



LPA IAG Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 31st January 2024

TIME: 6pm-7.15pm

LOCATION: Police Station, Central Milton Keynes

Attendees:

| Initials | Position |
|------------------|---|
| AK | IAG Chair |
| EL | Deputy LPA Commander, TVP |
| NS | Community & Diversity Officer (CADO), TVP |
| RG | Inspector, TVP |
| DH | MKCC |
| ZM | IAG Member |
| PS | IAG Member |
| JH | IAG Member |
| RRK | IAG Member |
| TG | IAG Member |
| JS | IAG Member |
| AA | IAG Member |
| KM | IAG Member |
| TR | IAG Member |
| SB | IAG Member |
| JW | Observer – MK College (in lieu of AL) |
| AKe | Admin Support, MK LPA, TVP (Minutes) |
| Apologies | |
| JS | IAG Member |
| NR | IAG Member |
| LP | IAG Member |
| TLJ | IAG Member |
| NA | IAG Member |
| AKh | IAG Member |

1. Welcome & Introductions: IAG Chair

AK welcomed everyone, introductions were made around the table and apologies given.

2. Previous minutes were ratified All

3. IAG Chairs Report: Stop & Search – Insp RG

(NB: There was a hiatus during the S&S talk due to technical difficulties. For the purpose of these minutes the presentation has been recorded as one item).

RG is the STOP AND SEARCH (S&S) lead in MK. The meeting was asked to be involved in some scrutiny this evening involving the watching of some body worn video (BWV) and scoring of the Officer involved regarding his methods. There is a robust scrutiny process here in MK that has been adopted force-wide with peer to peer and public scrutiny panels. We use the feedback given to make tangible improvements to our practices.

It is important to lift the veil on what we do, be transparent and be accountable for use of S&S as it is a vital tool for Police to take weapons and drugs off the streets to prevent crime and keep the public safe. S&S is not without controversy and has been/can be used disproportionately.

- Good S&S requires minimum force, is carried out objectively and is proportionate, lawful, (reasonable grounds), safe and effective. We accept it is an interference in people's everyday life but we still deliver it in a positive way.
- Good communication is vital: engaging with the member of the public, building a rapport, treating them with dignity and respect.
- Safeguarding without bias, particularly with young people or the vulnerable.
- Handcuffing is only used when necessary to prevent escape or injury and there should be an explanation as to why it is being used.
- Targeted S&S based on intelligence.
- BWV - 97% of interactions are recorded, a big increase from 18 months ago when we were at 50%.
- Reasonable grounds means the Officers have a genuine suspicion that they are going to find the item that they are looking for. Officers need to articulate what lead them to suspect that person was in possession there and then.
- Police must not base the use of S&S on protected characteristics, the fact the person is in a high crime area, already known to Police or the smell of cannabis alone unless there is other evidence or specific intelligence.

Officers should inform subjects they are being detained for the purpose of the search.

ZM: Does the BWV footage stay with the Officer or is it sent to the Station?

RG: Cameras are individual issue, with a flash drive that can't be interfered with unless the camera is destroyed. It is placed in a dock and uploaded to the system where it is stored for 28 days unless of evidential value when it is retained for a policing purpose. They have to be manually enabled.

TR: Do Officers have to return to the Station to upload footage?

RG: Yes, we don't use a streaming system.

PS: How secure is BWV?

RG: The cameras are good with a level of water resistance, robustness and good battery life. Resolution and sound are good.

The video was played to the meeting and scoring on the stop and search process was done.

AK suggested another viewing of the video with young people to get their perspective.

RG remarked that this is something that is in hand but there is a need to overcome obstacles regarding the age of the viewers. It may be possible to work with an adjoining area to avoid young scrutineers from recognising the subjects in the video.

The way the officer spoke to the subject was noted, with a sense of humour to bring down any tension, although TR noted it was more like a 'comedy sketch' and does this approach ever backfire? EL commented that the Officer was single-crewed and humour is a good way to diffuse the situation. It was remarked that if a Jury saw this and the subject had become aggressive, the video proves the Officer was well-mannered.

4. LPA Commander's Update EL

EL thanked RG for his input on S&S before making reference to the recent murder in Brooklands. This was our first knife enabled incident in 18 months. As this is a live investigation, Police are unable to divulge further details to the meeting at this point apart from what has been said in the press releases and that it was not youth or gang related. Someone has been charged. Officers have been deployed although we have now reduced reassurance patrols as this was heightening anxiety.

The new CCTV suite was launched this week with 8 staff providing 20 hours a day coverage of MK and Slough cameras. There have already been successes following the update and renewal of the equipment, which was supported by MK City Council. If anyone wants to come and do a ride-along and see the CCTV suite it is open to all IAG members.

There has been a 9% reduction in knife enabled crime in Milton Keynes, which is substantial here. Feedback from Community Engagement, which is independently scrutinised, tells us things are improving. Our Neighbourhood crime has seen the largest reductions, e.g. Theft of and From Motor Vehicles.

The Race Action Plan is being re-launched on 6th February. It is business as usual in MK, not a tick-box exercise. It is continual and live so please email NS and tell us about your events in your communities and we will do our best to arrange for our Neighbourhood Officers to attend.

AK suggested the positive news about knife crime could be disseminated to the young people, particularly in the Somalian community, referencing the incident outside MK College. AK suggested inviting the mother of the young male who was involved, to see how the situation has developed.

RRK asked about retention of staff in MK. EL replied that it is a national issue. We have mitigations here that are working. EB oversaw the huge Officer uplift in her last role. In order to recruit 20K officers, it meant recruiting many more than that to cover off losses from retirement and taking staff away from the front line to mentor and train. Other staff have had to backfill certain functions. Many new starters were not aware of the realities of modern policing and left. Our response teams are larger.

TG asked if there was misconduct in TVP. EL replied that as a force we deal with officers who have made mistakes, through to officers who have received custodial sentences, but that is not specific to MK. Clearly we have a large amount of police officers in MK, so we are not exempt from these behaviours. However, we do deal with misconduct within MK and work closely with PSD and our teams to create the culture where inappropriate behaviours can be reported with confidence that action will be taken.

AK asked if policing is ring-fenced for business as usual with an election pending because we need to maintain confidence in policing.

5. **Stop & Search Data:** Demonstration by RG earlier.

6. **AOB** **All**

KM/AA: There is a group meeting on 2nd February and all are welcome. Details will be shared with AK who will email all. 1st March will be an event for parents regarding stop and search. PS shared some sad news of the loss of three lady community members in the last week and AK passed on condolences.

RRK thanked EL for his time with MK before he departs for his new role starting 19th Feb.

JH made the meeting aware of the Q: Alliance AGM on 22nd Feb at 5pm, at MK Library. Food available, all allies welcome. Neighbourhood Officers will be there plus DH from MKCC Community Safety Team.

AK said there was much to be anxious about in the world but the IAG meeting is innovative and cohesive so let's continue to work together in 2024.

TR thanked Police for attending the protests against the war in the Middle East to ensure the safety of everyone.

AK thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

7. **Next Meeting date – Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 6pm** **Chair**

Location: Synagogue

Other 2024 dates are (all Wednesdays):

17th April

22nd May

10th July

11th September

23rd October

11th December

Locations and topics tbc