Independent Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes

Buckinghamshire Local Command Unit

DATE 28th January 2026

TIME: 16:30 – 18:30

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams

Attendees	**Initials**	**Position and Area**
Chief Superintendent Emma Burroughs	EB	LCU Commander
SA	SAb	TVP Admin Support Officer
KA	KA	TVP CADO
AA	AA	TVP NH C/Insp
GS	GS	TVP Inspector JOU Operations
MS	MS	TVP Facial Recognition Unit
MS	MS	IAG Chair
PD	PD	IAG member
G	G	IAG member
SJ	SJ	IAG member
RA	RA	IAG member
AMV	AMV	IAG member
MI	MI	IAG member
SC-R	SC-R	IAG member
PB	PB	IAG member
PD	PD	IAG member
SA	SA	IAG member
KS	KS	IAG member
Apologies		
RM	RM	IAG member
HA	HA	IAG member
AN	AN	IAG member
PI	PI	IAG member

JD	JD	IAG member
MK	MK	IAG member
MP	MP	IAG member
HP	HP	IAG member

1. **Welcome, apologies and introductions** **Chair – MS**

2. **Approval of previous Minutes and Action** **Chair – MS**
   - Taken as read and no concerns raised.

3. **Live Facial Recognition** **Insp GS**
   - Perception- MS feels maybe seen as big brother attitude and concern. SJ feels he is happy with it as long as it is used for the correct reasons. AMV- where is it stored and who it's being shared with. PD feels it is more big brother looking after rather than being intrusive. PD doesn't know how you would get the technology to differentiate, but advised it is more how the police utilise the data. PB feels the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, and feels anything like this that helps the general public and reduce the amount of time it takes to solve problems is beneficial.
   - Images seen from December media re live facial recognition. They are actually looking at retrospective facial recognition (this is matching CCTV against a list of people). 99% accuracy, and the facial recognition has been through testing and there is no bias due to the way it is set up.
   - Met Police urged to stop facial recognition at Notting Hill carnival over racial biospheres. Retrospective used, and more than 500 people were arrested (60+ due to Facial Recognition)
   - Other Facial Recognition- mobile phones to be unlocked, passports, casinos. Police are possibly the most regulated due to the way we manage and look after our data.
   - Facial recognition types In TVP- Retrospective Facial Recognition (image obtained during investigation, CCTV/ Photos, Identification of suspect sought, checked against Police National Database
   - Live Facial Recognition- persons of interest sought by the police, images in lawful possession of police, uploaded to a van and used in a public place.

- Legal mandate- Common Law- protect life and property, preserve order and prevent to public security, prevent and detect crime, bring offenders to justice, uphold national security- Discussion around Bridges v South Wales Police.
- Regulation- Operational (Human Rights Act & Equality Act), Data Management (data protection act, GDPR, Protection of Freedoms Act, Freedom of Information), Guidance (CoP APP, Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, Facing the Camera, SCC Bio, Information Commissioner
- Force Policy & Guidance (legal mandate, Appropriate Policy Document, Standard Operating procedures, Data Protection Information Act, EIA, ECHR Impact Assessment, SCC Self-Assessment (documents will be on the force Website) Application, Authorisation & Community Impact Assessment.
- 2 x home office funded Facial Recognition Vans based in Reading. Both live and CCTV recognition.
- Discussion about how Live Facial Recognition Works. CCTV cameras- puts a feed into the live facial recognition which are standalone, no web and nothing can be transmitted. A human officer makes the final decision about the action taken, not the computer. No match identified, the image is automatically deleted post processing.
- The computer does not see a face, it sees an algorithm that can work out what is a person, and what is a head on that person. It translates the image of a face into a number and cross references this to the watch list. This can be adjusted to be geographically proportionate and around different types of offences.
- Vans are set up, people walk through the zoning recognition, and if anyone alerts on the van, comms will go out to officers and the captured image is then looked at, compared to the image on the watch list and if we think it is the right person, officers can then locate them and engage with them and verify them.
- 5 x trained officers currently, who all have enhanced higher vetting. Data put on a USB stick into the van before deployment and there are multiple passwords needed before they can access. Data is locked away. If there is an alert this will be kept for up to 31 days. Computer tells us to delete any images that wouldn't work. All files are bulk deleted and are gone within seconds.
- CCTV is recorded for 31 days. If not part of evidence, it is deleted automatically.

