1.0 Summary of Changes

1.1 The following changes have been made to this policy on 26 November 2014:

- This policy has previously been published separately in both Kent and Essex but
  has now been reformatted in accordance with the force policy review and to reflect
  in-force structural changes.

2.0 What this Policy is About

2.1 This policy sets out how the police in Kent and Essex will approach and undertake
the review of major crime investigations. It outlines a process and structure which
provides direction for those involved in the review process and provides the
organisation with a mechanism to maintain, safeguard and develop standards in major
crime investigations.

2.2 The policy aligns the provision of major crime reviews in both Kent and Essex
together with legislative requirements and national guidance

Compliance with this policy and any linked procedures is mandatory.

3.0 Statement of Policy

3.1 The importance of carrying out independent reviews of major crime investigations
has long been recognised in the Police Service. The aim of any review is to
constructively evaluate the investigation to ensure it conforms to nationally approved
standards, is thorough, is being conducted with integrity and objectivity and that no
reasonable investigative opportunity has been overlooked whilst identifying any good
practice.

3.2 The conduct of reviews in homicides and other serious crime seeks in part to
address the requirements of Article 2 (right to life). In addition reviews are required to
be undertaken following the death or serious injury to a child or following a death
involving domestic abuse and in similar circumstances.

4.0 Implications of the Policy

4.1 Finance / Staffing / Training / Other

4.1.1 The delivery of specialist reviews should be undertaken or led by suitably
qualified personnel, accredited investigators and review officers. The minimum
standard is usually accreditation to PIP3 and completion of the national review officers
training. Specialist experience in specific areas of child protection, vulnerable adults
and covert policing methods are a requirement of some reviews. Staff in the Serious
Crime Directorate review team are qualified and able to offer advice and guidance if
required.
4.2 Risk Assessment(s)

4.2.1 This policy has been assessed as low risk.

4.3 Equality Impact Assessment

4.3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and shows the proposals in this policy would have no potential or actual differential impact on grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, transgender, disability, age, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

5.0 Consultation

- Head of Major Crime, SCD, Kent
- Senior Investigating Officer, SCD, Kent
- Head of Crime Investigation and Public Protection, Essex
- Head of Public Protection Unit, Kent
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Estates
- IT Security
- Legal
- Freedom of Information
- Equality and Diversity
- Health and Safety

6.0 Monitoring and Review

6.1 Monitoring the practical application and effectiveness of this policy is the responsibility of the Serious Crime Directorate Head of Review, line managed by the Detective Chief Superintendent (SCD). An oversight board comprising the ACC (SCD) and representatives from local policing commands and training meet regularly to consider the application of this policy and the product of the reviews undertaken.

6.2 A further review of the policy will be undertaken in two years from publication (2016).

7.0 Related force policies or related procedures (Essex) / linked standard operating procedures (Kent)

- S 1901 Procedure/SOP - Review of Major Crime
8.0 Other source documents, e.g. Legislation, APP, partnership agreements (if applicable)

8.1 The conduct of major crime reviews is detailed in various sources including legislation and ACPO guidance such as:

- Section 4 ACPO Murder Investigation Manual 2006 (expected to be replaced by APP on Major Investigation Reviews in second quarter of 2014);
- Justice After Acquittal – minimum standards agreement between Justice After Acquittal, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police;
- 3.Chapter 4 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2014 and the Children’s Act 2004;
- Section 9 Domestic violence, Crime and victims Act 2004;
- The Criminal justice Act 2003 and section 29 of MAPPA guidance 2009;
- Section 16 of the Guidance on the Lawful and Effective Use of Covert Techniques 2008