

DATE **Thursday 28th November 2024**
TIME: **19:30 pm**
LOCATION: **Online via MS Teams**

Attendees

Init	Position and Area
PB	Community Organisation – Acting Chair
AC	TVP - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA Commander
LW	TVP - Diversity and Inclusion, Senior Management Team
DL	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
SP	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
MGS	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
AYK	Community Organisation
PA	Community Organisation
KC	TVP - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA Neighbourhood Administrator

Apologies

Init	Position and Area
ET	Former IAG Chair – Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
KD	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
TMB	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
RB	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
PD	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
MWG	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
BA	TVP - Bracknell Neighbourhood Inspector
WS	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
ES	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
PR	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA
MS	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA

Others

Init	Position and Area
GA	IAG Member - Bracknell & Wokingham LPA

1. Welcome and apologies:**IAG Chair**

The list of apologies / attendees is above.

PB welcomed the attendees and wanted to express his sincere gratitude to ET for his sterling chairing over the years and to ensure our sincere thanks for his leadership was noted on behalf of the Bracknell IAG. ET did a sterling job and we shall miss him greatly. So thank you very much.

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting:**IAG Chair**

The minutes from the meeting on 25.06.24 were reviewed and accepted with the following actions either completed, amended or ongoing:-

B&W LPA are 6th out of 11 in the TVP LPA crime table.

ACTION: ALL - How are our communities feeling about this level of crime?? And what should we, as IAG Members, be doing to feed back this information to the police. **Ongoing**

Race Hate Action Plan

ACTION: ALL – Are Members aware of anyone from the Afro-Caribbean community who may be willing to be involved? Respond to KC with outcome. **ET has approached 2 people without success. AC reported that the Race Action Plan is in delivery and his intention is to provide an update in a future meeting. Completed**

PB suggested inviting AYK, who leads on community work and specifically reaches into some of the seldom heard communities, to a future IAG meeting.

ACTION: PB & KC - Approach AYK to come in and speak to the IAG. **Completed**

KC has advised AYK of change of date from 19th to 28th November and response received. Completed

Binfield: ASB

PD advised there had been an increase of antisocial behaviour seeming to come from four youths, based around the Fox's den, the parish council offices, and the estate.

ACTION: PD – PD to send the details of the issues to AC and he will get someone to make contact and look at putting something in place to manage what's happening there.

PD confirmed he had reported the details and continues to report ASB which currently involves a local lad riding an e-bike very quickly on the back wheel. MWG advised this is also happening in the town centre and underpasses. Completed

AOB

MS mentioned that Arlott Green repeatedly has high levels of violence and sexual offences (every month). Is this domestic and being tackled as it has gone on for over a year? It leads to skewed data for the whole of Crowthorne.

ACTION AC – Look into the figures and get back to MS. **AC advised the figures may have been impacted by reports of historic offending which is recorded now. Completed**

Overview of crime and policing issues

MWG asked whether the numbers discussed included unaccompanied children that have come to this country either legally or illegally and are resident here or are being fostered in this area, even if it's temporarily. AC offered to take away an action to speak to the missing person team to add a bit more detail around the children's information.

ACTION: AC to speak to the missing person team around more detail for the children's information and figures. AC spoke to the Misper Team who advised obtaining this information would require liaising with the local authority. **Completed**

ACTION: KC to include instructions on how to find and contact local officers with the minutes. **Completed**

3. Move from the Local Policing Areas to Local Command Units **LPA Commander**

AC confirmed Bracknell will become part of the East Berkshire LCU along with Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead and will be headed up by Chief Supt. SR. He was the LPA Commander in Reading and moved on promotion to this new role as the LCU Commander. He will be supported by a Detective Superintendent for crime, AP, who is currently the LPA Commander in West Berkshire and HK will be the Superintendent for Operations. A number of IAG members will know HK as she was the Bracknell Inspector and covered the Deputy Commander Role as a Chief Inspector for a while. Under that level are a number of Chief Inspectors. One of them is on the screen at the minute, LW. She will look after the Neighbourhood Policing Teams for the LCU and Chief Insp. DW will look after the Response Teams. There's going to be a Detective Chief Inspector for the Harm Reduction Units who will handle safeguarding and the protection of people. There will also be mental health and schools officers. They are going to give some real consistency around how we deliver policing in a number of different areas such as domestic abuse. There will be a Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit on the area and linked into that is the Harm Reduction Unit. They will manage Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Criminal Behaviour Orders. There will be a Detective Chief Inspector for crime. So your traditional world of CID (Criminal Investigation Department) investigates serious crime and the Priority Crime Team will tackle burglaries and robberies. The Tasking Team are a local proactive team that are out in plain clothes, tackling the people that are committing crimes.

