

Aylesbury Vale LPA IAG Meeting



Minutes

DATE Tuesday 23rd January 2024

TIME: 1400-1600

LOCATION: Via Teams

Attendees	Position and Area
DG	IAG Chair
HA	Deputy IAG chair
JD	TVP, Neighbourhood Inspector
MK	IAG Member
GS	IAG Member
MP	IAG Member
RM	IAG Member
NA	IAG Member
HJ-G	IAG Member
CJ	IAG Member
ZFB	Admin Support, Aylesbury Vale LPA, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
SS	IAG Member
KR	IAG Member
JR	IAG Member
AC	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
MP	IAG Member

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The chair welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting & everyone introduced themselves.

2. Previous notes/actions:

No previous minutes

3. Policing overview including changes within TVP:

JD- gave an overview on national picture & TVP changes from 1st May 2024

JD outlined the national picture regarding the general public's relationship with the police: nationally the biggest issue is public confidence. The IAGs represent parts of communities feeding back on certain issues and concerns. The public is particularly interested in Police Officer Misconduct, when officers are disciplined or dismissed, and protests.

Large protests mainly happen in London. The police facilitate protests, make sure everyone's safe on both sides, but often get bad press for that responding to incidents we've seen in recent days – for example the devastating news that the four people died in Norwich.

Public are also focused on retail crime and can be unduly influenced by social media. Large cases attracts a lot of media attention which ultimately impacts the public's perception on policing and morale. TVP recognise there's lots to be done to build public confidence.

TVP Changes:

Thames Valley Police is split into 3 local police areas: Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire. Within these are local police areas such as Aylesbury Vale, South Buckinghamshire etc. From 1st May TVP Buckinghamshire will become a Local Command Unit, aligned to the unitary authority - Aylesbury and South Bucks will merge into one area. (Milton Keynes will be separate.)

We review our structure every few years to ensure it's working properly whilst being more efficient. Due to this we will change the management structure: Chief Superintendent Emma Burroughs will be in charge of Buckinghamshire, with two superintendents; Euan Livingstone who starts in February and Detective Superintendent Rebecca Mears. Beneath them will be Chief Inspectors Robb Webb, who is in charge of the response function, and Chief Inspector Alex Ash in charge of the neighbourhood function.

Yet to be confirmed whether the Chief Superintendent or the Superintendent will attend IAG meetings in future.

Benefits of LCUs include an increase in the number of neighbourhood officers; we will be able to get out there with the community much more.

Harm Reduction Unit:

Harm Reduction Units will be set up as part of the Local Command Units. An HRU already exists in Aylesbury Vale under what was previously the problem solving team. The HRU deals with safeguarding, repeat domestic abuse victims and exploitation. HRUs are separate from Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH), MASH are a referral and review function triage, whereas HRUs will deal with offenders and victims.

Questions:

CJ: referenced case involving coercive control and the Buckinghamshire domestic abuse service ... will the HRU get involved in cases like this one?

JD- we can always improve the way we deal with domestic abuse and coercive control.

Action 1: JD/CJ to arrange a meeting to discuss out of meeting

HA- could we discuss HRUs and their remit in a future meeting?

**Action 2: ZFB Invite DCI Stockwell to next meeting and agenda item for discussion-
Complete**

Sexual offences:

There was discussion and concern relating to the 149 rape offences from April 2023 to December 2023, that this was high, and if more information can be given at the next meeting in April.

Questions:

HA- 149 rapes in 9 months is a significant number.

JD- will come back with update.

NA- 149 in nine months, we're looking at over 11 rapes a month, that's 2/3 a week.

Action 3: GS to be given a slot on the Agenda in April for an input from SASS

Post meeting, update from TVP performance Sgt- for IAG clarity re the data:

From the 1st April – 31st December 2023 149 Rape cases have been reported across Aylesbury Vale LPA. Due to ongoing crime reclassifications & cancellations, the most up to date number is 142 for the same time period.

