



Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Berkshire West Local Command Unit

DATE 13 May 2026

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION: Teams

Attendees	Initials	Position and Area
SM	SM	IAG Chair
Ch/Supt. Felicity Parker		LCU Commander
MC	MC	IAG Member
TP	TP	TVP CaDO
AK	AK	IAG Member
SG	SG	IAG Member
KR	KR	IAG Member
MM	MM	IAG Member
KP	KP	IAG Member
AB	AB	IAG Member
JG	JG	IAG Member
BZ	BZ	IAG Member
JM	JM	IAG Member
PA	PA	IAG Member
PM	PM	IAG Member
MS	MS	TVP Admin Support
Apologies		
HKL	HKL	IAG Member
AH	AH	IAG Member
MC	MC	IAG Member
EM	EM	IAG Member
AP	AP	IAG Member
MP	MP	IAG Member

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MJ	MJ	IAG Member
AKC	AKC	IAG Member
JG	JG	IAG Member

Item 1

Welcome and Introductions

SM, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Notes from our February 2026 meeting reviewed and approved.

Item 2

LCU Commander Update

Ch/Supt. Parker provided update:

- Op Flamante – West Berkshire operation, day of action, addressing anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and shop lifting in Thatcham. Arrests made and it has had an impact on surrounding area. Another day of action is planned.
- Op Servator – Reading. Trained officers in uniform provide to deter crime and hostile activity.
- PSPO (Reading Public Space Protection Order)– in place at Reading now to address anti-social behaviour.
- Newbury/Thatcham – six arrests serious violence, youth
- Op Yipple – Twyford operation to address shoplifting.
- Op Lester – Reading University targeting spiking drugs and class A drugs. Uses (passive) drug dogs.
- Op Redwing – Reading, addressing shoplifting
- Rural Crime statistics reviewed
 - West Berks 55% reduction compared to last year (year to date)
 - Rural Crime Task Force in Thames Valley Police has been successful in achieving some really good work in our area. They do a lot of proactive work as well and provide a good deterrent.
- Crime Trends – reviewed in Wokingham
 - Decrease 13% crime (January – May)
 - Small increase in ASB in Earley
- Crime Trends – reviewed in Reading and Newbury
 - Also declines in crime – both areas

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- Any members that have questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact us
- Op Phlomos – reviewed by Trip Pannu
 - Is TVP's response to heightened community tensions with regard to Middle East conflict.
 - Trip described his engagement with communities including Muslim and Jewish to ensure all feel safe. Neighbourhood teams also engage with local communities to provide support.
 - Force Community Impact Assessment – is work that Trip does to assess community tension (potential tension) and ensure resources are in place to address
 - Ch/Supt. Parker reviewed the process for local concerns/issues to be address.
 - National threat assessment raised to severe – Ch/Supt. Parker reviewed the need for everyone to be vigilant
 - Trip advised there has been no concern identified with local tension. There is good solidarity within our communities advised Sulayman.
- Domestic Abuse – reviewed by Ch/Supt. Parker
 - Increase of 12%
 - We do feel more people are reporting and confidence with their ability to call police when it happens
 - The daily review of these crimes was outlined. This ensures that there is a robust investigation in place for each crime
- Response Times – reviewed by Ch/Supt. Parker
 - Grade 1 response – we have 20 minutes to get to crime
 - Grade 2 response – 60 minutes
 - Grade 3 response – one day
 - Grade 2 – 68%
 - Grade 1 – 73% (target has increased to 80% by government)
 - We are working to increase our performance in both
 - Assessment and Investigation Unit – supports our performance and these officers will speak to people who call in (victims) who need to speak to an officer right away. This is in addition to our officers responding in their patrol cars.
 - Right care, right person – reviewed (this relates to mental health calls)
 - **Action 1: Provide Right care, right person detail for members, including PA. Ch/Supt Parker to action.**
- *How are domestic abuse and VAWG strategies aligned? What is being done to address misogyny and early stage harmful behaviour?* Archana Kakar asked.
 - This is done through partnership work and prevention. Victims and families are support, again through partnerships, including the Safeguarding Partnership. There is also a Domestic Abuse Strategic Group that support this work in our

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LCU. Community Safety Partnership also support safe spaces for girls. Insp. Sophie Gardner leads locally for VAWG (violence against women and girls) advised Ch/Supt. Parker.

- Work with missing children within police was reviewed by Ch/Supt. Parker
 - **Action 2: Stalking and Harassment to be added to the agenda for Ch/Supt. Parker to discuss at our next meeting.**
- Professional Standards in policing – reviewed by Ch/Supt. Parker. As a percentage, TVP have terminated more officers (all areas of misconduct) than the MET.
- If you have any events that you would like police support, for local events, please let Ch/Supt Parker know.
- **Have Your Say Events** – locations were reviewed (in Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire).
 - **Action 3: Have Your Say Events – details to go to IAG members. Ch/Supt. Parker**
 - Feedback that PCSOs were very good and to pass on thanks from Margo.

Item 3

Hate Crime

TP reviewed data for hate crime.

