Milton Keynes LCU IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 15th January 2025

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

LOCATION: Milton Keynes Police Station, Milton Keynes

Initials	Position
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LCU Commander, TVP
RG	Inspector, Guest Speaker, TVP
NS	CADO, TVP
AA	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
TR	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
DH	IAG Member
JW	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
AKh	IAG Member
TV	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
SS	IAG Member
AH	Guest
AKe	Admin Support, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
GB	Staff Officer, TVP
NR	IAG Member
NA	IAG member

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** **IAG Chair**
   AK thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. **Previous minutes were ratified** **AA/TLJ**
   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** **All**
   Reference was made to the last meeting's visit by the Chief Constable, who loves visiting MK.
   EB informed the meeting that there were no messages put out on Christmas Day regarding the double murder as everything there was to say was included in the press release. There is no ongoing risk and the offender was detained swiftly.

Due to the good work from TVP and partners, knife crime has come down significantly, however, MK is out of kilter with the rest of the Force and the knife is still the weapon of choice here.
There is lots of work going on in MK. BAMEHub UK based in MK, but working nationally, are taking 50 ethnic minority children to do knife crime awareness sessions. EB is investing in 2 sessions, providing awareness from different agencies.

JW asked about the validity of the response 'It's for work' when considering seizing a knife an apprentice may have about their person at the College. RG said context was key and that was a 'reasonable excuse'. In a stop and search they would likely be arrested but the defence would be that it was for work.
EB gave a snapshot of some events coming up including SIM MK where refugee children are shown around different departments at the Police Station to get an idea of what Policing is like. NS CADO is also arranging attendance at some knife crime events coming up.
There is an African Diaspora Foundation event happening, Ju-Jitsu being taught at Wolverton Mosque and AK is working with a comic book artist around a prevention of knife crime project. AK is keen to utilise, if possible, some training aids in the form of photos to show the damage knife crime can do.
JH said the impact of knife crime in MK had been having an effect at Bedford College too as some students commute.

4. LPA Commander's Update: All

RG, our Stop & Search Manager for MK, spoke to the meeting about the Stop & Search Process (S&S). During the detailed presentation he gave an overview, described a 'good search', explained proportionality and conducted a short scrutiny exercise involving the viewing of an extract of Body Worn Video.
S&S is a vital tool that is less intrusive than an arrest. It is targeted, focussed, appropriate, open and stands up to scrutiny. There have to be reasonable grounds for S&S, you cannot conduct one based on suspicion caused by physical appearance, previous convictions, being in a high crime area or the smell alone of cannabis.
Between Jan-Dec 2024 there were 2044 searches of which 98% used Body Worn Video. 38% had a positive outcome either finding the item as intended or something else illegal, such as weapons, drugs, including THC gummies and vapes, cannabis oil and resin (not CBD). This outcome is high nationally. There has been a slight increase in searching under 18's up to 287 out of 2044. Parent/Guardians are informed and safeguarding is always considered.
Disproportionality is about who we search. The vast majority of those searched are from a white community. In MK 1325 out of 2044 compared to 719 from a minority group, which is lower than other areas. Across TVP as a whole, 16866 S&S were conducted with 11186 being white and 5680 from a minority.
TG said that disproportionality figures are clouded by repeat offenders. How do you work with repeat offenders? RG replied that TVP are not the only agency to deal with prevention of repeat offending.
PS said he had been stopped a few times and had once received an apology letter from an Inspector after making a complaint.
RG remarked that harm is caused if people are not treated with dignity and respect.
RRK asked about the proportion of male:female searches. RG: c300 out of 2044 were female in the last year. Scrutiny is carried out using dip-check monthly reviews where feedback is captured. Peer scrutiny meetings are being re-introduced later in 2025. There is also a Community Scrutiny Panel meeting bi-monthly with an Independent Chair. All feedback is put forward at a quarterly Force level meeting. This may influence training and operational guidance going forward.

5. AOB All

AK and DH reminded everyone to submit their responses to the Community Safety Survey, with some members completing paper versions before leaving the meeting.

6. Next Meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 26th February 2025 All

Location: TBC