Milton Keynes LCU IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 10th December 2025

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: Central Jamiah Mosque, Church Street, Wolverton, Milton Keynes

Initials	**Position**
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LCU Commander, TVP
GB	Staff Officer, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
ZM	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
TR	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
PW	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member
AKh	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
TLJ	IAG Member
Cllr MI	Guest
DB, Bishop of Buckingham	Guest
AKe	Admin Support, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
DH	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
AS	IAG Member
AH	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member

1. **Welcome and short briefing** **AK**

   The Chair welcomed all those present and thanked Cllr MI and Mosque President Mr QA, of the Wolverton Mosque, for hosting our IAG meeting and for the hospitality for all guests.
   Introductions were made and apologies given.

2. **Previous minutes** **All**

   The IAG Minutes are published on the TVP Website and can be viewed here: Milton Keynes Independent Advisory Group | Thames Valley Police

3. **AOB-Community Engagement** **All**

   AA: Finalising end of year programmes. Still at The Point, contract renewed until October 2026.
   PS: Succession planning with youngsters, EB suggested allowing a young person to shadow at the next IAG.
   TG: Church has arranged a 'GoFundMe' to buy food parcels for Christmas: Donate to Love in Action - Christmas Appeal, organized by Amber Best

PW: Chinese New Year celebrations planning underway 2026. On 25/01/2026, the school are organising an event and there might be a few tickets left for others.
ZM: Mosque did a collection of winter coats for Broughton Pavilion – about to start another collection of various items for the homeless. Also – Mosque committee were unaware of a local Islamophobia event held recently.
NS: MK Muslim Forum organised the event and said all Mosques were contacted, however, NS will feed back that Granby Mosque was unaware.
EB: Comments posted about this event were revolting. If there is a threat then Police can intervene.
NR: Mindful that Christmas is not a good time for everybody. 3 x U18s have already been admitted to services this month. Some older persons too. The guide to mental health services has been updated and NR will send an electronic copy to be sent out with the minutes.
JH: A visit to the House of Commons was undertaken recently.
HS: All fine with Iranian community.
RRK: North NHPT have undertaken meet and greets locally recently that have gone down well. The Church has also been putting together care parcels for the elderly.
TR: There are concerns and unease at the comments posted regarding the Islamophobia event recently. They are unsurprising given western society's lurch towards the extreme right these days. Muslims are easily identifiable, especially women who wear the hijab. The contribution EB made to that event was very much appreciated and would be well received at Friday prayer's if it were made possible for EB to attend. It would be nice to believe we live in a tolerant society but Muslims are an obvious target. We are not unique in that but it is a difficult time at present. We rely on Police to take action. There is not enough reporting of incidents.
EB: TVP will record a racial incident but if no crime, it will be for intelligence purposes only. At the last meeting EB asked if those present felt the intolerance shown online was translating into day to day life and the answer was no. Is the fear greater than the reality?
TR: Even if you don't get verbally abused, you can feel it in the way people look at you.
TG asked if discomfort was reportable and EB replied, no. It has to be words/actions. Threshold for it being a crime is a threat of violence.
TLJ: MK Women's Association have been cooking for the homeless at the old bus shelter. Another event is planned for March 2026. TLJ's older child has stopped wearing her hijab out of fear and has been unable to speak about it. The younger child attended Newport Pagnell Remembrance Day Parade with the Army Cadets and was fearful at the number of Union Flags and English Flags on display.
PS remarked that a family member is Black and Muslim so liable to abuse for both reasons.
ZM: All our communities need to encourage our young people to report incidents. A family member in a local restaurant was subjected to verbal abuse and reported it. The call taker listened and was very reassuring. She actually felt heard and that someone cared.
EB: Officers are instilled to care, but due to the volume of incidents they attend, they can sometimes get compassion burnout.
KM reiterated they encourage their youngsters to report any incidents.
AKh: A group of 17-20 women, wearing hijab, were walking together when they were verbally abused by a male. He was challenged by AKh but people willing or able to challenge won't always be there.
NS reminded the meeting that you can report something on behalf of someone else so Police get a full picture.
TG said it sounds like everything is building up and perhaps being taught self-defence is a solution? EB referred back to her question last October when the answer was no, online hate is not translating into day to day life – but now, it is getting worse.
DB: Islamophobia, hatred and the threat of violence is deeply concerning, as is the rise of nationalism. The co-option of Christian symbolism is wrong. As Bishops nationally, we are trying to distance the co-option of Christian symbolism from the far-right movement. Perhaps we can find a way to do this locally? This might start to marginalise extremism. Need to separate Christian values away from the hate.
EB asked if there was anything TVP could contribute to this.

MI spoke about a PCC funded event 'Tall Ships' for schools that his family member attended with a teacher. He said it was the worst thing he had ever done as they were both stopped and had their bags searched. They felt singled out as people of colour and the teacher was very upset, even being comforted by the child.
RRK said it's not Christians doing it – it is those of 'no faith'.
DB repeated that the far right are trying to normalise the use of Christian symbols being part of the extremism – they are misappropriating the symbols to support their cause but the Christian message subverts their prejudice and hate.
AKh said they are using Christianity against other faiths, but are likely not Christians and have never been to Church in their life.
HS suggested education. HS experienced bullying at University by other Muslims due to not being a practising Muslim. People need teaching how to respect others.
JW reported on a recent event at MK College where the use of a screening arch was very successful. Students were calmer and parents had a positive reaction to the event. Nothing was found and it promoted more positive relationships with Police. AK seconded this and said there was good engagement and feedback.
AK reported that LP has requested some information be sent out about AgeUK events coming up. Be mindful of the elderly around Christmas.

4. **LCU Commander's Update** **LCU Commander**

EB reported that all was going well for TVP in MK. There had been some good results for Operation Darknight (Burglaries). Staff had distributed crime prevention leaflets outside Mosques as requested. There was nothing of significance to report regarding violent crime. EB had been busy with the German state visit. Staff trained in spotting predatory behaviours were on patrol at licensed premises to support the VAWG strategy.
TLJ: A documentary on i-Player shows women feeling victimised as VAWG investigations can take so long. EB replied to say MK has a high charge count for rape here. The Criminal Justice Dept recognises that sex offences are horrific and are victim led in their process. AK asked if TVP were focussing on drink spiking at Christmas parties and GB replied, yes, there is a plan and a set procedure to follow.
EB updated the meeting re facial recognition. There are two kinds, rear facing (CCTV captured photo that is run through a database to find a match) and forward facing, where CCTV captures an image and an immediate check is carried out and measured against the system. A secondary layer of checks is performed manually. TVP are looking to introduce forward facing facial recognition in hotspots in early 2026. There will be one van to start with for all to share across the force. With up to 500 people under investigation at any one time, this will speed up the justice process. How do you feel about that? The meeting consensus was that it was intrusive but necessary. AKh advised it was already happening in Sweden.
PW offered to share a paper about Introducing New Technologies into Law Enforcement.

Chair's Summary **IAG Chair**

The meeting closed at 7.15pm after which all guests were kindly treated to food by the Host.

5. **Next Meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 (meetings will be on Tuesdays from 2026)**
Location: Milton Keynes Police Station

6. **More Meeting dates for 2026 :**

24th March	5th May
30th June	8th September
20th October	8th December

EVENTS CALENDAR

Carer's Café-AGE UK – Second Tuesday of every month 10am to midday at Peartree Centre (see attached).