LPA IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 17h April 2024

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: Peartree Centre, Peartree Bridge

Initials	**Position**
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LPA Commander, TVP
JH	C/Insp, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
RRK	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
AH	IAG Membership Pending
NR	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
RL	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
JW	IAG Membership Pending
CF	Admin Support, MK LPA, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
SB	IAG Member

1. **Welcome & Introductions: IAG Chair**
   AK welcomed everyone, thanking LP for hosting the meeting at the Peartree Centre this evening. Introductions were made around the table.

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/Faith & Believes within TVP Workforce AK**
   AK firstly thanked everyone for attending the meeting. JH introduced herself and explained her role and experiences on reducing knife crime within the force. She explained that she has attended lots of Force IAG meetings and said Milton Keynes is one of the best IAG's across the force. AK thanked all the communities in attendance explaining what areas he finds challenging especially the Travelling community as they are very hard to reach. He also confirmed the Polish community within Milton Keynes and surrounding areas have shrunk, and the Romanian representatives find it hard to attend due to work commitments. Talking about training within TVP workforce on each culture and their beliefs, he explained the feedback from Force Chaplains at Kidlington doesn't always filter through to the Milton Keynes communities. He referred back to the Park event in which there was a positive response to the presence of the Police. He also touched on the visit to Milton Keynes College where many diverse Officers mingled with students. The feedback there was also positive and most people warmed to the Police that were in attendance.

TG referred back to January's 'Stop & Search' meeting with Ross Gehnich which had been brought up in Church. She said the children felt safe and were not aware of any problems, feels they have been sheltered from everyday events. Asked if Police attend events and church at the weekends, NS confirmed that TVP do make weekend visits.
NR spoke about Mental Health and the negativity regarding the Police. She wants more visibility from TVP within the Mental Health community to provide trust and reassurance.
LP who represents Age Concern says that most elderly people in the community are unable to get to their place of worship, so don't get to interact with Police or see a Police presence.
ZM referred to the TVP presence at the Mosque and confirms they did want to see more Officers in uniform, in attendance. She mentioned the Park event where there was a Police Woman wearing a hijab, which was great to see. She also spoke about the school visit from TVP to the local children which was really positive.
AA wants more understanding and frequent meetings with TVP, e.g. a question time to chat to children and their parents regarding knife crime issues. He referred back to last year's visit from TVP to the Mosque around Ramadan/Easter which was a very busy time. The Police presence was very positive which gave more confidence within the community.
RL from the Filipinos Community really appreciated the festival in which the Police got close up and had conversations, the people appreciated the visibility. He also mentioned this community's faith is mostly Catholic and they would like a multi-national church to attend.
TG mentioned Christ the Cornerstone in Central Milton Keynes would be able to assist and will exchange emails with the contact there.
AK was a little concerned regarding the younger community and if they understood the Police. This was negative but recently improved with TVP attendance at local community events and churches resulting in positive feedback.

DH who used to look after Newport Pagnell said there was a Chinese church located there that nobody from TVP was aware of. He went on to say that in the local community they hold boys and girls brigade for young kids and it would be great if TVP could attend for a coffee and chat to them. There are also Christmas functions held there too so the Community also needs to communicate with the Police regarding events they could attend.
RRK spoke about the rural area the Police attend but states it's not really faith related as most residence are 'Church of England' and not too fussed about Police presence. He explained attendance at church in the rural community had reduced over the last few years so Police attending wouldn't benefit anyone. He went on to mention Arlene Ormston, a local PCSO for the area, and what amazing presence she has within the community.

JW spoke of the Police presence at Milton Keynes College and how great it was 3-4 yrs ago. The Police spent time with students from different cultures, chatting and breaking the silence. PCSO's in the area also built up great relationships with the students. Nowadays it is a little different due to fewer resources so students are less engaged with Police. Increasing Police presence will break down barriers and stigma around Police.

SB talked about how good the Police Engagement meeting on Safeguarding was. She spoke about the Church in Oldbrook and how diverse it was, providing Health forums on a Saturday morning for the elderly which offer Maths and English lessons. She went on to say the Police presence at the Christian Centre on Sundays usually sparks suspicion within the community. TVP need to attend more frequently maybe for coffee mornings to interact with people to ease suspicion.
AK praised the Police for their attendance adding it was vital within the community for new Officers to be training to understand different faiths and religions. This will help build trust, respect and values amongst us all.
PS explains faith is everything to his community and the relationship with the police is quite difficult. Police need to attend more events and build strong relationships, this is getting better.

