LPA IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 10th July 2024

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: The Point, Milton Keynes

Initials	Position
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LPA Commander, TVP
GW	DI, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
JH	IAG Member
TR	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
AKe	Admin Support, MK LPA, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
ZM	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
AKh	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member

1. **Welcome & Introductions: IAG Chair**
   AK welcomed everyone, thanking all for attending The Point this evening. Introductions were made around the table. AA apologised that there was no female representative from the Somalian Community but the lady was on leave. AK expressed his sympathy and condolences to RRK and his family for the loss of his wife recently.

2. **Previous minutes were ratified All**
   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 AK**
   AK: How might the election affect policing, concerned now we have a new Government? It was hoped TVP would carry on performing despite any new policies that may come into force.
   AK: Look out for the youth/elderly as we head towards late summer/autumn with back to school then winter. No major incidents recently.
   EB: There have been a few nasty assaults on Police recently. One resulted in significant injury and hospitalisation. A cornered stolen motor vehicle was used to ram a Police car causing an Officer to suffer a broken wrist. Although there have been a flurry of assaults, MK is generally a happy station. Staff are motivated and performance wise, MK is seen as a stable area.

AK: How is morale when these assaults occur?
EB: It depends on how it is managed locally, how the management team respond. We suffered when Andrew Harper was murdered. If nothing comes of assault cases at court that is demoralising.

4. **LPA Commander's Update: Guest Speaker – DI GW from TVP EB/GW**

Burglary Update: DI on MK Priority Crime Team (PCT) responsible for investigating Burglaries, Robberies and cross-border vehicle crime in MK. 'Burglaries' as in classic house/building burglary is what was discussed today. There has been a slight increase in MK over the last four years coming out of lockdown, when burglaries fell sharply. There has also been a change in the type of burglar, with increasingly professional organised offenders coming from other areas. We have seen success in other areas such as Violence Against Women & Girls, but now need to re-focus on burglaries. We are slightly below the national average for burglaries committed and slightly above the national average for the number of offenders we are dealing with.
The PCT have more Detective Sergeants, the neighbourhoods are getting more officers which will mean better engagement with communities. We have also developed better working practices with neighbouring forces e.g. Cambs. MK has good transport links which make getting in and out too easy for criminals coming from elsewhere. We had a garage burglary series recently but have caught an offender for that and offences have stopped and further offences prevented. There was also a series of thefts from motor vehicles and building site burglaries and we have recovered many items worth tens of thousands of pounds and made many arrests.
'Target Hardening' leaflets were circulated to those present and ideas shared about what people can do to protect themselves against becoming a victim of burglary. Operation Darknight is launching again now we are approaching the time of darker evenings. Teams such as the Tactical Bike Team will be patrolling putting pressure on offenders.
AK: Has intelligence improved regarding the number of burglaries or are people better at reporting?
GW: There are more burglaries being reported, more garages and houses but less commercial premises.
EB: People tend to report burglaries as they need the crime number for Insurance.
JW shared her experience of being a victim of crime recently when she had her car broken into and contents stolen.
TR: Are there burglary stats for Wolverton following the Stratford Rd series? Is the CCTV working there?
GW: A male was arrested and charged with 12 offences across Wolverton & Stony Stratford.
EB: Same arrest for both. No live CCTV there, but can be collected from shops and businesses.
DH had been on duty that day and had seen some excellent footage captured by local businesses. A man was identified from the images.
GW: The male was remanded in custody and is awaiting trial.
EB: It is frustrating that we are not allowed to tell anybody when we arrest someone, only when they are convicted.
TR: It is confusing as we see headlines saying a suspect has been arrested.
AK asked about CCTV on Stratford Rd and EB said the Camera infrastructure is slowly being brought back to life and working, after the PCC invested a lot of money into the system. There have been some significant results following the CCTV re-launch. There is no statutory requirement for CCTV and when savings had to be made, CCTV was hit badly.
GW: The new cameras are incredible.
LP asked about house burglaries and if older people are targeted?
GW: We have had series targeting the elderly, but nothing at present. Sometimes a handle on a house advertises the vulnerability of the tenant.
LP is happy to work with Police if such a series were to happen again.
AK: The cost of living crisis continues – is there any sympathy shown for offenders by TVP?
GW: We can't allow people to go around committing crimes. There are ways we can build in longer term support mechanisms when we are dealing with offenders.

5. AOB **All**

EB gave more time for AOB to give the members a chance to speak more widely about issues in their communities. How is policing perceived – do we need to make any changes? TVP had a great result in arresting a prolific shoplifter earlier, stats are coming down so please tell us if you feel crime or policing are different from your point of view?

