LCU IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 11th December 2024

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: Central Jamia Mosque, Church St, Wolverton, Milton Keynes

Initials	Position
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LCU Commander, TVP
GB	Staff Officer, TVP
JH	Chief Constable, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
SB	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
TR	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
TLJ	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
AKh	IAG Member
IM	Guest
AH	Guest
AS	Guest
EY	Guest
VS	Guest
KSA	TVP
MB	Guest
CJ	Guest
AKe	Admin Support, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
LP	IAG Member
SS	IAG Member
SBe	IAG member

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** **IAG Chair**
   AK thanked everyone for attending and to TR for hosting at the Mosque.

2. **Previous minutes were ratified** **AA/TLJ**
   The IAG Minutes are published on the TVP Website and can be viewed here: Milton Keynes Independent Advisory Group | Thames Valley Police

3. IAG Chairs Report – Our Communities during 2024 All

At this end-of-year meeting the floor was opened to all to talk about how 2024 had impacted our various communities, particularly the local fallout from the summer riots. Those present were asked to consider how TVP had played their part in the communities. This round-the-table approach replaced the usual input from the Chair, Area Commander and AOB.

RRK started by reporting back on his visit to observe a Public Order Training session at Upper Heyford. If anyone else is interested, please ask.

DH reported that MKCC had been busy supporting communities across MK at various events and Partnership Days. Although the riots had not had much impact locally for MKCC, EB remarked how the Council had helped matters by removing any graffiti promptly, reducing any distress caused.

PS said that the year had started well with a reduction in knife crime but the misinformation spread nationally and locally around the time of the riots had caused some upset. However, the reassuring messages from TVP had calmed the situation.

This was the common thread, with most community leaders agreeing that misinformation on social media had caused distress and worry but that contact with NS and EB, and subsequent timely messages received from TVP had been shared in communities providing reassurance and calm, security and support. Those present thanked NS, who had dealt with calls from worried communities even whilst on leave, to provide support to those who were worried. The way TVP had dealt with any incidents arising earlier in the year meant that when needed, reassurance messages sent out to quash any fear that MK was involved in the riots was taken at face value and trust and confidence in the message meant it was shared widely and quickly. Comments about other matters are added here by exception.

SB added that reassurance patrols from PCSOs had made the Jewish Community feel more secure, on top of which, low level anti-semitism that had been dealt with promptly earlier in the year instilled confidence in the Police.

ZM said that NS is approachable and gets things done. TVP presence at events at Granby Mosque, refugee hotels and MK College had been helpful.

AH added that since EB had arrived in MK, he had seen a positive change. There are issues with motorbikes on redways and an escalation of theft from motor vehicles, notably taxis and builder's vans on streets. EB replied saying that offenders come in to MK from other areas and commit these crimes. Parking problems at Wolverton mosque had been alleviated by the introduction of two prayer times to avoid congestion.

VS remarked that education around what is true or false on social media is needed.

NR stated that the relationship between TVP and the Mental Health Services inpatient units is invaluable.

JH added that where there is a gateway to hateful speech and actions, some of it tends to come the way of the LGBTQ+ community, most recently the Trans community, and the riots were no exception.

MB spoke from a Youth perspective, saying how scary it was to see the spread of misinformation by peers. There is a lack of education around how to determine what is true or false and making source checks.

RRK said that MK's IAG seems more inclusive and diverse than elsewhere in TVP with a significantly higher membership.

EY spoke of the Hong Kong/Chinese Community here in MK who are established and are well integrated, although slightly closed off at present, there are no issues.

4. LPA Commander's Update: **All**

We were fortunate to have Chief Constable JH with us at the IAG this month, who spoke to the group following the recap of 2024 from everyone.

JH likes to come to MK as there is a sense of pride and unity here. Where he is from, there was disorder due to rioters unlike in MK. As Chief Constable, he is not too worried about MK – not complacent either, but not unduly worried.

The TVP 'X' account was full of hate during the riots and TVP are discussing stepping back from that platform. There is a threat from abroad regarding the spread of misinformation in order to cause division in the UK. Some of the feedback given at this IAG had been great to hear but we cannot do it alone and we rely on our communities. If there had been disorder – what would we have done? Our response would not have been a public order one with shields etc. as this would have inflamed the situation. We would have guarded a community and filmed perpetrators of any disorder, identifying them and arresting them safely the next morning. If a trigger incident is reported widely and inaccurately on social media – people get angry quickly so it is important to try and restore calm by getting out the right message as soon as we can.

CC JH ended by thanking those present for all they do for their communities. The model of the IAG here in MK is not replicated elsewhere in the Force.

EB added that today has been slightly different as we have looked at the whole year and not just present issues. The messaging given in the summer riots was only of value because communities trusted it and felt able to share it. Thank you for trusting us.

JH: Please also share any negative feedback with us.

5. AOB As Above **All**

DH reminded everyone that the Community Safety Survey is live until 17th January. Please take time to fill it in as it shapes Council actions and spending on safety in the year ahead.

6. Next Meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025 **All**
Location: Milton Keynes Police Station.
Please remember to bring your ID as you will have to sign in at the front desk. Thank you.