Berkshire East LCU IAG

Minutes 8th April 2025

Welcome and introductions

Chief Superintendent Steve Raffield welcomed everyone and went through introductions and the purpose of the IAG quarterly meetings.

Attendees

Chief Superintendent Steve Raffield
Superintendent Helen Kenny
Superintendent Louise Warbrick
Superintendent John Batty
Community and Diversity Officer Kulbir Brar
Sam Banfield (ASO/Minute taker)
PD – IAG Member
MS – IAG Member
AJ – IAG Member
AN – IAG Member
JH – IAG Member
RB – IAG Member
DL – IAG Member
SA – IAG Member
JJ – IAG Member

Superintendent John Batty presented the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, which included the following points -

- There are lots of changes planned for Neighbourhood policing
- TVP are committed to Neighbourhood policing and will be investing further and reach out to our communities
- Increased numbers in Neighbourhood policing in town centres and the Government will hold TVP to account
- Commitment to have named officers for each area
- Crack down on anti-social behaviour
- Focus on retail theft and assault of retail workers
- Engagement plan to focus on
    - Engaging with Seldom Heard Communities
    - Engaging with victims and those involved with anti-social behaviour
    - Engaging with retail communities

Superintendent Batty explain the Neighbourhood policing app which is used by our officers and enables them to –

- Log patrols they have completed
- Check patrol plans in their area
- Log abstractions from their Neighbourhood role i.e. cell watches

From this data, we have toolkits that can be used to see how we are serving our victims, what engagement is taking place and what effect that is having on the community. It also ensures that we are focussing our efforts in the correct place, and that our resources are being used effectively.

- Question – Does the app track any traumatic circumstances for the officers?

We schedule regular health checks with our teams that will be the first port of call to flag any welfare issues our officers may be experiencing. TVP has other support services in place though if officers need it, including counselling.

- Question – It has been difficult lately to get the names of local officers in Neighbourhood policing, will this change going forward?

Prior to covid we had details of officers displayed outside our stations, but that has changed. Details of officers who work in each neighbourhood area can be found on our website (www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/). The Government will be providing guidance on how you can contact officers and how quickly you can expect a response. This should be available soon, so we expect this contact will become easier in the near future.

- Question – How diverse are the Neighbourhood policing teams?

The diversity differs area by area, historically we have struggled to recruit officers from certain backgrounds. This is improving but there is still work to be done. Our focus is on engagement and gaining trust in the community. We have force training in our Race Action Plan and Race Ally training. One role of the IAG is to make sure that we as police understand the communities you are representing.

Superintendent Louise Warbrick presented and explained the four pillars to the Trust and Confidence Strategy -

- Protected, Respected, Involved, Represented

Superintendent Warbrick is currently working with Frimley Health Trust to create an anti-racist statement and looking to link in with other organisations around this. Superintendent Raffield noted that whilst this is a Force wide message, we need to ensure this is also adopted at a local level. It was noted that there is a

place for our community leaders to make an impact locally and Supt Warbrick hopes the IAG can support this.

Community and Diversity Officer Kulbir Brar shared data around hate crimes within Berkshire East.

- The accuracy of this data depends on the correct qualifiers being ticked when the report is made – training is provided to try to make this as accurate as possible
- Data cannot easily be broken do into whether a crime has been committed against a particular race or faith
- These figures could be affected by the confidence people have to report these crimes, Kulbir is keen to use the IAG to encourage people to report crimes when they have occurred
- Data can be used to monitor tensions in the community and emerging trends. International events may also impact our communities and these are monitored as well
- We do not measure against national figures; our success is having low community tension. We continue to monitor risk levels so we know if tensions are raised due to a specific event.

Community Scrutiny Panels

These will be split into a full panel (quarterly, to look at themes) and a sub panel (4-6 weekly to review body worn video/stop and search). Supt Warbrick presented some slides to explain the purpose of the CSP's, which is used to scrutinise the actions of our officers to ensure they are following procedure. It was suggested that these groups should be made up of a more diverse selection of the communities involved. We also need more people to attend. It can also be empowering for victims to take part and add variety to the sessions. These panels will start with stop and search, but as of next year when we have redacted footage available we can look at different themes such as domestic violence and the custody suite.

Meeting concluded at 20:36.