- Deployment Planning.
- Notable deployments and results- Met Police (Sept 2024-2025) 2077 alerts of which 2067 were true alerts (10 false out of 3,147,436 faces seen. False alert rate of 0.0003%. 962 Arrests, 549 wanted by courts & 347 wanted by police. 1084 engagements with serious & violent criminals, 1050 registered sex offenders were engaged with, 85 of these were arrested and 213 were in breach of their conditions but not arrested.
- QR Code which takes you to the force website
- MS acknowledged the amazing success rate of this.
- People may say there are lots of resources standing around but they are engaging with the public and you can't measure prevention. Long term plan is to go back and do analytical research- would take about 18 months to get data to do this.
- PB bought up the fact that crime often spans 2/3 counties and asked how good the data sharing from this was between different forces. GS advised this was work being looked at by the Home Office due to the possible changes they are looking at putting in place, due to it involving the Police National Databases. MS also added that the NPCC are doing some work at the moment around creating National Watch lists so we can have high level suspects which can be shared across all counties that have these vans.th
- SCR asked the likelihood of us getting extra resources. GS advised there is funding, but this would be a decision for the Chief Constable. Feels he would like to do this proportionately, so while a couple more vans would be brilliant, but wouldn't want to have one so we could go to every town every day.
- AMV asked if the positive feedback from shopkeepers was because there was visible policing and officers and if Neighbourhood Policing needs to be pushed a bit more walking through shopping centres. MS advised we have had a big uplift recently and he has no doubt that just having big visible vans deployed and having officers walking about the street and then proactively engaging with people would have had that effect. But any officers going in on the ground and engaging with people will be a positive thing.

4. Community Scrutiny Panel Insights **C/Insp AA**

- **Themes and risk areas requiring IAG consideration**
- Held 27th January.
- Overall scrutiny panel that has oversight over all the boards. They look at individual Body Worn Video Cameras. They look at themes and directions and the data that comes out of the reviews help direct. We then look to come to the IAG with our findings and any recommendations to check we are going in the right direction.
- Total 671 Searches conducted across Bucks, in the last calendar year, stop searches are up by 14.1%
- 45.2% positive outcome rate.
- 18-34 year olds still highest demographic
- 11.7% of all stop searches on under 18
- Risk- Date 24-25 is risk in disproportionality as 6 x more likely to be searched if you are black, and 3.04% more likely to be searched if you are Asian.
- What we are doing- been working and continue to work with analysts to understand context (census data considered, is there another reason?). Spikes seen in Nov 24 & March, April and Oct 25. Could be linked to Operational Deployments during these times. Scrutiny Panel would like to review some of these stop searches.
- PB asked how we would know who we stop and search. AA advised we might have grounds to suspect someone, and that can be officer generated (and the grounds for the search would need to be appropriate and proportionate). Intelligence led is also an option. Identified we need to upskill the officers I making them understand the why to give us the data accuracy.
- Theme request this quarter was S163 Road Traffic Act and S23 Drug Searches. No general themes across the 4 videos. 2 x videos for each of the searches viewed). Discussion around the videos and feedback given by the Scrutiny Panel.
- Reflections on feedback from the Scrutiny Panel Reviews- Slow down verbal, speak more clearly, have empathy and explain more clearly. Feel that learning has been taken on from the last sub panel- questioned the 2 x pairs of trousers, Gowisely was fully complied with, handcuffs not used, safeguarding was not needed to be observed as both adults.
- In panel, they enquired how and why officers would mark BWV as evidential- reasoning given.

- Microsoft form used to complete a stop search was assessed by the panel as too bureaucratic and a barrier to officers completing work- Could be streamlined.
- Disproportionality data discussed for Nov 24 (Op Sceptre) and March 2025.

5. Freedom From Violence and Abuse: Cross Government VAWG Strategy & Action Plan 2025 C/Supt EB

- New strategy published by home office on 18th December.
- VAWG- Violence Against Women & Girls
- AMV asked if when attending a domestic incident we still report to GPs, Health Visitors etc. EB advised that there is a computerised form that an officer has to fill in and has to be completed before they finish their tour of duty, which gets sent to MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) who then send to GOs, schools, social workers etc.
- SAB asked what happens to those children who do not attend school, and children from the travelling community. EB advised that those children who are home schooled, it goes through to Social Services as they should be aware that those children are being home schooled, and if known, social services visit them once a year. In regards to the travelling community, KA advised that we are making various attempts to engage with the community, and some are willing to engage and others aren't. We are doing partnership work with other partners to build trust and engagement.
- SJ advised that Neighbourhood Watch can usually get a lot of communication with the community and if there is anything specific for VAWG then they could support with getting the leaflets out.
- PD suggested communication with children at a secondary level would be helpful so they can work out if they are a victim or not.
- KS advised that there is a big focus in schools at the moment highlighting self-responsibility and making the right choices. In one school, we do it through tutor time, PSHE, religious studies and citizenship. So there's four subject areas and then at the same time it is built into all the core area subjects as well. It is making people aware of what is actually normal behaviour and what isn't normal behaviour and that gives opportunities to raise things and as part of any safeguarding training, members of staff then alerts us if they hear something that they think we should be aware of as well. It's the age-old thing about safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. And just because we're not

aware of something being a problem or a trend doesn't mean the problem's not there.

