

DATE Monday 4th October

TIME: 14:00-16:00

LOCATION: Diamond Room, Bucks Council, The Gateway

Attendees	Position and Area
MK	IAG Chair
SS	IAG Vice Chair
JH	IAG Member
MP	IAG Member
DG	IAG Member
GE	IAG Member
CO	IAG Member
GK	IAG Member
CS	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member
KW	IAG Member
AC	IAG Member
RM	Area Commander, Aylesbury Vale LPA, TVP
HH	Admin Support, Aylesbury Vale LPA, TVP (Minutes)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Action notes and matters arising:

AC made contact with the Community Safety Partnership Head of Service to discuss Zipp E-Scooters but has yet to hear back. Action carried.

‘Zipp E-Scooters (the yellow Council affiliated ones) are an increasing issue. They all appear to be being used on the pavement and many do not give way to pedestrians. They are supposed to be driven in the road only. Cyclists already cause issues for pedestrians.’

ACTION: This is a formal scheme being tested in Aylesbury as part of a Government test process. AC to take the issues back to Highways and the Community Safety Partnership.

ACTION: SS to contact RM to discuss Zipp E-Scooters.

3. Young People of the Aylesbury Vale and Covid - Youth Concern:

Youth Concern have been in the Aylesbury Vale for 41 years. We work with young adults aged 13 to 25 and offer support such as Counselling, Drop-In Sessions, the Next Step Project (a nine-bed accommodation). We also refer to CAMHS via the GP.

During Covid the drop-in sessions were via telephone or Zoom but we have been open again since April (1300-1700) and attendees can take part in activities including pool or table tennis, learn to cook, or use the music studio. Numbers are rising but nothing like pre-Covid at this time.

Youth Concern are 100% self-funded. We have three paid counsellors and four unpaid volunteer counsellors. We get approximately eight referrals per week and have a waiting list.

Domestic Violence in the home has been an issue during Covid lockdown. The communication between Youth Concern and Police could be better and we would like to find a way to improve this.

During lockdown, we offered vaccinations to vulnerable youth groups and worked with them to raise awareness about the vaccine. Public Health England can facilitate conversations about making an informed choice about the vaccine. Initially we had difficulty getting hold of the Lateral Flow Test kits but this has been resolved.

The Aylesbury and Milton Keynes Sexual Assault Service are also working with Youth Concern and specialist support training is due to take place between the two agencies in October / November.

[RM] Thames Valley Police have found that online child abuse/indecent image cases are up 150%. Have had an increase this this sort of thing being reported?

[JW] Youth Concern have not had reports on this issue.

4. LPA Commanders Updates:

- Aylesbury Vale LPA is now back to pre-Covid crime levels, which is higher than levels recorded during various lockdowns. This is not specific to the area; these trends are reflected across the UK.
- The Extinction Rebellion protest took place at Arla Dairy on the A41. 75 delivery trucks were disrupted that day and there was a huge loss of dairy products. This led to 17 people being charged with Aggravated Trespass and Obstruction of the Highway. The court hearings will be spread out due to the number of offenders.

- Taxi drivers held a protest at the Council. Taxi licence legislation has changed and locally and nationally. This is an ongoing issue and Taxi drivers have removed their services in the past. Police will monitor this situation and the Council are keeping the Police updated with progress.
- HS2 – Thames Valley Police have a dedicated unit to deal with matters arising from HS2. This means that we do not pull Aylesbury's resources to deal with HS2 offences. Similarly, when we have a major incident we pull resources in from neighbouring Police Areas, where we can, so that we can maintain a minimum number of officers on patrol and responding to incidents.
- The Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP) is having a knock on effect in terms of officer availability on the front line. It will take approximately 18 months for the officer to arrive on area. Aylesbury Vale LPA is not currently at establishment and the force has a plan to address this. We attend career fairs regularly and are permanently recruiting. The uplift is naturally putting pressure on this process.
- An update was given regarding a murder trial Op Iceland and this it will be going on for several more weeks. The community impact and different outcomes are all being considered.

[MP] Do you have any information around hate crime?

[RM] We are seeing relatively low reporting levels and always have done. This again is fairly consistent across the country. We have a third party who people can report into, to improve reporting along with media releases. A small number are LGBTQ specific. Relationship is there; we have good communication with local groups and clubs and continue to encourage people to report. Officers receive refresher training annually where they are trained to pick out hate elements within a report.

[GE] Does Thames Valley Police have a response to the Sarah Everard case?

Recognise the seriousness of the offence, and the impact it has had most importantly on Sarah Everard and her family, but also on the confidence in the police. All Police services will be seeking to learn from this case and question all our processes internally and externally. We have a vetting process and a Professional Standards Department to deal robustly with wrongdoing.

The Chief Constable, John Campbell, has created two new posts and there is a Force Strategy for Violence against Women and Girls

- Superintendent to lead on Domestic Abuse
- Superintendent to lead on Violence against Women and Girls

Can we get more officers patrolling on foot?

Statistically speaking the traditional 'bobbies on the beat' does not work, it only reassures. We deliver intelligence led patrols and also 'hot spot policing' which uses information and crime trends to inform where we should patrol. We have 350 square miles to cover with 250 staff split up in to teams so have to use those to best effect. Based on season trends and intelligence we aim to put the right people in the right place at the right time. We do have CCTV but this is not resourced 24/7. Discussed the impact of the media on distorting messages and reassurance to the public.

5. Members Feedback / Issues to raise:

AC

Hate Crime – Third party reporting project is starting this month. Underreporting of hate crime is a huge topic. The focus is to empower some community stakeholders to raise awareness and feed into the correct channels. The PCC is driving project. Training to take place 15th Oct.

JW

We are holding a recruitment drive in December for Project Night Stop. We will be looking for volunteer hosts who can spare a room for 3 nights during a week to put up a young person presenting as homeless.

MP

New Trans Youth Club meet at the Healthy Living Centre on Tuesdays at 1800-2000. This is a safe place and has good attendance. The first Aylesbury Pride Festival is being planned for August Bank Holiday Weekend.

CS

We have a five-acre site offering a variety of programs for overs 13s with low to moderate mental health needs. We also support those suffering from dementia.

CO

Referrals are up due to the lack of safe space to make contact during lockdown. We have 48 volunteers – some of whom donated their travel time during lockdown to provide extra sessions over Zoom.

KW

We deal with over 18s who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. We offer an Advocacy Service – free housing advice from solicitor, which is referable and open to everyone. We also have an experienced mental health worker one day per week and offer Grief Counselling.

Eviction notices have been served on those staying in emergency accommodation as the Covid funding has now ceased, we are supporting people to try to get them full housing options.

GK

I experienced an issue when my driveway was fly tipped and I had to make several calls to both Police and Council having been given opposing advice by both.

ACTION: GK to share reference numbers for this incident so that it can be reviewed for learning by TVP and BCC (RM and AC).

I have been trialling a Spiritual Empowerment Programme for 11-15 years olds (from all religions). They have met once a week for the last three years for a discussion group and to plan community service events and fundraising for charity. I am now launching my second group.

DG

In partnership with the Police, we placed a Knife Bank in the community. In two weeks, we had 25 knives handed in. We also run a Community Mentoring Programme.

SS

We are running a Community Hall at Roman Park Hall, Berryfields. £5 for 25 items and we have two lawyers to offer advice on benefits etc. We have space for new members.

MK

Street Angels are back out on reduced hours, 2200-0200. Night-time economy is not back to pre-Covid levels.

6. AOB

IAG Themes – If you have an idea for a theme for the next IAG please contact AC.

7. Next Meeting Date:

9th December 10:00-12:00