Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Berkshire West Local Command Unit

DATE 3 September 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	
PS Simon Botham	SB	Wokingham NHPT
Trip Pannu	TP	CaDO
MP	MP	IAG member
MJ	MJ	IAG member
AK	AK	IAG member
AP	AP	IAG member
SG	SG	IAG member
EM	EM	IAG member
BZ	BZ	IAG member
AKC	AKC	IAG member
HKL	HKL	IAG member
KR	KR	IAG member
NH	NH	IAG member
JM	JM	IAG member
PA	PA	IAG member
AH	AH	IAG member
KP	KP	IAG member
PMc	PMc	IAG member
MM	MM	IAG member

Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Apologies		
AB	AB	IAG member
JG	JG	IAG member
MC	MC	IAG member
JGe	JGe	IAG member
SL	SL	IAG member
RG	RG	Guest

Item 1
Welcome and Introductions

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

Action from Meeting Held 14 May 2025:

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 2
Guest Speaker

RG, Head of Performance, Scrutiny and Assurance from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner joined the meeting and shared information about her role was unable to attend due to a last minute personal matter and this item will be scheduled at a later date.

Item 3
LCU Commander Update

Ch/Supt. FP provided updates and information as follows:

- Serious crime in Reading Town Centre reviewed (incidents unconnected)
- Reading Festival – crime was down this year
- Section 60 was put in place for one of the incidents and Insp. MG did not send a message out to members and apologised. When Section 60s are put in place we do try to provide an update to the IAG. There is a review and the Community Scrutiny Panel has 28 days to review the body worn video then it will go to the IAG membership advised TP. AKC requested updates for the group when the Chair is updated on issues.

- **Action 1: Next IAG Body Worn Video of Section 60 for incident in Reading over the summer for members to review. TP/Insp. MG to action.**
- **Rural Crime:** Ch/Supt. FP provided an update on the action taken in TVP to address this crime. There is a Rural Crime Task Force and a group chaired by ACC Bunt. Cross border work to share intelligence is done. Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) are the focus of our work. Local neighbourhood team are executing a plan to address rural crime. Prevention and What's App – to progress intel is in place. Awareness for officers in Newbury is in place as well. Rural Crime Conference held four months ago.
- Lots of four by four activity after hares and deer – note from JGe presented by SG. Ch/Supt. FP asked for details on location. **Action 2: Insp. MG to contact JGe to obtain intel regarding four by four activity.**
- **Asylum Hotels:** SM advised he maintains contact with TP to support monitoring the community concerns. Police have a plan in place should any issues arise. Joint task force with Hampshire Police is in place. Extra patrols are also in place. Ch/Supt. FP advised there is information sharing in place with partners. Police focus on crime and disorder. Community needs to feel safe. We are able to deploy resources should they be needed. At this time there is no intelligence for us to have concerns as seen in Epping/Kent. However, should issues arise, there are plans in place to take appropriate action. Ch/Insp. ET leads on the local community plans for this area.
- **Flags:** SG advised there is a local concern in Newbury regarding St. George Cross/flags and painted roundabouts. TP advised they have been in Reading (painted roundabouts) but they have cleaned the road. Councils make the decision to clean the roads (painted). MP agreed it is worrying in Newbury. AKC advised her contacts in Wokingham Council advised they are led by the police to inform their action. TP advised he is in regular contact with asylum hotels. Co-ordination between statutory and voluntary organisations is learning from Forbury Gardens advised NH. Consider third party reporting advised SM. AK expressed concern regarding housing and availability for the local residents. PS WB provided an update on local work done by the neighbourhood team in Wokingham. Ch/Supt. FP assured members she has officers, including senior officers, to respond to issues that relate to the police role in society and the issue of asylum hotels. Additionally, she advised she will reflect on members' comments and concerns and was appreciative of the sentiment.
- **Action 3: Ch/Supt. FP to contact counterparts in West Berks Council and Wokingham Borough Council and Reading BC to see if they will action removing painted crosses on roundabouts and take action to remove flags due to community concern in Berkshire West LCU.**
- **Action 4: Insp. MG and TP to meet with NH regarding concerns within the refugee community. Reporting process – to be addressed as well as safety should any incidents arise.**
- **Palestine Action Protests**: community concerns outlined by SM. Ch/Supt. FP advised the police must follow legislation and provided an overview from a Commander's perspective. The support of Palestine and the Palestine Action Group

are two areas – and many community members ask how they can support Palestine without committing a crime against the legislation advised Ch/Supt. FP. TP advised protests have been peaceful and well organised – including following a code of conduct.

