

DATE: Wednesday 13th April 2022
TIME: 18:00 hrs
LOCATION: The Point Milton Keynes

Init	Position and Area
AK	IAG Chair
JH	TVP Community & Diversity Officer
NS	TVP Community & Diversity Officer
JS	MKC SaferMK
TG	IAG Member
KM	IAG Member
MT	TVP LPA Commander
KJ	TVP
RRK	IAG Member
LP	IAG Member
PK	IAG Member
PS	IAG Member
LH	IAG Member
AA	IAG Member
TV	IAG Member
SB	TVP
DL	TVP Admin Support Officer
SH	IAG Member
NA	IAG Member
HS	IAG Member
AK	IAG Member
ZM	IAG Member
ACP	IAG Member
TLF	IAG Member

1. Welcome and Introductions:

IAG Chair

AK Welcomed everyone to the meeting. The list of apologies / attendees is above. AK welcomed KJ and SB from TVP to the meeting. AK thanked AA for hosting the IAG. AA explained the emergency evacuation procedure in the event of a fire.

2. Previous notes/actions:

All

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed.

MT said that if anyone from the IAG would like to take part in a ride-along, speak to DL who is able to make the necessary arrangements.

It was noted that ride-along opportunities only started again from 1st April 2022 and there may be a slight delay due to the backlog.

3. Chairs Report:

IAG Chair

➤ Topic: Faith and Communities

AK said that it is a unique period with Easter and Ramadan coming together at the same time, he said that this is very unusual. AK highlighted that there are common shared values.

AK said that IAG members attended the Iftaar which took place at the college.

NS said that there was good representation from the different communities and from TVP which enabled engagement with the communities, providing reassurance and building trust and confidence and also provided the opportunity to discuss any issues affecting the communities.

AK said that 300 people attended including the Bishop who gave a speech. AK thanked the restaurants and communities for contributing to the food that was provided.

AK spoke about faith and the emergency services, he said that he respects the way they deal with death in the community.

AK said that he would like to welcome the TVP Chaplain to the IAG. JH will invite the Chaplain to the IAG meeting. RRK said that he will also mention this to the Chaplain when he sees him.

AK said that he attended a vigil with PS for the young person who passed away due to knife crime. People came together from different communities for prayers. AK said the African community are faith driven; this was about asking for peace and guidance for young people in the community.

4. LPA Commanders Updates:

LPA Commander

MT discussed another knife crime murder involving a 21 year old victim from the Congolese community which took place in Netherfield. MT said this was a tragic incident. Police quickly identified and arrested the offender and he has been charged. The victim and the offender were known to each other. A meeting between the police and members of the IAG helped the police to understand the feeling in the local community. MT said that he is grateful to the IAG for these safe conversations which helped to ensure that the policing response to the vigil was right.

MT said that serious violence including knife crime is lower than it was last year and about the same as it was five years ago. MT said that the police are working as hard as ever with JS, the local authority and the third sector, to make sure we enforce the law where we should, but also that we divert and educate and improve life opportunities where we should be doing that as well.

MT said there have been a series of interviews on MKFM in the last few weeks. The Deputy Commander from TVP was interviewed last week. Tonight (13th April) is an interview with the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Head of the Council.

AK said that without agency work we cannot move forward. AK said that we need the community to take the lead supported by JS and her department, with the police tackling issues by using the law.

AK spoke about parenting and questioned whether there are any similarities with other towns where people have lost their lives, perhaps a single parent issue, or social demographic pointers that we may have missed but that we can share.

NS said that following recent murders, the African Diaspora had a meeting with the African leaders and they decided that after Ramadan they are going to have a meeting with the parents and young people to discuss the struggles that young people are facing. They don't want police presence at the initial meeting, but after the first meeting the CADO and Neighbourhoods are going to get involved to see how they can support them.

AK said that they shouldn't be concerned with police presence as the police are there to support them. AK said that coming from that part of the world they have a different understanding of the nature of the police. AK said that if they wanted him to attend, he would be happy to do so.

LH said to let her know if any mental health support or drug and alcohol services are needed.

MT said that the feeling from the community is not just about what the police can do for them, but more about what they can do to prevent further problems.

JS said that adverse childhood trauma can make people vulnerable to different things. We need people to trust in the police and have trust with social services as they can provide specific support with families who are struggling.

JS said if you hear domestic violence happening especially if there are children present you should report it.

JS said that there is a big family practice team who want to focus on children who are being exploited or who are beyond parental control. It is not child protection or statutory intervention, we are trying to prevent that. If people are suspicious of referring to children services they shouldn't be, it is early intervention that stops people hitting statutory levels, child protection numbers are very low in Milton Keynes due to early intervention.

MT said that contextual safeguarding and trauma informed policing are key components to our serious violence delivery plan. There is an opportunity to bring the family support team, children's social care, youth offending team and police together to almost co-locate. MT said we are often looking at highly vulnerable children who cross a range of risk to make sure we have early intervention plans in place. We need to make sure we get the education and diversion right for those children.

LH said that Camhs is struggling due to volume of work that is coming through, but they are responding as and when they need to. They want to respond before it becomes a crisis. Camhs are not offering counselling but they offer specialist input which is dependent on the individual needs.