- PB pointed out the Bucks Council Children's and Education Scrutiny Committee could be a point of reference for us TVP to use.

6. Criticality Updates: C/Supt EB

- **New or emerging issues**
- **Crime Updates**
- Operation Grotto- winter burglary campaign. Started in October. We have drawn on a number of people to amplify the message. Work has been done in the Neighbourhood Watch field. Messages have gone out on social media platforms.
- Seasonally we see an increase in burglaries during the winter periods for a number of reasons- clocks go back, more evident when people are not home due to houses being in darkness, run up to Christmas where people are buying gifts and storing them in their houses, and people can go away for a period of time.
- Reflecting on an operation the previous year, we realised we were starting too late in the afternoon, so extended our hours of working and made sure there was more partnership and engagement, and really focusing on the preventative element (leaving a light on, for example)
- We saw some significant reductions- 9% reduction in Crime, each month has seen a reduction- Previous years we have seen 300, then dropped to 280, this year it is 250. While some may say this is a small number, but from our point of view, that's 30 less victims of crime.
- Also, if police are out there and visible, you actually deal with a number of other jobs as well- we arrested people who were wanted for other offences- drink drivers, fail to stop accident and we managed to stop the vehicle.
- If you focus your resources in the right place at the right time, there are a lot of other benefits.

07/01- Op Grotto Burglary Results 2023-2025

Op Grotto	2023	2024	2025
October	24	24	21
November	159	166	119
December	129	92	117
Total Burglaries	312	282	257
% Reduction		10%	9%
		26% Including Jan 2025	

The operational delivery of Op Grotto includes the following:

- Dedicated overt patrols completed each day by Neighbourhood Patrol Team (NHPT) & Priority Crime Team (PCT) that are bronzed by a dedicated Sergeant.
- Overt tasking patrols as designated by Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TTCG).
- Crime prevention activity completed by NHPT, Volunteers, Cadets and Partners.
- Weekly ANPR operations being carried out by NH, Special Constables, Incident & Crime Response (ICR), PCT & Joint Operations Unit Officers.
- Covert patrols by PCT and the Proactive Team depending on demand.
- Enhanced burglary focused intelligence gathering between Force Intelligence Hub (FIH), Dedicated Surveillance Unit (DSU) and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) .
- Social Media campaign with preventative advice and operational activity.

7. AOB **All**

- **Joint TVP/WDNHW Seminar on Burglary Avoidance** **SJ**
- Last week we held this joint Bucks Police neighbourhood Watch seminar on protection against burglary. The police have a set of slides we used.
- And we have some leaflets with checklists that people can go take them home and walk around their house, the garden and use the checklist to see whether they can do something to improve their house from being burgled. We also

have some short videos which we used, and SJ is happy to assist if anyone wanted to set up this seminar in their area.

- **Update on PC Chris Miller and steps taken to support him.**
- Update given on the circumstances of the incident of the Fail to stop that PC Miller was involved in in May 2025.
- He was left with significant life-threatening injuries. He remained in hospital for a period of time, but we're pleased to say he was discharged a couple of months later and is recovering well.
- After a thorough investigation, 3 individuals were identified and arrested. One for attempted murder who was subsequently charged and is still pending his trial and then two for assisting an offender and perverting the course of justice for that element of the investigation, which is very positive given the location at the time of night. It was dark, it was wet, not witnessed.
- Some really good police work to identify those involved.
- We have extensive support for any officer injured or involved in any traumatic incident or suffering from any challenges in life, whether it's through a staff association. We have a federation which is a bit like a union for police.
- Police officers, we have support networks to help people, maybe financially if they're struggling. We've got Police Care UK, which is a charity that supports families who've partners, families or family members or friends who are involved in police incidents. There is the ongoing support from the local team and their friends and colleagues, so he is receiving extensive support. He's keen to return to work and the positivity is really good to see, and we are just giving him all the support he needs as he continues with his recovery.
- We are also looking at other officers who may need support as things like this are a stark reminder to other officers and staff who work within policing nationally and globally of the risks involved.
- MS asked EB to pass on the IAGs best wishes to PC Miller in his recovery.

- **New Police Plans announced by Home Secretary**
- To be added as an agenda item on the next meeting when we have more information on what implications could be.
- JH has been involved in many interviews about this and he feels he is ‘cautiously optimistic’ about this.

- The general consensus is that this is needed and in Thames Valley it would only benefit, but the 'how's' would need to be discussed down the line.