Rape allegations are always recorded at first point of contact and extensive training has gone into the Force to ensure that we correctly record any allegation of rape. Unlike other crime classifications, where a victim alleges multiple suspects have raped them each rape act is recorded individually not as a single incident. I.e. a victim reports to Police that they have been raped by 3 males at a party, this would create 3 rape crime reports.

When we look to reclassify or to cancel a crime of rape we need to demonstrate that we have additional verifiable information to confirm that no notifiable crime has taken place. Rape is the third highest crime classification within England & Wales (after Murder and Attempted Murder), therefore the threshold and process for either reclassifying or cancelling a report of rape is much higher than other crimes. Understandably with the complexity of these investigations, to reach the threshold required takes considerable time as Investigators treat every case on merit and look to gather all the available evidence.

Home Office Counting rules, which sets out how crime is recorded across England & Wales, dictates that under the 'Principle Crime Rule' where a Victim of crime makes multiple disclosures of crimes at once to Police and non-have been previously recorded. We only record the highest crime classification, irrelevant of time periods, and all other crimes are recorded within that one record. This impacts on our recorded rape due to the previously mentioned seriousness of the offence. Eg, if a Victim of Domestic Abuse for example calls to report an assault by beating that occurred at the time. But when speaking to the Officer also discloses that 10 years ago they were also raped by their partner the new crime report would be for rape and the assault would be listed within that report. Although the rape was 10 years ago, it would now form a part of that current financial year crime recording stats.

Historic reporting of rape is a large part of our yearly performance numbers, it can understandably take victims of rape a long time to gain the confidence to come forward and make a report, for lots of different reasons but especially within a Domestic Abuse or interfamilial environment.

Thames Valley Police are still receiving multiple records of rape by the late Jimmy Saville for example.

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We do see a number of individuals from across the LPA making multiple reports when suffering with mental health crisis. This can range from repeated reporting of the same incident or delusional episodes. All of which are investigated and reviewed to the same high standards of any serious crime and then where necessary reviewed for reclassification or cancellation.

Of the 142 rapes, 61 are being managed within our Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and a further 25 are being managed within the Child Abuse Investigation Unit. These are specialist departments designed to protect the most vulnerable from serious harm.

The areas CID Teams have managed 41 rape crimes so far this year.

With the remaining rapes being managed across a variety of other departments, but all are reviewed by at least one of the above departments for risk, ownership and victim safeguarding.

Aylesbury Vale LPA has a very thorough governance of Rape and Sexual Offences. Every month heads of departments review all the previous months Rape and Sexual Offence cases to ensure that all the cases are progressing and the correct level of service is being delivered by the Force to victims of rape. Rape cases are some of the most complex and demanding cases to investigate, some take many months or years for justice to be served. Our LPA has the third highest charge rate of Thames Valley, with 7.7% and we have seen a 120% rise in charges being applied to Rape cases.

4. NA- Community Safety in light of recent global events

NA: I would like to discuss doxing, race anti-social behaviour/ antisemitism/ islamophobia. I'm seeing a rise in Islamophobia and antisemitism and so forth, through doxing (professionals being tracked down on social media and asked for comment).

I come from a living experience of these issues and also have relatives and friends in Palestine. I've attended marches and been part of organising some of them, and we even had a local march in Aylesbury which had a fantastic turnout. The police and Council presence was brilliant. However the marches has opened up an ugly side of our community where complaints are being made to my workplace that I'm a terrorist supporter and I'm a terrorist sympathizer. Because I'm pro-Palestinian doesn't mean that I'm against any other faith community.

DG- one of the functions of the IAG is to highlight things to the police that are going on in our community

Action 4: DG/HA to discuss further.

5. AOB

- MP to make people aware there is A World Day of Prayer which is written by a group of women. On 1.3.2024 We are holding the event at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bedgrove, Aylesbury

Agenda items suggested for future meetings:

- Sexual Violence- SASS
- Harm Reduction Unit input

6. Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday 10th April 1400-1600- To be held at Aylesbury Police Station.

Wednesday 17th July 1400-1600- Via teams

Wednesday 23rd October 1400-1600 – Aylesbury Police Station