

Milton Keynes LPA IAG Meeting



Minutes

DATE Wednesday 21st September 2022

TIME: 18:00 hrs

LOCATION: Gurudwara Kiln Farm Milton Keynes

Init	Position and Area
AK	IAG Chair
AA	IAG Member
JH	TVP Community & Diversity Officer
NS	TVP Community & Diversity Officer
KM	IAG Member
RRK	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
LH	IAG Member
KJ	TVP T/Ch/Insp.
RL	IAG Member
LS	IAG Member
AL	IAG Member
DL	TVP – Note Taker
TR	IAG Member
TSC	Secretary RSMK Sikh Temple
MT	TVP
SB	IAG Member
TG	IAG Member
NA	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
PK	IAG Member
AK	IAG Member
NR	IAG Member
TV	IAG Member

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1.

Welcome and Introductions:

IAG Chair

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

AK asked everyone to stand for a minute silence to pay respects to Her Majesty the Queen.

2. **Previous notes/actions:**

All

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and ratified.

3. **IAG Chairs Report: Topic Young people and exploitation**

IAG Chair

AK discussed various types of exploitation of young people and provided a handout. This promoted a discussion about the impact that exploitation has on our community.

RRK said he hadn't seen any evidence of exploitation in the rural community, accepting that you never know what happens behind closed doors. He said that drug dealing from vehicles is more visible, not necessarily by young people, but by those involved in criminality trying to avoid ANPR cameras.

AK said that if drug dealing is taking place inside school grounds, the school can intervene, but not outside the school grounds.

ZM said NS and colleagues from the domestic abuse unit visited one of the hotels that is accommodating Afghan refugees. They discussed finances and explained that if the women are in receipt of universal credit or child benefit it should be going into their account and not their husbands account.

LH said that she works with vulnerable people who have been involved in sexual exploitation, particularly around drugs. She said that domestic abuse is also a big issue. She gave an example of a vulnerable female who was involved with a group of people who were providing her with medication and illegal drugs. When she was unable to pay them she was having to do sexual favours and she was physically assaulted.

LS said that in the college, they have experienced all types of exploitation, except organ harvesting. Exploitation is particularly prevalent in cases where they have students with very high needs and who are vulnerable. Every year she sees domestic exploitation and domestic servitude amongst young people who may have been sent to join people in the UK. Also arranged marriages and exploitation against vulnerable young people and those with the least financial resource, being groomed into prostitution and males and females being groomed to work in gangs.

AL said she has been at the college for 19 years and she has seen the spread of exploitation across all ages, all ethnicities and all demographics.

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TR said there are now very few cases of forced marriages within the Pakistani community. Slave labour is more common, the car wash being an example. But this appears to be coming to an end because the car washes are struggling to find people to work in them.

AK said he is concerned that the rise in the cost of living may lead to people being coerced because they can't cope financially.

PS said that he has spoken to some men from his community and they are feeling a bit vulnerable as the cost of living is going up and the woman want to be in control of the finances, if relationships break down the woman stays in the house with the children.

JH said the law doesn't support men in the same way.

RL said that organ harvesting is common back home, but not in the UK. He said that forced marriage has happened in the past, but he doesn't know anyone within the community that has been affected by this.

KJ said that exploitation is a community owned problem, if the police don't know about it we can't do anything. Removing barriers to enable people to report issues is important. Educating parents in any community to recognise exploitation is really important.

KJ said that officers have training to make them aware of honour based exploitation, modern day slavery and dealing with missing people who are vulnerable to exploitation.

ZM said that the law in Afghanistan is different to the UK. In Afghanistan it is acceptable to leave children on their own, but here you can't.

JH said that sometimes a victim initially makes a disclosure, but then shuts down and decides that they don't want to support the police any further. This is frustrating because you know what the outcome should be, but it makes it more difficult if they do not want to support proceedings.

