LPA IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 22nd May 2024

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: The Point, Milton Keynes

Initials	Position
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LPA Commander, TVP
HS	IAG Member
NS	CADO, TVP
PK	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
RL	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
IM	Guest Speaker
CF	Admin Support, MK LPA, TVP (Minutes)
MS	Guest speaker
Apologies	
JH	C/Insp, TVP
RRK	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
AKh	IAG Member

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** **IAG Chair**
   AK welcomed everyone, thanking all for attending The Point 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/TVP Training Visit** **AK**
   AK firstly expressed his condolences to Robert and his family for the loss of his wife last week.
   He also thanked IM for attending as a guest speaker. AK opened up the conversation on Victim Support within the community with AK and AA already starting a sewing machine group 3 days a week.
   AK went on to talk about safety training within TVP and used an example from an attack on one of our Officers last week where he was slashed with a machete.

   TG summarized her training day with AK at TVP and what transpired at the end of the week's course. She was impressed with the trainer who's focus was Police getting home safely to their family. TG shared the first scenario she witnessed where the Police attended a rave/party as there was a report of a Public

disturbance. She explained the Police had to manoeuvre in a small space to get to the suspect. TG explained how the Officers used their shields to protect themselves by using them to make a cordon. She was amazed how the Officers carried the shields as they weighed 6 kg each. EB explained the suspect had been armed with a baseball bat and the cordon helped to corner the suspect and disarm him. TG explained how communication was a big part of the exercise and enjoyed watching the Officers working together as a team. She explained that only a number of Police Officers are Public Order Safety trained and that wearing the protective equipment, Officers need to have upper body strength. After the exercise TG explained how the trainer re-grouped with the participants to see how it went and how they were feeling.

The second scenario was focused around the Rwanda scheme and how the Police strategically protected the vulnerable first and made sure all were ok. The trainer was teasing the Police deliberately making sure they kept their cool in the situation. They assured the public Police are well trained to deal with all sorts of situations.
EB went on to say that if any other IAG members are interested in training, they are very welcome to attend the next one, which will be held in Heyford. She explained how she gets invited every 6 months to this but only has to attend one a year.

AK addressed the Public Order/Public safety views on support after a review of a case study regarding the son of IM (guest speaker) who was involved in an incident outside the KFC in the Escape. CCTV had picked him up in a large group after Police Intelligence had confirmed sight of weapons. AK said Police are sent to protect the public and deal with the situation as they have been trained to do so, sometimes without being informed of everything.
IM explained how she collected her son from school and went home. Her son told her that there was a fight outside McDonalds and he was there. The Police came round and IM confirmed there was at least 7 of them and when she tried to talk to them they ignored her and only spoke to her son. She was very upset when the Officer handcuffed her son as he is only 15. IM was distraught and called KM who came straight round and helped communicate with Officers. IM went on to say that her son was eventually cleared of being involved in the incident but he refused to give a statement as he knew the people who were involved. This made him scared and his Mum now has to take him and collect him from school.

AK asked EB how Victim Support helps in the community for parents in a similar position as IM.

EB explained that any situation looks worse when 5 or 6 Police Officers turn up at an incident that doesn't always require so many. She explained some new officers are still in training and are being chaperoned by Senior Officers for observation purposes and driving. In an example, EB used a situation where a weapon was involved and multiple Officers were sent, some to attend the front and some to the rear of the property depending on the situation and lack of information, i.e. how many suspects are in the house. This is to ensure all Officers and the general public are better protected and just makes sure all are safe. Most Officers who attend incidents, do not always have time to explain why or how in that moment. Regarding Victims of Crime, EB said the level of Victim Support is different for different occasions. She explained the support is offered if someone is attending court and needs to have information of what to expect. Some attendees have different requirements for example, some would prefer a screen in court, or might be away and need to appear via video link. The support is also for when someone dies and the family are then assigned a Family Liaison Officer to assist them to sort out things whilst grieving. Crime does affect everyone but the Victim Support is not offered to Mums, Aunties etc.

AK asked if bullying at school comes under Victim support.
EB said no.

JS went on to ask if the boy (IM guest speaker son) was arrested.
EB went on to explain that this situation was referred to as a Violent Disorder, with eight out of six having weapons. As the son was seen on CCTV there needed to be an investigation to establish if the boy was involved. He was not guilty and let off.

TG asked if the son would get a record.
EB said no, only if you are charged or convicted.
JS asked if Police need an arrest warrant.
EB – No. She went on to explain why it is necessary to stop and search people as they could match a description which has been sent out. If someone resists they can be arrested. Some people just scream and shout in anger but won't get arrested.

