study Exchange visit to Japan between 27 March 2008 and 03 June 2008.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report which is provided for information purposes only.

1. Background

Rotary International is a worldwide voluntary organisation which exists to provide humanitarian service, to encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and to help build goodwill and peace in the world.

For a number of years, the Rotary Foundation has been facilitating the Group Study Exchange (GSE) programme, a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young professionals in the early stages of their careers. The GSE programme provides the opportunity for participants to travel to a different country to experience local cultures and institutions, to observe how their vocations are practiced abroad and to exchange ideas through the development of personal and professional relationships.

Exchange visits typically last for four to five weeks and involve participants in vocational visits, presentations, conferences, social events and cultural or educational tours. In addition, participants will spend four or five hours of free time each day with a host family learning about their lifestyle and customs.

A promotional leaflet which provides further information about Rotary International, the Rotary Foundation and the Group Study Exchange programme is attached at Appendix A.

As part of the 2008 GSE Programme, the Mid, West and South Wales District of Rotary International is taking a team of young professionals for a five week vocational and cultural visit to Wakayama and Osaka in Japan. The Team will leave the UK on 07 March and return on 03 June 2008. *(NB. The formal part of the visit will conclude on 27 April 2008 but by negotiation with the Rotary Club and the employing organisation, participants are able to extend their stay in their own time and at their own expense.)*

In July 2007, Gwent Police accepted an invitation from the Rotary Club of Cwmbran to nominate prospective candidates to take part in the GSE visit to Japan. After a rigorous selection process, Police Constable 2069 James GARDNER (A Division, Central) has been allocated a place in the Team.

This is tremendous achievement for the officer in the face of significant competition from young professional and business people from a variety of backgrounds and employment and it reflects exceptionally well on him as an individual and on the force as a whole.

Recognising the potential benefits for the officer and the wider benefits for the organisation as a whole, the Chief Constable has agreed to allow Police Constable GARDNER to take part in the exchange. The visit has been planned and the necessary arrangements are now in place. The Deputy Chief Constable has agreed terms of reference for the visit and agreed how the learning will be disseminated when the officer returns to force. The particular focus of his visit will be on assessing how the Japanese police manage community cohesion and immigration issues and evaluating how they approach community based policing and reassurance. Both these issues are relevant to the force's current operating environment and particularly in the City of Newport where Police Constable GARDNER is based.

2. PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this report is to advise Members that the officer has been granted permission to travel overseas, partly in duty time. However, it is anticipated that Members will be genuinely interested, not only in the officer's success in securing a place in the GSE Team but also in the outcomes from the visit. As such, if Members would like to hear about the officer's experiences, the Chief Constable would be pleased to make the necessary arrangements for a presentation to be provided in due course.

3. STAFFING/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

Police Constable GARDNER will be absent from work for a period of nine weeks, five of which will be duty time. Arrangements have been made locally for the abstraction to be covered and the Divisional Commander is supportive of the visit. Welfare considerations have been taken into account in the planning and preparation of the visit.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for travel is provided by Rotary International and accommodation and internal travel will be provided by Rotarians in the host country. Police Constable GARDNER has been provided with a daily allowance to cover food, subsistence and other incidental expenses in accordance with force policy. The total additional cost of the visit for the force will be in the region of £4,000 which will be funded from existing budgets. There is also an opportunity cost arising from the officer's absence from work which also equate to around £4,000.

5. CONSULTATION

The visit has been approved by Chief Officers in consultation with the Divisional Commander, A Division. Consultation has also taken place with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the ACPO Overseas Policing Secretariat, the Force Health and Safety Advisor and Special Branch in developing the arrangements for the visit.

6. PROJECT ASSESSMENT FOR EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY MATTERS

This proposal has been assessed for equality and diversity matters and is considered not to discriminate against any group or individual. Indeed, the purpose of the visit is to develop improved cultural understanding between different nations and the officer will undoubtedly return with lessons which will be of future benefit for the organisation in terms of its responsibility to promote equality and diversity.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment has been completed in the form of a general overseas travel risk assessment. There are risks associated with any form of overseas travel but these have been mitigated by control measures (e.g. vaccination, insurance, security assessments) contained within the risk assessments which have been conducted. Japan is not considered to be a high risk environment and there are no security concerns arising from the presence of one of our officers in the local policing environment. The officer has been given suitable advice about his involvement in police operations.

8. STAYING AHEAD (2011 REVIEW)

There are no issues contained within this report which would impact directly upon the outcomes of the Staying Ahead Review.

9. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that the Chief Constable has granted permission for Police Constable 2069 James GARDNER to participate in a Rotary International Group Study Exchange vocational visit to Japan between 07 March 2008 and 03 June 2008. Members are invited to note the contents of this report which is provided for information purposes only. Members may wish to receive a presentation from the officer in due course.

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

DCC Mick Giannasi, Chief Inspector Mark Warrender.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Rotary International GGSE Programme - Information Leaflet.