Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Berkshire East Local Command Unit

DATE **15th April 2026**

TIME: **18:30**

LOCATION: **Bracknell Police Station**

Attendees	**Initials**	**Position and Area**
Stuart Bosley	SB	LCU Commander
AJ	AJ	IAG Chair
Louise Warbrick	LW	Superintendent, Trust and Confidence
NMP	NMP	Community Assurance and Diversity Officer (CADO)
Stefanie Day	SD	Sergeant, Neighbourhood Policing
Stewart Codling	SC	Chief Inspector, Neighbourhood Policing
MS	MS	IAG member
SA	SA	IAG member
PD	PD	IAG member
CF	CF	IAG member
LS	LS	IAG member
MB	MB	IAG member
DB	DB	IAG member
LM	LM	IAG member
HH	HH	IAG member
JH	JH	IAG member
RB	RB	IAG Member
SBa	SBa	Administrative Support Officer
Apologies		
AN	AN	IAG member
FM	FM	IAG member
DL	DL	IAG member
MK	MK	IAG member

Welcome and Introductions
The Chair welcomed all attendees, including new members, and formally introduced Chief Superintendent SB.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed.

Chief Superintendent SB – Update and Vision

Recent Serious Incident – Slough (Hampshire Avenue)

- A series of incidents linked to a dispute involving two organised crime group (OCG) members, including a machete assault and arson attack; a handgun was referenced.
- The matter is being treated as attempted murder and is a priority within force tasking.
- Safeguarding measures are in place around relevant addresses; some mistaken identity issues have been identified.
- Community Intelligence Assessment (CIA) completed.
- No wider community tensions identified; incident is OCG-related.
- A robust operational plan is in place.

Vision and Priorities

- Formal vision to be shared once fully settled into role.
- Key focus areas highlighted:
    - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
    - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
    - Knife crime
    - Neighbourhood policing engagement
- Emphasis on:
    - Prompt response to calls
    - Effective communication with victims
    - Charging offenders where thresholds are met
    - Proper and proportionate use of police powers
- Recognition of the significant value of the IAG, particularly where incidents involve race or protected characteristics.

Discussion

- RB emphasised the importance of community policing as an intelligence pathway; supported by SB.
- CF praised neighbourhood policing in Windsor.
- PD reported from a ride-along that officers spend significant time policing Slough.
- Concerns raised regarding a Next Door post alleging police corruption:
    - SB to review and consider further communications messaging if required.
    - PD noted the post was deleted and appeared unfounded.

Additional Points

- Comments on challenges arising from the new command structure; SB advised the model is now bedding in and stabilising.
- Local government reorganisation noted; boundaries yet to be confirmed.

Section 60 (Stop and Search) Update

- One Section 60 deployment during the reporting period:
    - 27 February 2026 – Slough
    - Initially reported as tensions between Sikh and Muslim youths; later confirmed as a dispute between two schools.
    - Youths were seen wearing balaclavas and fleeing police; report made in good faith.
    - No violence occurred; four youths were identified.
    - School safeguarding teams engaged; minor assaults addressed.
- No searches conducted during the Section 60.
- National misinformation at the time contributed to anxiety.

Context and Reassurance

- SC confirmed rapid police response and effective neighbourhood engagement.
- 13 Section 60 deployments force-wide this year, compared to 26 last year.
- CADO role enables rapid communications.
- Inspectors remain mindful of the impact of Section 60 powers and use them only when necessary.
- Trust and confidence remains a priority.

Neighbourhood Policing Update – SC

Prevent and Early Intervention

- Regular multi-area Prevent meetings held.

- Current caseload includes:
  - Four individuals in Slough
  - One individual in Maidenhead
- Common themes: isolation, social media use, lack of engagement.
- Ideologies vary; fixation on violence noted in some cases.
- All cases managed through the Prevent Board with partners.

Operational Updates

- Monitoring high-profile media reporting regarding AM-W; no longer at Royal Lodge.
- Strong focus on Repeat Suspects for ASB and low-level crime.
- Two enhanced days of action:
  - 15 April 2026 – Domestic Abuse enforcement
  - 29 April 2026 – ASB activity in Chalvey, Britwell, and wider LCU

Local Area Updates

Bracknell

- Knife crime education event at Bracknell Learning Centre:
  - 200 attendees
  - Multi-agency involvement
- Over 10 closure orders issued to prevent ASB.
- Live Facial Recognition operation: 20,000 faces scanned; no arrests.
- Knife amnesty bins and knife arch deployment ongoing.
- Work addressing car cruises (Operation Chromium).
- Partnership work with Lexicon Shopping Centre on retail crime.
- Operation Tribal with Immigration Enforcement targeting dangerous delivery drivers.

RBWM

- Safer Streets operations targeting ASB.
- Operation Lakeshot addressing wildlife harm involving catapults.
- State visit significantly impacted policing capacity.
- Positive engagement with faith communities during Eid and Passover.
- Councillor engagement recognised as key.
- Councillor briefing scheduled for May.

Slough

- Staffing changes:
  - Insp (initials only) moving to Bracknell (May)
  - Insp (initials only) moving to Slough
- Clear, Hold, Build – now in "Build" phase in Langley.
- Safer Cippenham partnership launch (10 April 2026) successful.
- Town centre Operation Catalyst:
  - Focus on ASB, street drinking, homelessness
  - £46,000 invested in CCTV improvements

Local Issues and Feedback

- PD praised strong collaboration between police and CCTV teams.
- DB highlighted continued partnership work and offered follow-up discussion outside IAG.
- Lexicon ownership clarification noted.

Trust, Confidence and Race Action Plan – LW

Race Action Plan

- National programme requiring local self-assessment.
- Input will be sought from IAG and Scrutiny Panels.
- Roadshows planned for June/July.
- Diversity monitoring form to be circulated.
- Further update at next meeting.

Trust and Confidence Strategy

- Focus areas:
  - Workforce representation
  - Organisational culture
  - Neighbourhood policing guarantees
- Annual summary to be circulated with minutes.

Community Cohesion and Use of Powers

- Review of non-crime hate incidents in light of national guidance.
- ASB Action Plan went live 1 April 2026.
- HMIC inspection pending.
- Continued scrutiny of stop and search, use of force, and restraint methods.

Survey Questions

- Are the documents clear and easy to understand?
- Do they help explain Thames Valley Police's use of powers to your communities?
- What are the key strengths?
- Is anything missing, or is there additional information you would like to see included?
- How could these publications be further improved?

Hate Crime and Community Reassurance – NMP

- Tensions over Ramadan were low.
- Proactive engagement with faith institutions ongoing.
- SA highlighted the importance of reporting all incidents.
- Positive feedback received regarding Ramadan policing visibility.

Community Scrutiny Panels

- Annual review pending publication.
- Recent meetings cancelled; issue to be raised.
- Chair to meet with SC separately.
- Exploration of force-wide approach to CSP governance.

Actions and Forward Planning

Actions

- AJ to meet with SB regarding IAG action plan.
- SC to link with Lexicon management.
- LW to confirm whether a live IAG recruitment advert is active.
- CF to contact a GRT community representative.
- NMP to share Jewish community application with Chair.

Other Planning

- Need to improve youth engagement in IAG membership.
- Public-facing engagement event to be discussed (AJ / SB).
- Meetings to move to bi-monthly cycle.
- Future meetings to be held in community venues where possible.

Key Messages from the Meeting

1. Formal welcome to Chief Superintendent SB.
2. Strong focus on addressing local issues through neighbourhood policing.
3. Recognition of effective multi-agency working across the LCU.

Any Other Business

- None raised.

Meeting closed at 20:43