



Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Berkshire West Local Command Unit

DATE 2 September 2026

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION: Teams

Attendees	Initials	Position and Area
Ch/Supt. Felicity Parker	FP	LCU Commander
PS Simon Botham	SB	TVP Sergeant
SM	SM	IAG Chair
HKL	HKL	IAG Member
MC	MC	IAG Member
AK	AK	IAG Member
KR	KR	IAG Member
JG	JG	IAG Member
KP	KP	IAG Member
JM	JM	IAG Member
PA	PA	IAG Member
AKC	AKC	IAG Member
JG	JG	IAG Member
PM	PM	IAG Member
NKA	NKA	IAG Member
MS	MS	TVP Admin Support
Apologies:		
BZ	BZ	IAG Member
MM	MM	IAG Member
MP	MP	IAG Member
MJ	MJ	IAG Member
SG	SG	IAG Member
TP	TP	TVP CaDO

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MC	MC	IAG Member
AB	AB	IAG Member
AH	AH	IAG Member
AP	AP	IAG Member
EM	EM	IAG Member

Item 1

Welcome and Introductions

Sulayman Munir, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Notes from our May 2026 meeting reviewed and approved.

Item 2

IAG Structure

SM led a discussion on IAG structure. Points included:

- Key to review format/structure based on changes from LPAs to LCUs because it has been over a year now.
- Do members feel more localised meetings should be in place rather than the processes we have now?
- West Berks feels the IAG is very Reading centric and it was raised in the beginning but no one listened.
- Rural crime was dealt with locally and now no one deals with it. We do not get feedback. We need faster action – from the Force as well.
- What's App group doesn't share information
- Improvement of comms is something we would like to see
- Officers – if you need them, contact directly through TVP channels
- MG used to be link and he is gone now.
- IAG in Newbury was better and now it is a waste of time. If it goes back to be West Berks focussed, will stay but leave it if remains as a LCU.
- Chair wants to make sure the support is provided to members
- Communities – focus on communities needs to be defined
- Will senior TVP officers be available, Ch/Supt. Parker in particular, to attend meetings from all three areas (Wokingham, West Berks, Reading)
- Faster turn around time on our concerns
- Understanding what happens in our communities – is key and we need a good flow of information.
- TVP requested the forum/structure LCU wide.

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- Access or meetings is the request?
- Communities are not necessarily a geographical issue
- We said in the beginning it would not work. We were very proactive for the community and now we do not do anything. We want people to react and we are in fear.
- We had better access to police in Newbury. Now we do not.
- We want to support police and we want to ensure there is confidence in communications. We can relay this out into the communities.
- Making officers more accessible online consider rather than in person – to better reach the local communities
- Was a member of the Wokingham IAG and felt the change would be less personal.
- We need good contacts with local neighbourhood officers. Email address, contact details for NHPT in our local areas would help.
- Improve feedback mechanisms – when we call something in
- We could create sub-committees which would represent Reading, West Berks and Wokingham. Then we could feed this information into the full quarterly IAG meetings.
- Other IAGs in TVP we have looked at for ideas.
- Proposal: Meetings face to face – once a year
- Proposal: Group meeting every six months
- Proposal: meetings based/themed on incidents that have occurred or chose a police related activity (ie Section 60s).
- Proposal: local and regional IAG. Localised meetings. Have leads for different areas – Rural, Disabilities, Elderly for example.
- PS Simon Botham advised he has taken over from Insp Matt Gow's role. Key areas to consider:
 - Maintaining genuine independence
 - Not personal opinions
 - Building trust and relationships
 - Focus on community impact
 - Section 60s, etc
 - Action oriented and outcome focussed.
 - Examining other forces for best practice
- For many people, IAG is 'one hat' we are wearing. We represent our communities in our various roles.
- One advisory group for each local commander based on geographical focus of structure
- Local information – is lost on the current structure
- Devolve and go back to structure or create updated structure to include localisation of IAG/communities
- Consider devolve police representation
- Community Leaders – annual event consider
- 'Retreating' back into different areas – consider negative