Item 4
Fresher's Week at Reading University

PS SB provided an update on the police work being done to support Fresher's Week. Points included:

- 22 – 26 September. Welcome events through the day and Fresher's events tend to be in the evening.
- Team will be at the University on the Sunday (moving in day) and a stall is set up outside the Student Union so they can meet their local police team.
- 24th September – at the University the main Student Union event which will be policed passively including drug dogs. This is a police operation.
- Fresher's Fair will be attended by police so they can meet the policing team (local) and some of the wider police family.
- Weekend plan – student numbers going into town have fluctuated. The night time economy we will move to a 'red' evening so we can place additional resources in the town.

Item 5
Discussion

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

Discussion points included:

- AK – thanked police for shoplifting work and success
- NH – how can refugees and asylum seekers gain trust with police? Banner outside Reading Police Station needs to be improved.
- HKL – international students have concern over their safety and we are working with them to address. If things escalate, what should we tell our students? How should they report? PS WB reviewed the reporting procedure which is publicised at the University. There is a Security Office and team as well. Off campus, when students are in town, what should they do? There is a night time economy police operation and they can be approached at any time or call 999 if they feel in danger and do not delay calling until they return to the university. ***Ch/Supt. FP requested HKL and PS WB***

meet after the meeting today and discuss the issue of students' concern for safety outside the university and how to report.

- PA – reviewed his ride along (a 10 hour shift) with the ICR (patrol) team and will be able to go out into Social Media. PA is providing a 2-3 page analysis. PA thanked TVP for their good work and noted how hard the officers work. PA offered to share through the group/IAG. Behaviour Change Trainer – PA advised he has this qualification which was created by the NHS. Next course is targeted to family carers and the following one will be crime prevention.
- PMc – Have Your Say meetings – consider in areas that are not 'posh'. Meet your team – can you put photos with the names? It helps with visibility. Ch/Supt. FP advised she will ensure her officers action PA's comments.
- Consider a ride along with neighbourhood teams recommended PA.

Item 6
Information from IAG members about their Communities

27 September: Mosque Open Day and members are welcome. Invite will go to members advised SM.

Michaelmas's Fair: can have gangs and weapons advised SG. Insp. MG advised he is aware and enhanced patrols and schools officers do work around misinformation. The event is policed by the neighbourhood team. The last two years have been quiet though advised Insp. MG.

16 September: London League Support Sponsored Walk advised NH. It is promoted on behalf of charities and legal firms who join.

Help promote safety message requested HKL (with students and local community).

One Community Cricket in Newbury this year and the police have played as a team member advised AKC.

Youth IAG: SG advised the West Berks LPA had set this up. It was led under ZA's command.
Action 5: Insp. MG and SG to meet and discuss re-invigorating the Youth IAG.

Item 7
Current Crime Trends

Presented by Ch/Supt. FP. The following areas were reviewed.

- Victim Satisfaction

- Neighbourhood Crime
- Burglary – numbers have dropped
- Knife Crime – numbers are low
- Under-reporting – plan in place for Rural Crime that is needed
- Members interested in any crime types to be addressed at the next meeting please feel free to let MS for Ch/Supt. FP's attention.
- KP advised IAG members can help let the public know
- **Action 6: Newsletter to be sent by PS VB to members of the IAG (last issue and current).**
- Asian high value crime/burglaries – is it still prevalent? AK asked regarding Diwali which is coming up.
- **Ch/Supt. FP advised she will speak to her team to see if there is any issues of concern/intel and to consider crime prevention information.**

Item 8
AOB

Action 7: Berks West LCU IAG What's App Group will be created by SM.

Please ensure you contact police directly instead of contacting the IAG Chair if there are crimes to report.

Next Meeting(s):

- 26 November
- 11 February 2026