

DATE: Wednesday 2nd March 2022
TIME: 18:00 hrs
LOCATION: Age UK – The Peartree Centre, 1 Chadds Lane, Peartree Bridge, Milton Keynes MK6 3EB

Init	Position and Area
AK	IAG Chair
JH	TVP Community & Diversity Officer
NS	TVP Community & Diversity Officer
NA	IAG Member
JS	MKC SaferMK
SB	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
MT	TVP LPA Commander
RRK	IAG Member
TJ	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
PK	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
RS	MKC
SD	Cllr Accompanying the Mayor
MK	Mayor of Milton Keynes
DL	TVP Admin Support Officer
AA	IAG Member
DJ	IAG Member
LS	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
LH	IAG Member
AK	IAG Member

1. Welcome and Introductions:
IAG Chair

AK/1 Welcomed everyone to the meeting. The list of apologies / attendees is above.

2. Previous notes/actions:
All

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed.

3. Chairs Report:**IAG Chair**

➤ Topic: Alliances and Communities

AK discussed the effect of recent serious incidents on the communities of Milton Keynes. AK said that the IAG and TVP have worked very well together, the IAG are a critical friend to TVP.

AK read out an update from MK College. "Our concerns are around the increase in violent incidents and we are focusing on increasing awareness activities with the students on how to keep themselves safe. We are working closely with partners and thank everyone who has offered support".

AK discussed his concern around price rises and the impact of this on vulnerable people. AK said we must make sure that vulnerable people are looked after. AK said that poverty increases the risk of crime. The IAG will work together to raise awareness of distraction burglaries.

MK said that he enjoyed his recent Ride-along experience with TVP, he said it was a great experience to spend time with police officers working on the front line.

MK questioned the reasons behind young people carrying knives; he said that we should speak to young people to find out what they are doing, with engagement from our neighbourhood teams.

MK said that BAME women would engage better with female police officers. Some of the women are shy and do not necessarily understand that the police are there to help.

NS said that engagement with the mosques is generally good.

MK said that he would be happy to assist and participate to help build a relationship with any of the mosques if it is proving difficult to engage with any of them.

AK thanked MK for giving up his time and going out of his way to help to build relationships with the diverse community of Milton Keynes during his year as Mayor.

ZM said the primary agent of socialising is families we need to develop links with families. The secondary agent is education, it should be embedded in the curriculum in citizenship and

PSHE from year 7 onwards. ZM said the government education department, on a national level, needs to address knife crime in the curriculum.

4. LPA Commanders Updates:**LPA Commander**

MT provided an update in relation to the murder at the College. MT said it had a significant impact in Milton Keynes. The suspect has been charged and remanded. A second student is on bail and will continue with his education remotely.

MT reported that a Section 60 was running for a week following the murder. Additional resources were brought in to help police this power and there are still enhanced numbers of officers in Milton Keynes. A Section 60 gives the police a defined area in which people can be searched without reasonable grounds to suspect they are in possession of a weapon or knife. There appears to be a lot of support for Section 60 within the community.

MT said a community impact assessment has been completed. MT said there has been a disproportionate impact on the Somali community in the last few weeks.

MT said the CADOs have been reaching into the mosques and talking to the women, there is still some more work to do.

MT reported that earlier this week there was a fatal accident involving two men in a stolen motor vehicle crash, one person died and one person was seriously injured. The person who died was Somalian. MT said that we recognise there is an increasing impact on the Somali community with young men getting involved in crime, which is having a significant affect in Milton Keynes. There is some work to do, to improve life opportunities and divert people away from crime.

MT said that following the murder there has been good engagement with the schools. A joint letter from the school heads and MT was sent out to parents. An appeal has been made for any witnesses or people with evidence to come forward.

MT said that that the police could not fix knife crime alone. MT said there is some good work being done in conjunction with partner agencies. MT said that the police would work closely with the IAG to help understand the issues and listen carefully to what people have to say.

TL said that some people from the Ghanaian community might have come from other countries where their experience of the police is very different; there you are guilty until proved innocent. TL said that before community engagement can take place we have to

address the initial perception of the police in the UK. We need to make the parents understand that the UK police are friendly and want to work with them.

MT said that one of the ways to overcome these issues is via engagement. We want people to recognise that we want to listen.

MT reported on a burglary series, which the Rural Crime Team have been responding to, in order to prevent further offences.

MT said that TVP are looking at a broader communication plan about knife crime. The junior filmmakers have made a film with funding from the Council highlighting the dangers of knife crime. The film will be shown in schools. MT said this is particularly beneficial because it is young people talking to young people about knife crime.

JS said that the Choices programme is being delivered by Hazard Alley to year 6 students. There is also a new scenario based on how to keep safe on the streets. JS said that Hazard Alley is a great resource, which should be utilised more.

MK expressed his frustration at young people carrying weapons. He discussed training opportunities and diversion tactics and talking to younger children to engage with them and understand why they are doing this, so that solutions can be identified.

MT said that young people carry knives because of a perception of safety, or because of the risky behaviour, they might be involved in.