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- Only two points raised for discussion by members for this meeting. Why did members not contribute more?
- Should we only be concerned about our local area sole or do we want to ensure we have a strategic oversight for the entire area in which we all live
- We had better communication in Newbury when we only met in locally
- We have commonality with challenges we all face
- Local meetings – can inform meetings as recommended by our Chair
- How do we make communication more effective outside the meetings, within the meetings, in the meeting structure
- Themed meetings – violence against women, responsive to incidents
- Terms of Reference – we are critical friends, we represent communities, we can listen to our local community concerns and get them across to police. It is not about shortcutting the system because we are IAG members.
- Empathy with other communities – is built through our IAG contacts.
- Areas of commonality – key for all members
- IAG members are 'critical friends'
- Set items on the agenda that are always discussed rather than ask members for items they want to discuss
- Share data prior to the meeting
- Consider the needs and experiences of the wider community and share learning are key
- Police need oversight of all communities
- Police are committed to improve and meet the needs of members, the communities.

Item 3

LCU Commander Update

- Sentencing Act Reforms – there will be some changes, however, some are not going forward. More people will be sentenced to community rehab and tagging (more) will be used. There will be more onus on police and there is more to come in this area.
- Lord Hogan Howell – is working with the government regarding police reform – to become larger forces. It will allow for us to build capabilities around – cyber, organised crime, etc. The paper is nearly ready to go to the Home Secretary and PM.
- Local Government Reform – South of Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berks – will merge 2028. This is a local authority change.
- Significant challenges – nationally 13% increase in calls for service. High summer demand for us.
- Change in personnel in neighbourhood policing
 - MG is in another department, and Simon Botham is now in his role
 - Ch/Insp. Andrew Grahame is the new lead for neighbourhood policing

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- NKA introduced herself as she is working for TVP to link in with communities, share on social media and work with youth.
- Crime overview provided – shoplifting thefts increased reporting which we have been working toward. Solved crime rate currently 26.4%.
- Recording ethnicity – national area of focus to improve
- Neighbourhood Disruption Team – targeted approach to proactively address crime
- E-scooters and E-bike seizures – we are one of five areas in three counties and we led with 385
 - Engagement to reduce the harm these make
- Knife Crime – one murder, Lower Early, offenders are awaiting trial. Great community leader support. Thank you for this support.
- We are reducing knife crime in each area and we want to understand what we can do to support. There will be more focussed work in this area.
- Hate Crime: reviewed by PS Botham.
 - Increase in both race and faith related incidents and crimes
 - National invest in officers to support Jewish communities. This change will come in within the next couple of months
- Targeted health workers – concern raised. Safeguarding Boards also work to address this area as well. Consider a further discussion at the next meeting so members can provide support to others
- Hate Crime Week – is next month.
- Neighbourhood Events
 - Woodley Carnival public order incident – driven from social media and believe it was isolated
 - Moat House – educational presentations, number of residents have dropped
 - Retail crime focussed on in Reading including organised crime.
 - Night time economy – supporting local proprietors
 - ASB for Newbury – there has been a decrease over the summer. The local teams ran a number of operations to address.
 - Insp. Al Hawkett leads on the NHPT work in West Berks
 - ASB with no crime and with actual crimes, the crime figures are lower
 - Issues with motorcycles being used – they have identified individuals and will be taking action advised Ch/Supt. Parker.

Item 5

AOB

JM: considering bringing movie based on abuse and we are doing something at the police training centre. It would be good to get the director in and have the movie shown.

MC: 19th September is the TVP Open Day at Sulhamstead Police Training Centre.



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Next Meetings – agreed as follows:

- 2026 Meetings: 15 October and 9 December

Action Summary

Action 1: Terms of Reference – review and propose plan for structure. This will be sent to for members to consider. SM to lead.

Action 2: Recording ethnicity – plan to improve this area. Ch/Supt. Parker to provide members with detailed information.

Action 3: Members to share Hate Crime Week requests to MS for PS Botham.

Action 4: MS to compile questionnaire to inform next meeting discussion of IAG structure.

13 May 2026

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

Update: PA to confirm he has received information.

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

Update: to be covered at our next meeting.

Status: ongoing.

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

Update: PS Botham will be leading on this information.

Status: ongoing.

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.

Update: Ch/Supt. Parker has provided feedback to Facial Recognition Team.

Status: complete.

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

Update: PS Gilbert in contact with AK directly.

Status: complete.

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

Update: Ch/Supt. Parker directed Insp. Hawkett to review and action as appropriate.

Status: complete.

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.

Update: information sent by PS Blaszkowski.

Status: complete.