



LPA IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 13th December 2023

TIME: 6pm-7.40pm, followed by food and networking 7.40-8.15pm

LOCATION: The Point, Central Milton Keynes

Attendees:

Initials	Position
AK	IAG Chair
EB	LPA Commander, TVP
RP	C/Insp, TVP
NS	Community & Diversity Officer (CADO), TVP
BR	PC, TVP
MS	PCSO, TVP
AO	PC, TVP
JF	MKC
DH	MKC
NA	IAG Member
TJ	IAG Member
JH	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
RL	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
JS	IAG Member
AKh	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
TR	IAG Member
SB	IAG Member
DT	IAG Chair, Oxford
SH	Observer
WA	Chair of Council of Faith (Observer)
AsK	Cllr, Luton (Observer)
MK	Cllr (Observer)
AH	Cllr (Observer)
AKe	Admin Support, MK LPA, TVP (Minutes)
Apologies	
JS	IAG Member

1. Welcome & Introductions: IAG Chair

AK welcomed everyone, Introductions were made around the table and apologies given. Planned guest speaker, TO, Coroner's Officer, was unable to attend due to sudden work commitments. AK shared a handout that was sent to the meeting regarding the burial process.

It was noted that all attendees had the option of suggesting future guest speakers.

Cllr AsK is knowledgeable in this subject and will contribute later in the meeting. Cllr MK will also speak about burial sites in Milton Keynes.

Guest speaker MS was also unable to attend and her contribution will be deferred.

2. Previous minutes were ratified All

3. IAG Chairs Report: Wellbeing

JS: Kiln Farm Gurdwara hosted an initiative about mental health and wellbeing. Communication between genders/age groups was lively. The initiative was added to an existing celebration and attendance was high. A charity asked to attend the site to talk about mental health, a taboo subject in the Sikh Community. The talk was interactive, people engaged using both English and Punjabi, inclusive to all, which worked very well. It got people talking and was a great success.

LP talked about loneliness and isolation at Christmas for elderly people, although the social prescribing service is for anyone of any age experiencing this.

NR said the stigma surrounding mental health was massive, it's cultural and she will be working on this with JS in the New Year. TG asked what was the definition of 'Older' and LP said 55 +.

NA remarked that it is an extremely busy time for the Ambulance Service, if anyone is aware of elderly persons in their community, let them know how you can help. Suicide rates go up at Christmas, more and more in the young, who don't feel like they can talk to their parents through fear or family circumstances. Loneliness affects mental health, please help if you can.

AK asked about policing around mental health at Christmas. EB remarked that we see it internally and externally. Police spend a lot of time dealing with Mental Health concerns. 'Right Care, Right Person' has helped us step back from things that are not a policing purpose and other agencies are picking up more of the pieces. The peak for Policing at this time comes from Burglaries and Shoplifting.

In the absence of the Coroner, a discussion then followed with those present who are involved in the burial process in accordance with Islam. MK spoke about the purchase of land locally to facilitate burials over the next 20-30 years. AsK shared the best practice

developed in Luton with a multi-agency approach to allow same-day burials. The vast majority have been same day/next day. Willingness to achieve this and collective working is the only way forward to improve these rates. The use of MRI scanning versus the, often delaying, Post-Mortem process was considered, as was the hope for a 24/7 out-of-hours Registry service. MK reminded the meeting that Milton Keynes does have a weekend service but it is limited. Work to bring Milton Keynes up to the service level of Luton is possible. Currently it is a 'work-in-progress' and the community is keen for this to be achieved, as are the Council and Hospital.

AK asked EB about the pressure on TVP when dealing with sensitive deaths, particularly around the mechanism for same day burials? EB replied that not every member of staff will understand the mechanism but that the Police also want answers, need to know what happened and would certainly not be responsible for introducing any delays. In complex cases work would need to be done to obtain evidence and Major Crime would be more likely to be aware, but not all Officers will be aware of every faith requirement. NS tries to cover this as much as possible in a large organisation.

