Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Berkshire West Local Command Unit

DATE 14 May 2025

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION: Teams

Attendees	**Initials**	**Position and Area**
Chief Superintendent Felicity Parker	FP	LCU Commander
SM	SM	IAG Chair
Insp. Matt Gow	MG	
Trip Pannu	TP	CaDO
AK		IAG member
AKC		IAG member
BZ		IAG member
AB		IAG member
MM		IAG member
JG		IAG member
JGe		IAG member
PA		IAG member
PMc		IAG member
SL		IAG member
JM		IAG member
AH		IAG member
AP		IAG member
HKL		IAG member
MP		IAG member
KP		IAG member
Apologies		
KR		IAG member

EM		IAG member
NH		IAG member
MC		IAG member

Item 1
Welcome and Introductions

SM, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Self introductions were done.

Item 2
Expectations of IAG Members

TP, CaDO reviewed expectations of the members. Points included:

- Building trust and community confidence
- Separate document shared with detail of purpose (of IAG role)
- Provide constructive feedback to police
- Provide support for critical incidents
- Let police know about any community tension or concern(s)
- Role IAG played in Forbury Gardens incident and summer disorder that caused fear in local communities
- TP advised he is available for members to contact if there are any concerns rather than wait until our next meeting, please contact him directly.
- Community Scrutiny Panel – reviewed by TP (see separate document). If anyone is interested in joining the panel, please contact TP directly. SM suggested members consider this role and provides good insight into police work.
- Rural communities – we are considering having a discussion and information provided at one of our IAG meetings. SM advised as this is a way for us to listen and learn about our local communities.

Item 3
What's App Group

Insp. MG and TP, CaDO discussed the usage of IAG What's App groups. Points included:

- Promotes rapid communication and dissemination of information
- Share and promote events in the community with each other
- Discussion held regarding merging IAG groups (ie West Berkshire LPA, Reading LPA, etc). Or to have bespoke groups or to have one.
- Live updates can be provided
- Detail may be provided to assist in the dissemination of accurate information

- Confidential information is not shared on What's App.
- Insp. MG suggested on What's App group be considered
- AKC reiterated how well the West Berks LPA What's App worked and noted the website is not as useful or easy to use. Also, Wokingham, West Berkshire and Reading to have different community concerns and how can we reflect this. It would also help to have papers presented ahead of the meetings.
- **Decision/Action: One What's App Group to be created to represent the Berkshire West LCU IAG. Insp. MG/TP to lead. Additionally, further discussion to maintain the original three will be held with members and chair.**

Item 4
LCU Commander Overview

Ch/Supt. FP provided an overview for the members. Points included:

- See separate document (slides with detailed information – overview of crime and structure of the new LCU)
- Importance of community confidence and interaction with community and leaders is a key focus
- Rural crime – there is a conference next week and more work is going to be put into this crime type
- Sexual offences and violence against women and girls – we are prioritising as well
- Shoplifting – we have had done a lot of work in this area recently and we are working closely with business.
- Neighbourhood Policing – reviewed (see slides). Names of officers in local areas are included.
- Community engagement is key to our work, the IAG is essential
- Information requested in chat: *is it possible to have data specific to domestic abuse incidents among BAME community in Wokingham and other areas and also comparison with national data*
- Who is our key police contact? Can we keep our local What's App group? AKC asked.
    - *TP – is local contact for members (all members)*
    - *Insp. MG – will provide support detailed concerns and requests*
    - *Ch/Supt. FP – is the equivalent role of the Commander. She is the LCU Commander.*
    - *Speak with Insp MG and SM to confirm keeping What's App group.*
    - *SM reminded everyone to use the appropriate channels for contacting police – if you have an emergency etc.*
- PA offered to give presentation on how to engage with your communities and would be interested in obtaining input from members. SM agreed it would be helpful. PA also offered to present to TVP (ie PCSOs) and would encourage feedback.

- Members were pleased to see data from each area

Item 5
Discussion

What is the perception of local police in relation to the community you represent? Any feedback for TVP that will help build trust and confidence?

Points included:

- Is it possible to have the crime survey data for England and Wales – confidence in local policing by ethnicity? This would be a good starting point for discussion at a future meeting.
- PCSOs in area, particularly at the university, has been valuable. Students' perception of safety – there is a trend of women and girls saying they want to see more police. Men and boys reflect the opposite and their desire (not) to see police. Welcome week in late September – we would like PCSOs to come out to the university. It is helpful to 'match a face' wherein our students can get to know who the officers/PCSOs are and there is a better chance of them feeling confident to report. Ch/Supt. FP advised this information is helpful and would progress & would like more information on why men/boys do not want to see police. HKL advised they often feel the police 'are the bad guys' and some because they feel safe and do not need police.
- Facebook reports – can some of these be countered to alleviate unnecessary escalation of community fear and tension asked JG. Ch/Supt. FP asked for members views on what can be done. Police cannot take action against social media. JG suggested a stronger rebuttal may be worth considering. Ch/Supt. FP advised she will review the responses and ensure there is no ambiguity. Please report any hate crimes/violence to police if you have concerns advised SM. Also, ensure the comms team responds faster than then have in the past advised AKC. PMc agreed with AKC regarding the need for speed of response.
- Insp. MG advised he is available to help answer any questions or obtain information to address any concerns.

Item 6
Information from IAG members about their Communities

PA: project to make public spaces safer. Encouraging people to report. This will be deployed across Berkshire and we will invite people to come along on training courses. It is currently a pilot. This could be held for the IAG. There is a slide presentation that can be shared. Paul will liaise with neighbourhood inspectors as suggested by Ch/Supt. FP. Insp. MG will link in with PA as well.

AB: requested clarification regarding permission given by police from outside (out of Berkshire) individuals/groups. SM asked TP to speak to AB outside the meeting.

Contact Details for TP, CaDO:

Berkshire West LCU, Thames Valley Police, 07413588524. Email: Tripatdeep.pannu@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel: Trip Pannu is considering expanding it from Reading to other areas within Berkshire.

Item 7
AOB

No issues raised.

Next Meeting(s):
- 3 September
- 26 November
- 11 February 2026