One of the key things around the LCU change is the increase in geographic neighbourhood police officers for the force. Some areas will double and others will get a significant increase. This is what the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) and the Chief Constable wants. There will be Neighbourhood Supervisors supported by a number of geographic officers and PCSOs. The Labour government are talking about increasing the numbers of PCSOs and that's a real challenge where we are because of the salary. Quite a lot of people that join us as PCSOs want to become police officers and that used to be one of the routes into policing. There's some challenges with budget and all sorts of questions about funding formulas and how that works across policing. Our PCC and Chief Constable both suggest our funding is unfair, which I totally agree with because we don't actually get enough compared to the volume of population and how much we get per officer. There's a lot of lobbying going on at government level to increase that funding. If we know the allocation of officers before the Minutes go out, we will include it. So, that's what that structure is going to look like. May the 7th is the go live date and I'm going to be departing. I'm going to go back to work in our Operations Team up at Headquarters for my final six months of service and then I hang up my epaulettes because my service is done.

4. New IAG Model & how to get involved

**LPA Commander
+ Superintendent LW**

LW advised that as the new Force structure is moving from multiple local groups to LCU structures, this Independent Advisory Group would effectively merge with Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead. So we would be welcoming you into the fold for the Berkshire East IAG. The other part are the Community Scrutiny Panels. In other areas where I've introduced this, some members of the IAG have said they wouldn't mind trying some scrutiny because the business says you can't be in both. There will be some really strong rationale for that, I'm sure. But I think that one is scrutiny and one is advisory. Some of the key things that came out of the governance review was around tenure. So for a chair, it would be 2 years and a member is three years. Some people might want to stay for longer and there will be an extension period. We've also said you know we're starting out, it might be that in two years time we review it and remove the tenure, but there were some quite clear discussions around the need to have a tenure, the need to separate between scrutiny and advisory to make sure that the groups knew what their function was.

We will be introducing a payment for the Chair and removing vetting for everybody other than the Chair. The new groups should have more flexible membership and also appeal to individuals that may be concerned about vetting, whether it's something that's happened a long time ago or recently, but you know, we want to ensure that we have insight from different people's perspectives. So there's some of the key changes.

The panels are open for recruitment now. For the topics and challenges that lay for policing ahead, we'll use them as a bit of an Advisory Board where they can pull in experts from their field to help our work and understand any disproportionality and quality of duty to make sure that we remove some of the challenges that may affect policy decisions that mean one person is more likely to enter the criminal justice system than another. We're trying to streamline lots of different things, but that's a bit of an overview. There are two phases here. One is for you as Members to make an informed decision as to whether you want to remain on the IAG but become part of the LCU IAG. Having worked at Bracknell, Maidenhead, and Slough, you will all have different challenges, but you'll also have some very common themes and I'm confident that you bring in the insights and take back some of the information to your community. Clearly there's a drive for one group, because otherwise the Chief Superintendent would have to go to three separate groups. Importantly, this is about streamlining and probably using you yourselves to help us change policing rather than give you updates on what we've done locally.

I've just written a policy or operational guidance on the searching of transgender individuals. I found out there's a Unicorn rugby club in Maidenhead, an LGBT group, and so I reached out to them and said can I share this policy with you or this guidance, will you give me some feedback? We want to know what's affecting the communities and what you need policing to focus on most. But we also want your insight in because you'll all have different skills, experience, careers that could bring some real benefit to us. So I think that's why it's moving up from the local to the more almost a tactical strategic level that can give us that insight.

For example, we might have some concerns about the searching of children or children getting criminal convictions when there's alternatives. And it might be that we then say, OK, let's bring this on the agenda. Let's use the Community Scrutiny group to review some body worn videos. Let's use the Outcome Group to look at some decisions. Let's feed that information and then let's have a look at what we think we could do differently or add value, critique and share experiences so that we can look at the improvement areas. So that's really what it will look like.