TG questioned the recruitment within TVP and her involvement with the Met, says that faith wasn't a part of the assessment program. She went on to say when someone in the community has a situation with Police, it's the person not the religion.
AK reminded everyone that in some parts of the world, the Police are seen as oppressors and that can influence how a person's relationship with local Police here may be tainted by that at the start.

NS gave an example of Police who dealt with a sudden death of a member of the Muslim Community and being aware of the requirement for a burial within 24 hours. NS also spoke about a sexual assault on a Muslim woman where the Police attending were informed of the religious and cultural sensitivities prior to visiting the victim. By being aware of the culture, it helped them to communicate with the women, making her feel safe and comfortable speaking with officers.
JH will feedback to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams the impact their visits have on communities and the barriers it breaks down.
AH spoke about sensitivities around prayer times making Police aware of each religion's beliefs. NS went on to advise the Custody Suite accommodates all different faiths.
AK explained about Sharia Law and how it can't be implemented here in the UK as we are not a Muslim country.
EB wondered if the younger generation felt the same level of community cohesion as those present that live/work in MK do. AK felt that they are starting to but it wasn't enough.
PS spoke about the time when the Police had a football match with the kids in the neighbourhood. He said it was amazing, broke down barriers and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

4. LPA Commander's Update: Policing and Resourcing EB

EB explained that Milton Keynes is experiencing a peak in missing children and how our force is under pressure. She advised of other forces placing children here in Foster homes and groups of girls making WhatsApp groups. Most of the girls are making their way to London Westfield which makes them easy pickings for bad people. Social Services and the Force are at capacity, resources are stretched. Parents with problem children need to set boundaries, speak with Church, Police or within the Communities. Please reach out for advice if you recognise anyone in your own communities whose family may be suffering from this.
EB gave an example of a young lad who was placed in care here in MK for shoplifting and repeatedly going missing. He was moved on to Leicestershire where he entered an elderly man's home and stabbed and killed him. Society is putting our children at risk. Please flag anyone who needs advice about this.
EB explained we have a New Senior Management Team and about the force re-structure. We have got 41 out of 46 PCSOs working in neighbourhoods in MK, we are getting more neighbourhood Officers too so lots of new starters. She explained that it will take time for them all to not only learn the job, but to be educated on all the communities.
EB also referred to a state of burglaries occurring in Stony Stratford and how the offender had been caught and is now in jail.
TG asked what happened to kids who go missing and do they get arrested. EB confirmed that children in MK are taken to Wolverton Police Station, fed and watered and wait for Social Services to attend. They don't get arrested or get a criminal record but they are put on the Police database.

5. AOB All

NR said there is a need to work together as Mental Health is an underlying factor for many things discussed in today's meeting and distress within the community. Talking and making people aware of the services that are available to them is vital. It would be great to see communities embracing mental health and the services offered locally by MK Mental Health Services as they are embracing the Police. Stigmas attached are recognised, understood and respected but working together would help see what the challenges are with different people and help our communities. NR again asked for IAG community leads to get in touch with her

to arrange for herself and colleagues within local mental health services to join in any of their events to help raise awareness.

ZM enquired about Recruitment within TVP and asked if there was a Careers Department within the Force. EB explained that Police Recruitment requires GCSE English and Maths grade 4 or above to enable all Officer's to engage with the public, colleagues and operators clearly. She went on to say the Positive Active Engagement Team can help but if they are over-stretched, EB would arrange for a visit to the Police Station. DH advised the Police attendance to the College was a great success on all 3 visits. The Internet safety day and Park Tidy had lots of positivity amongst pupils. Also – 4-7 June is 'Loan Shark Buyback Week' with drop-ins at Westcroft and Coffee Hall. There will be leaflet drops advertising this as Loansharks are known to operate in those areas.

JH talked about week of action with Operation Sceptre coming up. JH invited those present to come to the next 'Have Your Say ' event.

RRK spoke about the amount of suicides amongst farmers in the rural community.

SB said there will be a Mental Health Forum this Saturday between 10am and 4pm

PS asked to bring back football matches.

6. Next Meeting at the Point – 6pm on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 All