TG said there have been reports in the media about mental health numbers going up post the pandemic and an epidemic of loneliness following lockdown. TG made the point that we are trying to look out for people who previously didn't want any interference in their business. TG spoke about teaching children manners. AK agreed that parenting plays a huge part in every society.

MT discussed an incident at South Row Mosque involving damage to six vehicles and then in a separate incident an individual went to the Mosque making threats to harm people. Police made an arrest very quickly and the offender has been sectioned. MT said that this could have been very serious and he said that he would encourage any incidents to be reported to the police.

NS said that reassurance patrols have been put in place.

AK said with the holidays coming up, gold crime is often a trend during this time which tends to affect the Asian community.

5. Stop and Search Data and Discussion:

All

MT said that a Section 60 has been put in place in Netherfield. There are additional resources in Milton Keynes to help police this. Section 60 is used to protect people where we believe there could be a risk of further serious violence. There is a lot of support for stop and search in Milton Keynes including from the IAG and there are very few complaints. Stop and search is reviewed by the scrutiny panel to make sure that officers are carrying stop searches out in the right way. The next scrutiny panel is in May. This is in addition to TVP's own scrutiny of stop and search, reviewing body worn video, to make sure that officers are fair and proportionate. MT said that he is mindful that stop and search can have an impact on the community.

AA said that they provide a stop and search course for the young people within the community. They give examples or a person's rights. The young people are starting to understand. There is also a WhatsApp group to publicise the area.

AK said there is an appetite within Milton Keynes generally and in the ethnic community to reassure the whole society in Milton Keynes, regardless of background, that Milton Keynes is a safe place.

JS said that in a recent survey of a broad section in Milton Keynes, people want more stop and search and they want schools to get tougher with knives.

MT said that we have dedicated schools officers and we set high standards for stop and search. We hold officers to account, we will continue to discuss stop and search collectively and highlight lessons learnt.

JH said that following every scrutiny panel, the officers have been communicated with very quickly.

MT said that we also notify officers in relation to good feedback.

6. Hate Crime Case Studies and Discussion

All

➤ Community Impact & Development:

JH provided a case study for discussion. This was a racially aggravated assault without injury. The IAG were given the circumstances of the incident and the likely result. The rationale for this was explained and there was an opportunity for the IAG to ask questions.

7. Other Crime Updates**LPA Commander**

Nothing of note.

8. Members Feedback / Issues to raise:**All**

TV said that following the incidents in Leadenhall and Netherfield there is a fear that these things are happening on a regular basis. He said it is reassuring to hear that the figures are the same as five years ago. MT confirmed that the figures did go up, but the figures are now coming down again.

KM said that every Sunday they report to young people what has happened.

JS discussed her car parking duties on Friday in Coffee Hall. This is continuing to the end of Ramadan due to road safety issues, this is also impacting on community relations. The Islamic Centre are grateful for the support. Highways are looking at long term measures to make it safer and are also looking at the potential for additional parking.

NS said that on 24th April there is a community Iftaar at the Mosque, they have also invited the residents to attend. This will help to break down some myths and barriers.

TV said that in certain communities a death and the funeral are a community affair, more so than the being led by the families. This is the case in the Tamil community.

PK spoke about the loss of a young person from the Radcliffe school who took their own life because they were not comfortable in their own skin, he said there is still work to be done in supporting people.

LH said she is really busy, the numbers are high and there are a lot of unwell people within the community.

LP said that Age UK are noticing a huge rise in the number of people who have financial worries and as a result they are cancelling paid for support services which could impact on their ability to manage at home. This is creating a waiting list for Age UK Services.

JS said that Adult Social Care Community Support Team is able to support some people who don't meet the threshold.

TV said that late night prayers are going smoothly at Wolverton. The Wolverton Mosque organises their own security. In the wider community there is political unrest about the uncertainty in Pakistan, feelings are running high. The community are mindful that demonstrations can get out of hand and some people have strong views about what has happened to the late Prime Minister Imran Khan.

RRK said he had a meeting with Insp. Stuart Hutchings, Rural Crime Task Force and Ch/Insp. Euan Livingstone both who are attending the Barn event. It is a way of showing that

crime in the rural area isn't just about hare coursing and plant theft there is a lot of crime that is cross border which feeds into the city.

AA said thank you to TVP for quickly reacting to what happened in the Mosque and also in relation to what has happened over the last couple of months with the knife crime issues. Different African communities are meeting together to understand each other, learn from each other and help one another, this programme will continue after Ramadan with a monthly meeting at the Point.

MT said that there is some funding available via the community foundation that can be bid for to help with the engagement work that AA is doing with young people.

PS spoke about the boys from the Congolese and Nigerian community who were involved in the Netherfield stabbing, he said that they had to de-escalate a situation when the name came out, there was some unrest between the two communities, but he said that they have managed to calm the situation down now. MT said that PS could phone him directly if he had any concerns.

9. AOB**IAG Chair**

Nothing of note.

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

Nothing of note.

11. Next Meeting Dates:

15th June 2022.

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Meeting Closed.