There needs to be some room on your agenda to discuss matters that are happening now, but there might also be need to look at policy. For example, you have incidents or riots around the country and we pull people together and say, you know, how are your

communities feeling about that? What's the misinformation? I know that AC did that anyway, so some of that won't change.

If I set the deadline of the 20th of December for members to express their interests, it's not a hard cut off, but it enables me to say, OK, these are the members for Bracknell, these are the members that have said yes from Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead and then we can look to set a date for the first meeting in January.

It's the same process for the community scrutiny panels. I think there's adverts out for both groups at the moment.

If I look in West Yorkshire as an example, all their IAG member's names and photos are on the web page and they give a little bio about themselves. So there's things that we might want to consider. It's not a mandate, but I might put a bit of a bio somewhere. We're trying to professionalise and look outward so the community know about the work that you are doing as a group.

5. Building Community Cohesion

**Guest Speaker
AY-K**

Public Health Practitioner – AY-K, gave a presentation highlighting the Bracknell Forest Health Improvement Programme. The Public Health approach to wellness development includes epidemiological profiles as well as engagement activities and insights with local communities using World Café style events as the preferred method of approach. They are hoping this piece of work will enable Public Health and the wider council to create community profiles, so they have a deeper understanding of the positive and negative factors which influence health and wellbeing.

They plan to use insights and understanding to create targeted health and wellbeing messages and campaigns as and when required and to further develop relationships with communities who may not have previously shared their views and experiences in relation to health and wellbeing and living in Bracknell Forest. They want to support residents to build capacity and resilience within their own communities and identify potential 'health champions/researchers' and connect them into the community wellness practitioner programme (when it is fully developed).

AY-K highlighted some recent engagement work with local Hong Kong communities and some insight development with Nepalese communities locally from Sandhurst. Concerns and worries were expressed over the immigration system, as they want to become citizens quicker. They also expressed concerns around the local railway station as they often see teenagers gathered there and smell cannabis and that really concerns them. They have also spoken to a group that really want to volunteer, but are very concerned their English is not good enough. Members of these communities are very enterprising and want to look for jobs and start businesses and are probably needing a bit more support with this. The main challenges that have been highlighted are around immigration status, safety and job opportunities. More workshops will be held next year.

The IAG members expressed their thanks to AY-K for attending and providing her presentation.

6. Final messaging and reflections from LPA Commander and IAG Members **All**

PB advised this is the last Bracknell Forest IAG meeting, but hopefully not the last meeting for members in terms of bringing the voice of Bracknell Forest into the East Berkshire LCU IAG or indeed the Scrutiny Groups if that's what they choose to do. He advised it had been hugely interesting and enjoyable to be part of the Bracknell IAG and to come here as a fellow

peer that cares about their community as a resident and he was really pleased to be a part of this particular group, and to have contributed to it.

DL advised he had been involved in similar organisations within the police for a very long time, from very early days and then there was a long break and came back. The local character was important to him and it was great being a part of this and he felt they had gone from strength to strength from what he saw in the early days.

PA advised his observation of having been to a few of the meetings was that it's been really interesting to join and learn other people's perspectives and that's been really good for him and what he's trying to do as a volunteer. So it's been very helpful and hopefully he has contributed something somewhere along the line as well. He wanted to thank everyone involved in making it work and for listening, especially AC, for patiently listening to all of our needs and trying to find answers. And thanks to KC for organising all the meetings and minutes and PB for standing in as chair and, hopefully he will be working with members next year, but we shall see.

AC expressed his thanks to everyone as well and as previously said, we've developed this over a number of years now, into a group that does some good stuff, especially the impact and input you've had with the local community. So, you know, I think the opportunity is ahead, isn't it with the new restructure of the police areas as opportunities for members to continue that work and grab those opportunities and continue on doing the good stuff for your community because it does make an impact and thank you to everybody for your support to me as well. So thank you very much and take care.

KC expressed her thanks to everyone for being a part of the group and that it had been a pleasure working with everyone.

PB thanked LW for joining us today and KC for all of the administration. It couldn't happen without you behind the scenes doing what you do and to AC, sincere, thanks from all the members. PB then advised he was calling the meeting to an end.