TL said that boys are brought up to be strong, some feel like they are being bullied and they are not being listened to. TL said that some youths do not know that it is illegal to carry a knife. She said that we need the parent and child to have a dialogue so that they can speak about their feelings.

5. Stop and Search Data and Discussion:

All

Deferred to the next meeting.

6. Hate Crime Case Studies and Discussion

All

➤ Community Impact & Development:

PK said the definition of an ally is to unite oneself with another to promote a common interest.

PK said there is a lot of value in looking around a room and seeing other people who do not look like you as that is where rich powerful conversations come from.

ZM said that she works with Afghan evacuees. It was noted that police officers attend the Sunday school at the mosque to talk to the children at break time and help to break down barriers.

TL said that as a women leader in her Church she is raising awareness of the LGBTQ community within her Church.

PK said that we are all allies of everyone else. PK said that he is an ally of the rural community.

JH said the CADO's have been looking at the Russian and Ukraine situation. NS said that the CADOs are trying to provide reassurance to these communities and provide them with information to understand what a hate crime is and how to report a hate crime. JH said that the Russian and Ukraine communities collaborate in Milton Keynes. JH said anecdotally there is bullying within schools, which the schools are trying to get the students to report. JH said the CADO's have sensed some tensions within the Russian community. NS said that it would be good to have a Russian representative on the IAG, there are 6,000 – 8,000 Russian people living in Milton Keynes.

7. Other Crime Updates

LPA Commander

Deferred to the next meeting.

8. Members Feedback / Issues to raise:

All

RRK said that in the rural area there is a Barn event coming up which is by invitation only. He suggested that a similar event could be beneficial for local communities to meet with PCSO's and police officers.

AK said that Art in the Park is on 14th and 15th May.

NA said it is disability month, she said that disability should be on the agenda, not just for disability month. She spoke about long Covid and neurodiversity. NA said people process information differently, if people are not given the opportunity, it can lead to mental health issues. Disability is a protected characteristic of diversity. Service providers have a responsibility to provide reasonable adjustments. If anyone wants any further information, please contact NA.

TG said there is an obligation for the individual to declare their disability, so that the employer can make the necessary provision. NA said employers could state that they are committed to disability, but the person has to declare it himself or herself.

PK said that in his workplace there are some people with neurodiversity and their employer concentrates on what they are good at so they can celebrate their 'super power'.

9. AOB**IAG Chair**

SB said that JH spoke at their last council meeting enabling open communication. AK said he would like an IAG member to link in with the synagogue to make new alliances.

PK mentioned that Anouar is to talk to the Muslim Council about increasing the diverse representation of Q:Alliance.

PK said that Q:Alliance took part in a swimming event at the weekend as a fundraising event and JH took part. Q:Alliance came second in their heat.

PK said that the Pride event has been announced for September; when the date is known AK will circulate it.

TG discussed a move to get more magistrates trained. If anyone is interested in applying to be a magistrate the link is below:

[Campaign to recruit 4,000 new magistrates launches \(magistrates-association.org.uk\)](https://magistrates-association.org.uk)

KM – discussed a Whatsapp Group for the Somali Community to share information and raise any issues to the group.

NA put forward a proposal to the IAG. NA said that with knife crime on the increase where it is petty, mediation could take place instead of going to CPS. NA said that she felt that too many petty crimes are going to Court.

MT said that offences involving knives are factored with an outcome that aligns with the severity and risk attached. The Youth Offending Team make a decision on the outcome that is best to divert the youth away from crime. MT said that he would encourage the reporting of knife crime to the police because the risks are so great.

NA said that she feels that sometimes it is escalated and it may not be necessary.

JS spoke about 'fast responders' in schools. This is funded by the Community Safety Partnership. If a child commits an offence in school, they have the opportunity for restorative justice with a peer mentor. It is called 'fast responders' because within 48 hours of the referral they will get a mentor.

TG said that from her experience the Custody Sergeants assess the situation to try to get a community option rather than label a child.

TLJ said that she worked with Alfie Pride and the public may not realise the effort and resources that have gone into working with a young person.

TJL said that there could be tension brewing in the African community and the Russian and the Ukraine community because of some videos, which have been going viral. JH said that if there are issues locally to let her know and she will submit the information into the national tensions team.

ZM said preparations are being made for Ramadan.

RRK said that vulnerable people in the rural communities are being well looked after by the PCSOs who do a very good job.

RRK said that a ride-along for IAG members would be beneficial. MT said that this could be arranged.

JS spoke about an event at Hazard Alley on 12th March between 11am – 3pm which is being run by the Community Safety Partnership. It will cover new legislation that has made some knives illegal.

LP said they are welcoming the MPs on Friday and will be discussing digital exclusion and poverty.

MK said that he could help to build bridges and engage with any community and also help to facilitate community meetings.

SD said she is campaigning for no poverty to tackle knife crime. SD is a researcher; she said that tackling poverty is important, as there is a strong link between poverty and crime. SD

also highlighted there are fewer police than there were in 2010 and also fewer CCTV cameras.

AK thanked LP for the hospitality.

10. Agenda items requested for next meeting:**All**

Nothing of note.

11. Next Meeting Dates: 13th April 2022

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Meeting Closed.