Community Update: Changes Coming to Policing in England & Wales

The Government has announced major reforms to policing—described as the biggest changes in nearly 200 years. These reforms aim to improve local visibility, modernise the service, and ensure the police can keep up with evolving crime

1. More Local Police Presence

The White Paper promises a renewed focus on **neighbourhood policing** so communities see more officers on their streets.

- The Government plans to add **13,000 neighbourhood officers** nationwide during this Parliament.
- Every community will have a **named, contactable neighbourhood officer** responsible for local issues and engagement.

What this means for you:

You should see more uniformed officers on patrol, easier ways to contact your local team, and quicker support for everyday concerns like antisocial behaviour, theft, and neighbourhood safety.

2. Tackling Serious Crime with a New National Police Service

A new **National Police Service (NPS)** will be created to handle the most complex crimes—such as organised crime, terrorism, major fraud, and online offences.
This national body will combine existing specialist units including the National Crime Agency and Counter Terrorism Policing.

Why this matters to communities:

Local forces will be able to focus on neighbourhood crime while national specialists take on the complex cases that often cross county borders or involve digital technology.

3. Smarter Use of Technology

To modernise policing, the Government will invest over **£140 million** in new technologies.
This includes:

- **Live facial recognition vans**, increasing from 10 to 50 across the country. These help locate wanted or vulnerable people quickly.

- More **digital forensic experts** to tackle online fraud, cybercrime and dark-web investigations.
- Improved systems that reduce paperwork so officers can spend more time in the community rather than behind a desk.

Impact on local residents:
Faster investigations, better ability to track criminals using technology, and less time wasted on outdated systems.

4. Improving Standards and Accountability

The Government is introducing stronger measures to ensure policing is effective and trusted.

- Forces will have targets for **999 response times**, **victim satisfaction**, and **public confidence**.
- The Home Secretary will have powers to **intervene in failing forces** and replace poorly performing chief constables.
- Officers will need a new **Licence to Practise**, similar to other professions, to maintain high standards throughout their careers.
- Stronger vetting will prevent individuals with convictions or cautions for violence against women and girls from joining or remaining in policing.

Why this matters:
Communities can expect greater consistency, transparency, and professionalism from their police service.

5. Updating the Way Policing Is Run

The Government plans to remove Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in 2028 and shift their responsibilities to Metro Mayors or council leaders.

What this means locally:
Decision-making should become clearer and more streamlined, with stronger oversight of police performance by elected community leaders.

6. Why These Reforms Are Happening

Police leaders say crime today is more complex, with **90% of cases involving a digital element**, from online fraud to organised crime using technology. The current system of 43 separate forces often leads to inconsistent services and duplication of work. [npcc.police.uk]

The goal:
A policing model that is modern, efficient, and better equipped to protect communities in a digital world.

What You Can Expect as a Resident

- More visible neighbourhood officers
- Faster response and improved victim support
- Better use of technology to solve crime
- Stronger accountability and public transparency
- Specialist national teams tackling the biggest threats while local teams focus on community safety

- **Trust & Confidence Strategy** **KA**
- New strategy launched in 2025, and it is a 5 year plan. Was Race Action Plan, but this is now moved into the Trust & Confidence Strategy TVP Trust and Confidence 2025
- Our mission is to protect our communities. Our vision is to an excellent police force trusted by all our communities, particularly the ones that perhaps don't necessarily want to be vocal. And our values are we treat everyone with fairness and respect. We courageous to do the right thing. We strive to improve every day and we're proud to be Thames Valley Police.
- The introduction of the strategy is that we held an independent local resident survey back in 2024, and 72% said TVP was an organisation they could trust. 67% felt Thames Valley Police treats everyone impartially. 61% felt that their local teams understand the needs of the local community. All of these could be better and that is part of the strategy.
- 4 pillars to the strategy are protected, respected, involved and representative.

- **Update on Wycombe Swan Stabbing 23rd December-**
- 2 x rival drug gangs came together, one local individual and 1 x out of town. Significant injuries to victim. We have arrested an individual from Slough and another person from Oldbury, West Midlands and they have been charged with Section 8 wounding with intent and possession of Class A heroin and cocaine with intent to supply.

- There was a lot of community concern due to location (outside theatre where there was due to be a pantomime) and victim made their way to shopping centre which then had to close parts off
- Due to the location, there was a lot of CCTV round the area which was helpful. We are confident we got all those involved and we have developed quite a lot of information about the gangs and our proactive team are working hard to prevent any further activity.

8. Time and Date of Next Meeting **Chair – MS**

- Thank you for everyone's contribution. Feedback is welcome as we are keen to make sure it is an informative agenda and to give everyone an insight into where we are with policing that members can go back out to their networks and share.
- A couple of dates will be sent out in due course and if people could please respond with their availability in a timely manner, we will then get a date booked in.