AsK suggested education is effective for each emergency service. EB to check that Major Crime are aware. AsK mentioned the pressure on Councillors from the Community in the case of a murder, who desire no obstruction to burial but who may have to be reminded that the Police need to do their job. EB reminded all that in the case of a murder Family Liaison Officers (FLO) may be deployed to assist in bridging the gap between the families and the Police. Unexplained deaths are different and TVP would welcome a phone-call from the Community to make them aware of any tensions. FLOs and Officers dealing should communicate what our procedures are to those involved. Not all Officers are as experienced as some Specialist Officers.

In the case of a murder, CADO will get involved and link in with the Community and Major Crime. The Community involved can speak with the CADO and make NS aware of any tensions. Unexplained deaths are deaths where a coroner has to get involved, but Police don't think it is suspicious. The police will not be pushing for answers so delays may form and this may be where the gaps lie.

4. LPA Commander's Update EB

EB spoke briefly about the Community Safety Survey data. The data is accurate but only up to April 2023. Since 01.04.23 Hate Crime reports are down by 11%.

Disablist – down 7%

Transphobic – down 3%

Race crime – down 12%

Homophobic – down 30%

Faith Crime overall – up by 35% - this has gone up since the Middle East crisis. However, the majority of what has been reported in Milton Keynes is where someone from MK has identified something bad being said online (Twitter) that they have reported to the Police. Only one offender actually lives/works in MK, all others are elsewhere.

Overall, this feels positive. Please ask all communities to report things as soon as possible so we have as high chance as possible to deal with it effectively.

WA spoke briefly about hidden race crime. It is often hard to encourage people to report these incidences. CADO trying to engage with women from Inter Faith Communities. EB remarked that even if people don't want to proceed TVP get a better picture if we at least know. Trust is an issue for some.

RP spoke about policing the area of South Oxford & The Vale of White Horse. RP explained the demographic of city-v-rural and the diverse communities, crime types and the focus of TVP in a large area made up of city, market town and rural communities.

RRK raised the pending release of the Rural Crime Strategy and the issue of hare coursing.

EB shared good news stories involving the arrest of an offender for kidnap and the identification and arrest of an offender who was scouting for insecure properties to burgle. Someone has also been arrested for the series of burglaries in Wolverton. A discussion arose around the use of Ring Doorbell and CCTV footage that may assist Police in identifying offenders. EB asked communities to always share such footage as it may help. Footage can be shared via the TVP website.

AH remarked that taxi-drivers, who provide a valuable service to the night-time economy, feel unsupported when reporting offences, such as making off without payment. EB urged them to report offences immediately as a positive response is more likely.

MK thanked Officers for a recent ride-along. This is open to all.

5. **Stop & Search Data:** nothing to report – to be carried over to 2024.

6. **AOB**

All

DH & JF spoke about the Community Safety Survey and funding for the new underpass lights and CCTV. There is a 90 min 'Bystander Training' module available. Further discussion around the survey to be carried over to 2024.

TJ informed the meeting about MKACT service available over the festive period.

AH thanks TVP for all the hard work they do in MK.

TR referred to inter-faith groups taking part in meetings and demos regarding the Middle Eastern conflict. TR thanked EB/NS CADO for bringing clarity to how people can protest safely and dispelling rumours of what people can and can't do.

KM told the meeting about a planned extension to the Mosque.

NR asked about rumours of the CMK Market closing.

AKh said it was being re-vamped at which point, DH added that MKC had taken control of it and EB agreed that MKC have tightened up the governance around it.

NR said there were many Mental Health projects to look forward to in 2024.

AKh said the Bangladeshi Community were concerned about the amount of development in Bletchley and about young people at home turning to gangs, drugs and using e-scooters.

RRK commented that the survey is superb. Also that speeding and nuisance vehicles are the main complaint in the rural community at present.

WA asked if TVP join with the Youth Communities to engage them and EB responded with information about the Discovery Days coming up.

AK – Thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

AK also thanked MK for arranging the food for everybody this evening.

7. **Next Meeting date – Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 6pm** **Chair**

Location: Milton Keynes Police Station