



Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Oxfordshire Local Command Unit

DATE Wednesday 04 March 2026

TIME: 1700 hours

LOCATION: HQ South & MS Teams

Attendees	Initials	Position and Area
Ben Clark	BC	Chief Superintendent - LCU Commander
Wendy Percival	WP	Neighbourhood Chief Inspector
Stuart Hutchings	SH	Neighbourhood Chief Inspector
Roni Koshi	NT	Oxfordshire Support Inspector
Dave Hession	DH	Community and Diversity Officer - Oxfordshire
	DC	IAG member
	MTh	IAG member
	MTa	IAG member
	MG	IAG member
	SM	IAG member
	AB	IAG member

1. Welcome & Introductions

- BC noted CI Wendy Percival's departure to Criminal Justice and thanked her for her work as Partnerships Lead.
- CI Stuart Hutchings will be stepping into Wendy's role from April.
- The panel also acknowledged the good work and leadership over the past year from the outgoing Chair, DO.

2. Previous Minutes & Actions

- Minor correction to name: "MT" to be amended to "MTh"
- Minutes otherwise agreed.



Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Outstanding actions from previous meeting

1. BC to bring Project Vigilant presentation re VAWG.
 - Deferred to next meeting due to low attendee numbers and pending IAG chair selection.

3. Chair & Deputy Chair Election

- Due to low attendance (four members initially), not quorate for formal election (membership = 12; proposal to require at least 6).
- Several expressions of interest:
 - DC – confirmed interest.
 - PC – willing to stand but deferred if others wish to.
- After discussion, group agreed:
 - **DC appointed Interim Chair** until a quorate extraordinary meeting elects the permanent Chair.
 - Deputy Chair role to be decided at the same extraordinary meeting.

4. LCU Updates (Critical Incidents & Crime Picture)

Presented by BC

1. 4.1 Critical Incidents

1. **Kidlington Waste Tip Environmental Incident**
 - Ongoing multi-agency intervention after fire risk identified.
 - Clearance underway following pressure via community and agencies.
 - Joined up investigation involving Environment Agency + ROCU + Rural Crime Task Force: 4 arrests (none local).
2. **Industrial fatality – Didcot warehouse**
 - Ongoing HSE investigation; TVP CID leading manslaughter enquiry.
 - No broader community impact.
3. **Series of sexual assaults & rape – Grove/Wantage**
 - Afghan national arrested & charged; linked to earlier offences.
 - Officers praised for professionalism and support to a highly vulnerable victim.

Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes



- Potential community tensions noted due to nationalities involved and local right-wing activism.
- 4. **Raise the Colours – flag displays on lampposts**
 - High political scrutiny; strong public reaction on both sides.
 - **TVP position:**
 - Flags alone are *not* a public order offence.
 - Police will intervene only where threats, hate incidents, harassment, or obstruction occur.
 - Council responsibility for removal; potential injunctions under discussion.
- 5. **Middle East conflict impacts**
 - Minor demonstrations observed locally.
 - TVP monitoring via faith forums, social media, and tensions reporting.
 - No significant incidents so far.
- 6. **Palestine Action – legal update**
 - High Court rules proscription unlawful; Home Office appealing.
 - TVP no longer arresting for “support” statements alone.

5. Crime Trends (Oxfordshire)

- **Overall crime stable**, but underlying patterns shifting:
 - Retail crime reducing – likely due to early reporting improvements & DISC.
 - Violence without injury rising – mainly includes offences such as harassment, stalking, online issues.
 - Burglary, theft, traditional acquisitive crime down.
 - Hate crime up ~300%.
 - Sexual offences increasing (partly online-driven).
- Demand analysis:
 - 25% – domestic abuse
 - 30% – child safeguarding
 - 15% – mental health
 - 10% – adult safeguarding
 - ~15% – “traditional crime”
 - Indicates shift toward safeguarding & complex vulnerability.

6. Complaints & Learning

- No major recent complaints trends.

Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes



- Ongoing inquests and past critical incidents continue to provide organisational learning.

7. Stop & Search – Narrative Reporting

- TVP introducing **quarterly narrative reports** to accompany raw data for transparency.
- Oxfordshire draft shared (content to be refined by Corporate Comms).
- Key themes:
 - Outcome rate ~46% (nationally strong).
 - Continued disproportionality in searches of Black individuals.
 - Majority of disproportionality driven by drug searches (less successful outcomes).

2. Scrutiny & Improvements:

- Oxfordshire Stop & Search Panel considered one of the most established in TVP.
- Planned expansion into **Use of Force** scrutiny, especially involving children or injuries.

8. Community Cohesion

- Following County Council motion for a **Cohesion Action Plan**, TVP asked to outline current activity.
- DH summarised:
 - Daily hate crime monitoring.
 - 24/7 review of community tensions.
 - KINs (Key Individual Networks) rebuilt to ~60 active contacts.
 - Regular engagement with faith groups & vulnerable communities.
- TVP is supportive of the Cohesion Action Plan, but stressed:
 - Must not divert from core policing priorities.
 - Cohesion work should be **council-led**, police-supported.

9. Annual Work Plan – Future Focus for the IAG

- Discussion on improving strategic direction for the IAG.

Independent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes



- Proposal:
 - Members to identify **priority focus areas** for 2026–27.
 - To be brought to next meeting or extraordinary Chair-election meeting.

Oxfordshire LCU's five priority areas (shared for alignment):

1. Effective response.
2. Victim satisfaction & safeguarding.
3. Ethical outcomes in criminal justice.
4. Trust & confidence.
5. Supporting and developing staff.

10. AOB

- Fraud/scam prevention discussed informally.
- Next formal meeting scheduled for June 2026 - TBC
- Possibility of extraordinary Teams meeting before then to elect Chair & Deputy Chair.

Summary of Agreed Actions

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Amend minutes (MT → MTh).	RK	Completed
2	VAWG and Project Vigilant presentation.	BC	June meeting
3	To schedule an Extraordinary IAG Meeting (Teams) to elect Chair & Deputy Chair with full quorum.	BC/DC	Before June
5	Members to reflect on 2026–27 IAG priority work plan and bring proposals to next meeting.	All IAG Members	June meeting