AK talked about keeping our communities safe and spoke about the Officer that was wounded from a sword attack. He also mention the Afghan male that sprayed a woman with acid. British methods always have room for improvements, but some other countries are worse.
IM spoke about how her son is so scared about what happened, he can't sleep.
EB explained how she has girls of her own and would be cross if it happened to them.

4. LPA Commander's Update: Guest Speaker – MS from the CPS EB

AK thanked MS for coming.

MS said her attendance, on behalf of the CPS, was to learn about our communities and see why crimes are not being reported. She spoke about the Police protecting victims and that they are there for the safety of all. She explained how victims and suspects are afforded the same level of protection and fairness and how officers responding to 999 or 101 calls are there to attend, arrest or investigate. An Officer dealing/allocated to a case may change as the investigation progresses, depending on the type of work needed to bring about a conviction. MS advised that victims need to tell the Police as much as possible about themselves and what has happened as soon as any incident is reported, as this helps with the investigation and helps solve crimes sooner. Some people in the communities are not happy to speak to Police or report a crime, but our Neighbourhood Officers are more likely to deal with issues as they are more visible/involved. Victims, once identified, are referred to Victims First, for support.
Once details of a crime are reported and enough evidence is gathered for a charging decision to be made, it gets passed to the CPS to see if it is a case for court. If the CPS feels there is not enough evidence or it's not a chargeable offence for court, this will then be sent back and the Officer will need to explain to the victim why. If an Officer is not happy with the decision, then they can appeal to the CPS.
MS went on to talk about Rape cases in particular regarding a new law that came into effect 18 months ago, where solicitors need to send letters of introduction to the victim regarding their case. CPS oversee all requirements for the victims, for instance children, that might be scared of the wigs and gowns worn in court or seeing the suspect face to face.
AK asked regarding the government and the election, will this new law still take effect.
MS confirmed this has already been approved and in place, whatever the outcome of the election.
AK asked about individual cases and timescales, which MS said was dependent on the type of crime committed, e.g. fraud, will need more information like phone data and bank account transactions which takes more time.
TR asked if a case goes to court how often the CPS review it.
MS stated that all cases are reviewed frequently although some cases like major crime gangs take longer and have a statutory time line. All cases are reviewed up until the trial date.
TG asked what happens if the CPS gets it wrong?
MS spoke about cases that might have missed the Custody time limit whilst being held or an application might not have been filed in time, resulting in some suspects being released. We work really closely with the Police and can understand their frustration when this happens.

EB spoke about Police intuition and the frustration when a case is not reviewed or heard because of lack of information or evidence. An appeal process is available but there is a capacity problem with the Police and CPS.

MS said if there is an acquittal in court and it's not the outcome that the victim wanted, sometimes just going to court and being heard is enough for some.

MS closed by saying that there is some negativity regarding the Police in the public and everyday our Officers are subject to crime.

5. AOB **All**

EB confirmed that 1 x Officer a day is hurt, injured or subject to homophobic comments, even spat at.

PS asked if Police Officers are aware of the IAG meetings.

EB said Inspectors and Sergeants are aware as these meeting are discussed in the weekly briefings. Some officers will know but most are just concentrating on their day to day activities like writing statements, learning to use the computer systems and first aid. These are so important and most new starters are taught this and will then learn about different meetings that we are attending to support our communities.

NS confirmed neighbourhoods now know about these meetings.

TG informed us of a picnic taking place this Bank Holiday at her local church – all are welcome.

DH said he had been involved and supported Op Sceptre and a stop and search at Bletchley College. He had a few dates for Loan Shark Week from 3-10 June and Anti-Social Behaviour Week from 1-7 July.

MS thanked everyone for welcoming her and if anyone needed anything, please contact her.

TR talked about the Middle East and how things are settling down. There is hope that there are not too many cases of Anti-Semitism. He was surprised at EB answer to PS question regarding IAG meetings. EB explained that part of training new recruits will involve making them aware of the IAG meetings but whether they remember it with everything else they have to retain is another thing. She went on to say that after 3 years they move to different departments.

KM thanked everyone for coming

EB was impressed with our new Police video and asked all to have a look at it on Twitter or FB

AK said he liked the video and it should be shown in schools and colleges.

DH asked if he could shared it on FB/LinkedIn, which was agreed.

AK – Thank you everyone for attending.

6. Next Meeting at the Point – 6pm on Wednesday 10th July 2024 **All**