PS: No personal stop and search for a while, which is good. No knife crime in the Congolese community for a while. Domestic Violence is still an issue. It is a taboo subject that is hard to get people to report. PS described a situation in the community where the family of a victim were making her feel bad for reporting something. Equally, those supporting are also being made to feel bad, accused of lying and subject to negative behaviours towards them.

EB: What can Police do better?

PS: People need to feel comfortable to make a report. A women's group has been created.

ACTION: NS to attend and speak with the Congolese Women's Group

KM: Crime and violence has improved. Engaging with the community has helped prevent knife crime with women's group, youths and parents meeting. AK: It is important to continue to encourage female members of the Somalian Community to attend the IAG.

JS: Are there still foot patrols as we never see them?

EB: Hotspot Patrols for PCSO's are targeted to where offences have been recorded and are intrusively managed. Response Officers will not be on foot patrol due to demand.

JS: Is there a shortage of PCSOs?

EB: No, we have 40/46 in place. The science tells us where we need to be visible which isn't always where residents might want us to be.

TR: Firstly, when the burglary series was on in Wolverton, local businesses captured excellent CCTV but it was never collected by TVP. This was very disappointing for business owners. Secondly, regarding the demonstrations against the current issues in the Middle East, TVP are always helpful and sympathetic towards those demonstrating, allowing them to go about their lawful, peaceful protests without hostility. This is much appreciated.

EB: Apologies re: CCTV. TVP are in a different place now after a force re-structure and creation of a new department who deal with volume crime. Our charge rate is up 17% in the last year. Victim contact is also much improved. Around the protests, the law is very clear in that Police have to balance the right of people to protest –v- the rights of all.

TR: Wolverton Mosque has taken the lead in the protests with different community groups and all were relieved that TVP were not influenced by the media's portrayal of the situation.

RRK: There is positivity regarding TVP among the Rural Community. If there are problems in your community – consider creating a Community Forum and tackle issues from there. Do the PCT use the Rural Crime Task Force? The Bucks Show is on 29th August.

GW: Yes, for example the recent raid on the traveller's site and seizure of a high number of tools.

RRK: Is there ANPR on all vehicles?

GW: No, the volume of incidents that would create would currently be unmanageable and we need to have capacity to deal with other incidents.

RRK: Op Drover is resuming soon in the rural area.

ACTION: Please can someone let DH know when the next Op Drover dates are.

NR: There are three inpatient units in MK for those suffering with poor mental health. At the Campbell Centre, patients sometimes commit crimes on and off site. Staff there have a good working relationship with the Police and joint investigations are conducted into any assaults on staff.

LP: For the elderly, the main issue is transport, not policing.

JH: For the LGBT Community, many members are concerned about a Police presence. Historically, policing of the community years ago was not positive. Some older members don't want to be around Police and don't want Police in their safe spaces. Younger members are fine. The LAGLOs are good.

NS: Hate Crime Week is 12-19 October and it is intended that the LAGLOs will attend to build trust and confidence.
AA: Where we were -v where we are now is better. More knowledge about rights and a better connection with the Neighbourhood Teams. Parents have more confidence, we are overcoming taboos.
JW: MK College has a very good relationship with TVP. We receive huge support from the Neighbourhood Teams, more recently with a sensitive situation. The College has seen a rise in harmful sexual behaviours and we are looking into how best to respond to this. Mainly female students who don't want to go to Police report to MK College instead. If others may also be affected by what we hear is happening, we submit an intelligence report. Often, these intelligence forms are dealt with differently and my team are looking for some guidance.
EB, as the Chair of the Risk Board this was raised as emerging risk and work was done to see if it was anecdotal or a real risk. It was found, at the time, to be largely anecdotal. However, since then, more of the same is being heard in other areas – may have to re-visit this to see what the current risk level is in terms of community safety.
JW: Has had to submit intelligence reports about severe behaviour where members of the public could be at risk. The guidelines on how best to deal are confusing.
Action: DH to take this back to JS at MKCC. EB to let DCI ES know also.
EB: The overall theme of how to navigate this subject requires clarity.
DH: Anti-Social Behaviour Week is 18-22 November with each day having a different theme.
AK: Disability Week – 13th July Art in the Park – Camphill Community and SNAP will be present. It is hoped to bring awareness and develop new partnerships. A representative from BuxFire will be attending.
NR passed around some MK Mental Health booklets containing details of the various services MK Mental Health Team can offer.

6. Next Meeting at the Gurdwara– 6pm on Wednesday 11th September 2024 All