Milton Keynes LCU IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 21st October 2025

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: Good Response, 124 Queensway, Bletchley, Milton Keynes

Initials	**Position**
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LCU Commander, TVP
GB	Staff Officer, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
AA	D/Supt, TVP
KM	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member
PW	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
HC	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
MC	Guest
MK	Cllr, Guest
AKe	Admin Support, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
LP	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
AH	IAG Member
RL	IAG Member
TLJ	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
TR	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
ASo	IAG Member

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

   The Chair welcomed all those present, introductions were made and apologies given.
   Please remember to send items to the Chair ready for the agenda to be distributed at least one week before the meeting. The Chair thanked the hosts for hosting.

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** **All**

   NR suggests that at the next IAG Meeting, the Street Triage and team attend and share their role with the meeting. NR/AK to arrange a date.
   EB explained that the street triage team and Police work together to support mental health cases.

RRK referred to Deer Coursing occurring in nearby Bedfordshire. In the past 24hrs, someone had their electric gate damaged and tyre tracks were left at the scene. Suggestions made that the perpetrators are moving towards MK direction. RRK praised the Police response to a recent burglary.
AA remarked that this offence had been raised at DMM and it was good to know that the victim felt the response was right.
RRK went on to report theft of plant that was then used to commit a ram raid locally. AA commented that there was a focus on identifying the offenders. RRK added that JH had attended the recent Community Forum a week before and shoplifting had been the main concern.
JH spoke about the fairly new Q: Alliance safe space in Fenny Stratford. A Defibrillator has been installed and training delivered. The venue will be used as a warm space over the Christmas and winter period. Once a month they host 'Chums', a young carers group.
PW reported concern among the HK Chinese community that hate crimes in London and Nottingham had increased fear in MK. These attacks had been unprovoked and it made people nervous. The activity around schools relating to knife crime was also a worry. PW had also witnessed several drivers running through red lights recently.
EB reassured everyone that if Police saw this they would deal with it. PW asked if he could send dash cam footage into Police and was told Roads Policing may view it and decide whether or to prosecute but were unlikely to respond back.
AA reassured those present that Hate Crime is reviewed daily at MK and that there hadn't been any reports of hate crime against the Chinese Community recently. EB added that Officers and staff from the Chinese community suffered disproportionately from racial hatred here.
AA reported that there had been a 9% reduction in knife crime in MK over the last year. There was hyper-vigilance around schools last week to prevent knife crime. JW agreed it had been well co-ordinated.
HC said a schoolboy was pushed and had his phone stolen in MK which was concerning. In addition, the HK Chinese community celebrate the mid-autumn festival in October and people often travelled and were away from home. In MK, a resident caught camera footage of a person observing homes, trying keys in doors and using a ladder to attempt a break-in to homes that appeared empty. Often, migrant communities don't know how to report these things.
EB spoke about Op Darknight and gave some crime prevention advice around home security during the darker months.
NS made everyone aware that there had been a meeting with the HKC community on 17/10, including a translator, where hate crime awareness had been discussed and OP Darknight was raised.
AA said there was a suggestion the offender was local and unorganised, targeting homes that looked unoccupied as all homes involved were in total darkness.
The meeting was reminded that Diwali was occurring in October.
Action for AA to consider sending TV Alerts to MK11 around burglary and Operation Darknight - done.
KM reported that there had been four Building Bonds sessions at the Point.
MK raised the feelings of uncertainty that had been felt post Manchester incident. Women were worried about going out. With eleven mosques across MK, had there been reassurance visits? Leaflets about hate crime and burglary (Asian Gold in particular) would be useful, perhaps in other languages. Only one bank allows storage of gold and storage costs are expensive, leading many to store gold in their homes.
Action: PCSOs to attend Mosques at Friday prayers to hand out crime prevention leaflets – this will also help with engagement.
EB warned that not every Mosque wants the same level of support. NS added that the majority of Mosques did get reassurance patrols or attendance at events e.g. football at Granby Mosque.
SB shared that the Jewish Community had been overwhelmed with support post Manchester. They were grateful for extra patrols and have increased security for services.
AK added that international circumstances impact our MK communities and we need leaders with vision and sensitivity to have conversations and embrace our common values.
JW talked about the recent Sec 34 Dispersal Order that was recently utilised at three education sites in MK. The support and reassurance provided by Police was excellent. The use of Screening arches sent a clear message about a zero tolerance policy for knives. Staff training and lockdown drills all contributed to the

success of the initiative. AA added that the action was based on intelligence and there had been three arrests.
PS said his community had sent messages to their group to remind parents to check schoolbags on Sunday evenings. Two knives had been found this way.
AK asked how technology will be integrated into Policing in the future and EB replied that one of the biggest challenges would be to integrate AI/Robotics to reduce the beaurocracy the frontline has to work with all the time, such as putting together a case file. Such technology exists, but our biggest challenge is that, in order to pay for it, we need to have the financial bandwidth to do so – but we don't have that because of the short budgets Police are given by Government. Investing in tech would come at the cost of staff posts. Our funding dictates that we operate year to year. This is a national issue.
PW mentioned a study done by Herts Police regarding use of AI to take statements.

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

EB referred to the incident at the Synagogue in Manchester. Religious/race hate crime is rising. EB led (Gold) the force response to Manchester. Global events are creating tension in the UK. The offender in Manchester was there to attack Jews for who they are. At a recent Sukot event in MK, there were thankfully no incidents but it makes people fearful and wonder 'what's next?'. Police signpost people to 'Protect UK' to get advice on managing events and making them safer. It leads to thinking about one's own staff and how some may be feeling more vulnerable than others and so it is important to get any messaging right. SB: Jews make up a small % of the population so a lot of people know each other. Even as far back as when the Pogroms (anti-Jewish riots) started in the 1880's in Russia/Europe, chances are most Jews are related to or know someone whose family were involved.
NS said the far –right often don't distinguish between Muslims, Sikhs or Hindus and so the rise of Islamophobia has led to these communities feeling vulnerable since the events of 2024. A recent MK Muslim Forum was to be held at Coffee Hall mosque but was moved after derogatory comments online. Some people don't know how to or don't want to report hate crime, despite being encouraged to do so. People are used to it and it is normal for some. Hate crime is now discussed daily at the morning meeting force-wide. Some women who wear the Niqab/Hijab don't feel comfortable going out. There is an event being planned at Christ the Cornerstone in November to discuss Islamophobia.
RRK said there was a time when rural crime was not reported. NS reminded everyone that you can report a hate crime as a third party if you witness it.
HC suggested distributing leaflets in other languages explaining how to report crime.
EB had some stats to share:
Religious incidents down in the last year by 3.9%, Homophobic incidents reduced but transphobic have risen. Disablist related crime had a slight rise but disablist non-crime incidents have risen enormously. Honour based violence has had a small reduction. All of these stats relate to reported crime. Positive outcomes brought about for hate crime overall were 106 in 2024 and are 86 so far this year. Nationally, race and religious hate crime has risen 3%.

5. **Chair's Summary** **IAG Chair**

AK reminded everyone to submit items for the Agenda in advance. Feedback from the next Chairperson's Forum to be shared at the next IAG.
The meeting closed at 19:20hrs

6. **Next Meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 10th December 2025**

Location: TBC

7. **Meeting dates for 2026**: TBC

EVENTS CALENDAR

- One Love Luncheon Club for the Over 60's taking place every Tuesday between 1230-1530hrs at the Old Bath House, Wolverton, MK12 5RL. £5 for a hot meal and activities. Call 07467 054585 or email onelovelunchеon@gmail.com