KJ said that often these types of crimes will be investigated by specialist departments. There is a good process of review at the morning daily management meeting, to make sure that we haven't missed anything. If a child is involved it will go to our Child Investigation Abuse Unit.

NS said that when the CADOs get involved they speak to the victim alone and make sure that they feel free to speak. They also check to ensure that the person is in possession of their own passport.

4. LPA Commanders Updates:

KJ was representing the LPA Commander at the IAG. She said that the PCC came to the last IAG meeting and spoke about Op Deter.

KJ said that Op DINA is our response to serious violence. We have identified some hot people and hot places in Milton Keynes who are disproportionately affected by knife crime. The force recognise there is an issue and every day a Sergeant and six officers are allocated to OP DINA. They may search an area, act as a safeguarding presence, or identify people that should be legitimately stop searched for knives. This has been running for three months. We have arrested 100 people throughout the summer for violent crime, knife crime

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and things that may determine more serious events. We have stopped around 250 people and have a really good positive outcome of 40% in September, this is above the national average. We are doing a really good job of identifying people who need to be searched and arrested. This enables us to get a criminal justice outcome which ultimately safeguards Milton Keynes and it also gives us the opportunity, if they are youths, to go down the diversionary route to get them out of knife crime.

Op Deter is the PCC's plan with Thames Valley Police to look at possession of knife offences. We are looking to charge and remand simple crimes where a knife is found on someone, rather than them using a knife. This is not something that we would normally do. In the first instance we have targeted over 18s but now we are also looking at under 18's as well. We have charged and remanded 50% of the people in Milton Keynes that have been found in possession of a knife. In terms of children, if we prove that we have tried to engage with them in a diversionary tactic before, we have been quite successful at remanding them and putting them before court. This is important because court bail holds more weight than police bail, so although the youths may be released the same day, they will be released with specific bail conditions which allows us to have engagement with them, to continue to help them to divert whilst a decision is made from the youth criminal justice side.

LS asked if she can share the stats.

KJ said that Op Deter stats are on Thames Valley social media.

KJ said that EL is the Deputy LPA commander and she will liaise with him to see what figures can be released for LS to share with the students at the college.

LS said that this information might act as a deterrence to those who are saying they are scared and anxious and who might start carrying a knife.

KJ said that Op Deter has had a deterrence effect, because youths know that the police are stop searching people and looking for knives.

KJ said she was keen to understand the impact that the recent disorder in Leicester has had on our communities so that we can look at prevention and make sure that our communities are safe.

RRK said he believes that Milton Keynes is different and any unrest here will be stopped by members from within the communities before it gets out of control.

NS said the community are talking about coming together for a multi-faith meeting. A lot of people who were arrested for the disorder were not from Leicester, they had travelled in from other towns and cities. Community leaders in Leicester have said that they have always lived in harmony.

AA said that the Friday prayers in the mosque will be focusing on the disorder that has taken place in Leicester.

TR said that social media has got a lot to answer for because it fans the flames. It is good to see the Leicester community coming together to show they have always lived in harmony.

KJ asked whether the IAG would be able to pick up on any tension.

TR said there are good lines of communication and they will do whatever they can, he said that the police have gone out in force to keep it under control.

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NS said it has a lot to do with international issues, not to do with the cricket.

RL said that fascism is playing its part. There has been nothing like this in Leicester before.

AK said that working together makes for a better outcome

KJ said that the IAG can help with the identification of any risk or potential risk.

ZM said that we need a template for all mosques to work together towards prevention.

TR said that most people don't know, but the Pakistan community have a great deal in common with the Sikh community, but we need to improve communication with the Hindu community.

The IAG agreed that it would be very good to all work together to prevent any problems occurring in Milton Keynes.

KJ spoke about a young black male who was shot in the MET police area which was similar to the Mark Duggan incident which led to disorder in London. KJ said that if the IAG were getting a sense that it is inciting some kind of protest, riots or disorder in Milton Keynes they should keep an open line of communication with the police. There is an investigation ongoing with the IOPC and a criminal investigation, she said that we will await the outcome. KJ said it may have had an effect on a large number of our communities and the confidence in the police. If there is anything that the members would like to discuss outside of the meeting KJ and MT are always available.

