



Cherwell and West Oxfordshire LPA

IAG Meeting

DATE Thursday 22 February 2024

TIME: 17.30 hours

LOCATION: MS Teams

Attendees	Init	Position and Area
Jen Hogben	JB	Superintendent – LPA Commander
Chris Ball	CB	Neighbourhood Inspector – West Oxon
Neal Templey	NT	ICR Inspector
Dave Hession	DH	Community and Diversity Officer - Oxfordshire
	SK	IAG chair
	PK	IAG member
	JG	IAG member
	MT	IAG member
	RB	IAG member
	KT	IAG member
	NM	IAG member
	MG	IAG member
	GW	Admin Support Officer, note taker
Apologies		
	LW	IAG member
	YK	IAG member
	AB	IAG member
	SA	IAG member
	JG	IAG member

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made.

Previous notes/actions:

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed to be accurate.

Action log updated.

Body Worn Video/ Stop and Search

NT explained the reason for showing BWV at this forum is for public scrutiny, looking at how officers engage, how the public are spoken to and any use of force. They also check for grounds/ reasons for the search being carried out.

SK had picked some random clips by the incident number and 3 of these were shown.

It was asked about the gender of searches. As the search is made of outer clothing only, it can be any gender doing the search. However, permission was sought where it was a female officer searching a male.

The group thought that the officers were polite and professional.

NT will feedback the positive feedback to officers involved.

Community and Diversity Officer

Dave Hession introduced himself as the new Community and Diversity Officer (CADO) for Oxfordshire. He explained that he was previously the CADO for Oxford and has recently returned to this new role covering the whole of the county.

His role is to engage with communities, oversee hate crime, support the Senior Leadership team and other departments such as Operations and PREVENT.

Looking at ways to engage with the communities in Cherwell and West Oxon.

It was asked if this role was politically driven by the recent events in Palestine.

DH explained that this was part of his role.

An IAG member suggested that due to diversity some youths were not comfortable speaking to the police.

A schools officer regularly visits the schools and gives information at assemblies, they are also available for students to talk to.

DH said that he also speaks to various groups around safeguarding, drugs, knife crime. He isn't a police officer and doesn't wear a uniform to make himself more approachable.

It was raised that LGBTQ community don't trust the police.

DH said that he was willing to attend any local groups to try and break down barriers and listen to any concerns.

Commander Updates

Force Review

The force needs to save money and improve its relationship with the community.

Internal structures were last looked at in 2010.

It was decided that the current 11 Local Police Areas would be transformed into 5 Local Command Units.

We will come under Oxfordshire which will incorporate Cherwell and West Oxon, South and Vale and Oxford. This transition will take place at the end of the year.

IAG's will continue as they are for now.

Benefits will see doubling of numbers in the Neighbourhood teams, Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Child Abuse Investigation Unit will have an increase in numbers.

There will be an additional 25 sergeants across Incident Command Response units (ICR).

A new role of dedicated mental health officers will be brought in as well as a new team formed - Harm Reduction unit looking at vulnerability and risk.

In order for this to happen Problem Solving teams will no longer exist.

The county will have 2 schools officers which are in place.

Oxfordshire will be led by the new Chief Superintendent Ben Clark.

Staged change across the force – Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East and Berkshire West.

Action : JH to send out a map showing the new areas under the LCU's.

Neighbourhood Watch was discussed.

Action : JH to find out if this strand of work (NH Watch) has been allocated under the LCU review.

New Code of Ethics

The College of Policing has recently updated the Code of Ethics which all forces work to. Thames Valley police are embedding the new code into their working practices.

It is about doing to right things, in the right way and for the right reason and focuses on three key areas : Courage, Respect and Empathy and Public Service.

Action : JH to enquire about more information from Professional Standards about whistle blowing support.

Performance Overview

Overall, the LPA has seen an improvement in performance.

Neighbourhood crimes have reduced. Detections have improved.

Violent crime has had a slight increase which shows that there is more trust in reporting.

Investigation quality has risen from 40% to 70%.

Burglaries – aim to attend within 2 hours with either a Detective Constable or ICR officer to ensure experienced officers attend in the first instance.

Intelligence is being shared between the bordering forces.

Neighbourhood staff have been giving more advice on target hardening and crime reduction advice.

In 2019/20 453 burglaries were reported, this year it has reduced to 212.

Knife enabled crime – an Operation has been running on the LPA to target knife crime. The looks and individuals and locations of where these crimes are committed.

A zero tolerance stance is taken on knife crime and we were one of the first LPA's to use a civil order to assist in this.

This year the priority areas will be Ruscote, Hardwick and Neithrop, Bicester town and Witney town.

ASB – In June 2023 an operation was set up which looked at a group of approximately 10 children who were causing the LPA the most demand. Multi-strategy agency meetings and approaches were taken to look at the problem. Understanding was gained around each youth.

The most prolific offender, the ring leader, with 30% of the crimes was moved out of the area. Evidence was gained to support charges and remands for some.

Specific Points of Contacts were identified for diversion work.

This is an issue which we are still dealing with but have a much better understanding.

E-Scooters

Illegal to use in public spaces, only able to use on private land.

The legislation is being enforced.

Retail Crime

Retail theft now has allocated resources. Repeat offenders are being given civil orders.

Shops have 28 days to return CCTV, statements etc.. we have a process whereby there is a dedicated person to chase these in order to get the cases through.

Rural Crime

LPA has a large geographical area. The rural area is known for having little CCTV, ANPR or witnesses to the crimes.

The LPA is working with the Rural Crime Task Force to tackle rural crime.

Community crime prevention events have taken place and more are planned for 2024.

A reduction in rural crimes has been seen this year with 132 crimes compared to 171 last year giving a 23% reduction.

JH provided an update on operational matters relevant to the LPA.

Any Other Business

G, Community Liaison Officer – Cherwell District Council

Job Fair – February - Thanks to officers/ PCSO's for attending.

10/3 organising a family support day for refugee migrants at Spiceball.

MG to send GR invite to share re: Arts in Hearts, Ukrainian art event at The Mill, Banbury.

IAG Chair

SK reported that he would like to step down as Chair for the IAG.

PC volunteered to take on the role.

Feedback/ Agenda Items

Following arrest of a Pc in London for sexual activity with minors could the vetting process of officers be explained to the group.

Action : Vetting to give a presentation at next meeting.

Cash economy – previously had an input on this but would like another update – people smuggling, human slavery, nail bars, car washes etc..

Action : Input re: cash economy at the next meeting.

Date of future meetings – date to be set for May

Action Log

Action 50	SA to email Superintendent Hogben with concerns regarding Israel/ Gaza issue	SA
Action 51	JH to send out a map showing the new areas under the LCU's	JH
Action 52	JH to find out if this strand of work (NH Watch) has been allocated under the LCU review.	JH
Action 53	JH to enquire about more information from Professional Standards about whistle blowing support.	JH
Action 54	Vetting to give a presentation at the next meeting re: vetting process for police officers.	JH/ GR
Action 55	Input re: cash economy at the next meeting.	JH/ GR