- All hate crimes are reviewed each morning to ensure robust action is in place with regard to investigation and victim support
- Reading has had a rise, and this was reviewed by ACRE with TP. They are mainly public order offences and victims that did not support proceedings. We are going to do more work with local community to build confidence to support.
- **There is going to be a LCU Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel that we are going to convene. If anyone is interested, please let TP know.**

Item 4

Neighbourhood Watch Week– Paul Adkins

- This week is the first week in June 2026
- If you have any events within your community and would like PA I to attend (he has items to give out – pens, alarms, etc).
- Our Neighbourhood Watch AGM is in a week's time, 21 May, and Ch/Supt. Emma Baille from Milton Keynes will be speaking. This is for members but all are welcome to join.

Item 5

Facial Recognition – PA and JG

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- Report sent to members prior to the meeting.
- Paul reviewed the software and advised there have been no false positives
- The data is not being held.
- JG advised it is .2 of a second and it is deleted if you are not 'a person of interest'. The apprehension of someone in public can be misconstrued. John reviewed an incident he observed on the Oxford Road. There was no opportunity for people to understand why the person was arrested.

Item 5

Information from IAG members about their Communities

JM: lives in Thatcham and aware there have been incidents in the area. Good engagement with police with regard to working with survivors (abuse).

AKr: good update with police action in today's report. Continual concerns regarding congestion, road works around Winnersh, Wokingham. Speeding is an issue for us as well.

KP: when local community organises events – there are not many people from Newbury/Thatcham but people from the outer area seem to get more involved. This happens in Newbury with local events. It is an observation. Community is appreciative of police work. Sulayman advised it might be helpful for him, with Trip, to speak outside the meeting to review more support.

PA: Neighbourhood watch starting a pilot scheme. Reading and Newbury – you will see adverts on buses. Let us know what you think. We also have funding to support local safety projects (personal alarms, security lighting, etc.). Reading University event was successful disseminating information.

ZB: no issues to report.

MC: provided update on the Scrutiny Panel. Dates are in place and we are going to work with Insp. Day to review BWV (body worn video). We are planning to put a What's App group together to provide good comms for the group.

MM: no issues to raise.

KR: Dementia Action week – next week. All information is on our website. Carers' Week is in June. 1st October it would be good to have police representatives for Older People's event. Will send dates to MS to disseminate to the group.

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PM: Appleby Horse Fair, beginning of June – unauthorised encampments expected. Concerns metal, cable, diesel theft. 16 June – Tommy Robinson’s event is happening in London, and do we expect any local issues to arise? World Cup is on and domestic violence increases during this time – something to be aware. Ch/Supt. Parker reviewed policing command structure for both London event and World Cup.

SM: murder in Bracknell recently. There have been some arrests. Was there any intelligence with regard to targeting? Ch/Supt. Parker advised there have been community meetings to update local people in Berkshire East Local Command Unit. We are not aware of issues concerning Berkshire West. Trip Pannu advised there are no concerns with regard to community tension in Bracknell or surrounding area.

Ch/Supt. Parker: thanked everyone for their commitment.

Next Meetings – agreed as follows:

- 2026 Meetings: 15 July, 20 October and 9 December

Action Summary

13 May 2026

Action 1: Provide Right care, right person detail for members, including PA. Ch/Supt Parker to action.

Action 2: Stalking and Harassment to be added to the agenda for Ch/Supt. Parker to discuss at our next meeting.

Action 3: Have Your Say Events – details to go to IAG members. Ch/Supt. Parker

Action 4: Let Facial Recognition van (team) know that it would be helpful for members of the public to understand what is going on (ie when there is an arrest). Ch/Supt. Parker to action.

Action 5: Speeding in the Wokingham area – what is being done? Ch/Supt. Parker to provide AK and members with detail.

Action 6: Appleby Horse Fair, beginning of June – crime prevention plans? Ch/Supt. Parker to provide update (raised by PM).

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Action 7: Provide crime prevention detail for members to disseminate regarding domestic violence/abuse concerns relating to the World Cup. Ch/Supt. Parker to action.

There is going to be a LCU Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel that we are going to convene. If anyone is interested, please let TP know.

Meeting Held 11 February 2026

Action 1: Ch/Supt. Parker will provide detail to members regarding the issue of reporting online abuse. Update: sent to members prior to the meeting.

Action 2: Ch/Supt. Parker to provide information regarding facial recognition – more detail including what happens with images and what is the governance framework? Storage of images, sharing with other organisations – areas of concern. Update: sent to members after the 11 February meeting.

Action 3: Response times – detail to be sent to members by Ch/Supt. Parker. Update: reviewed in meeting today (13 May 2026).

Action 4: Share schedule of Have Your Say Meetings and see if IAG members are happy with the location, time, frequency. Ch/Supt. Parker to action. This will be an agenda item for discussion at our next meeting. Update: discussed today, 13 May 2026).

Hate Crime scrutiny in each of our three areas within the LCU- Newbury, Wokingham and Reading: TP requested this issue to be raised under AOB. If anyone is interested, please contact Trip.