PS said that social media has got a lot to do with violent disorder and mosques and churches should discourage people from sharing these videos.

5. Stop and Search Data and Discussion:

All

Nothing to add.

6. Hate Crime Case Studies and Discussion

All

JH said that National Hate Crime awareness week is from 8th – 15th October. She asked the IAG to consider what they could do to mark this week. JH said the CADOs are happy to support any events, or discussions; they have been working with disablist groups on poetry. JH said that we want the whole of Milton Keynes to be talking about hate crime. The CADOs are at MK College on Monday 8th talking about Project One.

JH said on 10th October in the Council Chambers there is an event for women's experience of hate crime, everyone is welcome to attend and share.

JH said that the most acceptable form of racism appears to be towards the travellers who stop on the roadside, this usually takes place on-line. She spoke about education and raising awareness of what is not acceptable to say.

JH circulated a case study of a recent racially aggravated public order incident for the IAG to discuss and offer their comments. JH described the incident, explained the police and CADO intervention and the outcome.

JH spoke about the families who are living in one room in a hotel with no money to enjoy what Milton Keynes has got to offer. She asked if the IAG could offer any help to them.

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LS said that that many more people came to Milton Keynes than were expected. There are classes starting over the next few weeks. There have been problems with staffing and getting support assistants and they are still waiting for some DBS checks to come through which has meant they have had to stagger the start.

LS said they also have Ukrainian refugees, they are all mixed and working together. The only point of tension is they are expected to provide a multi-faith prayer room and particularly the Afghan refugees are expecting dedicated prayer rooms for males and females and they don't have that facility. LS said they are trying to develop and understand what the college can or can't do. A lot of the refugees won't travel in the same taxi but they also provide bursaries for travel and bus cards.

The refugees have also been made aware of MK Connect and that is a lot cheaper.

ZM said that the refugees are all on universal credit and child benefit. DWP have said that if they haven't got a job or enrolled on a course they won't get universal credit. This has caused a bit of a panic. It was noted that this will be discussed further outside of this meeting.

KM thanked NS and JH for helping with a difficult 6 months within his community.

7. Other Crime Updates

LPA Commander

Nothing of note.

8. Members Feedback / Issues to raise:

All

Nothing of note.

9. AOB

IAG Chair

AA said that the programme for knife crime was a success. The TVP recruitment team were there with Neighbourhood officers.

AK said a Somalian Heritage exhibition is at the Museum from 29th September 2022.

RRK said thank you to TVP for the manner in which they responded to an unauthorised encampment on his land which caused criminal damage. It was very well handled by the police. He highlighted the special constables who he said were particularly good.

RRK said that nobody in the rural area has shown any animosity towards the travellers. There was rubbish left behind and asbestos sheeting left in the brook. They are causing the police and the council a lot of time. They have been in 15 different locations.

JH pointed out that it is not every encampment where these issues occur.

ZM said it would be useful for the general public to have information of what the rights are for travellers which might prevent some misunderstanding.

RRK said that unlawful encampment laws are more precise and the powers that the police have are better defined than they were previously.

LS thanked the IAG for helping MK college so many times.

AK thanked LS for the help she has given to him, he said that she has helped him a lot in many areas.

AL thanked the IAG for welcoming her to the meeting.

TR said that 33 million people have been affected by the flood in Pakistan and the suffering goes on. He is involved with a community group called Milton Keynes Pakistan Kashmir Association. They recently did a fund raiser to raise money for a mobile medical unit. Water borne diseases are problematic. The event raised just over one hundred thousand pounds but more needs to be done.

10. Agenda items requested for next meeting:

All

Nothing of note.

11. Next Meeting Dates:

26th October 2022 – MK College

Meeting Closed.