

DATE 23 March 2021
TIME: 1400
LOCATION: MS Teams Only

Attendees		Position and Area
Sulayman Munir		Chair
Ch Insp. Andy Penrith		Deputy LPA Commander
DCI Dave Turton		Crime Manager
Nick Harborne		Member
PC James Morgan		Positive Action Team
Sally Leonard		Member
Francesca Yates		Member
Errol Masters		Member
Victor Koroma		Member
Maria Saltrese		Admin support
Apologies		
Josh Wilson		Member
Lorraine Briffitt		Member
Supt. Nick John		LPA Commander
Mustafa Choudhury		Member
Trip Pannu		CaDO

Item One

Welcome and Introductions

Sulayman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Self introductions were done.

Notes from the meeting held 13 January 2021 reviewed and approved. Action update below.

Action: Victor, Trip and Sulayman to meet and put a plan in place to progress the Committee.

13 January 2021: action to be done asap advised Sulayman.

23 March 2021: Victor and Trip have spoken. Suggestions have been made and the Hate Crime Scrutiny Meeting should be slightly more than quarterly – every two months advised Sulayman. Hate Crime Forum – every six months. Sulayman will catch up with Trip this week; Andy Penrith agreed with the proposed plan.

Status: ongoing.

Item Two

Overview of Positive Action and Engagement Team

James Morgan gave an update. Points included:

ROC – organised group work. Victor and Sulayman are engaged with them

Community Conversations in Reading – open panel.

Over two weeks – 17th May to start and includes police accountability and Training and self reflection

They will be recorded

Open Day – coming up

In take – doing well 25%

Working to improve PCSO recruitment numbers/balance

Item Three

Operational Update and Local Priorities

Serious Incidents: Andy Penrith provided an update. Points included:

Forbury and three murders – reviewed. Huge impact on staff and community.

Policing – investigative response – suspects all quickly arrested, which is positive and reassuring

Response regarding how we prevent knife crime – stop and search and Section 60

Section 60's – figures reviewed. Where violence had taken place – the patrol was focussed on. Proportionality reviewed and consideration for future. Proportionality

Review – community overview is being put together by Supt. John and Ch/Insp.

Penrith. This has been trialled in Milton Keynes and works well. It will pick up

trends.

Trip provided updates to Sulayman as the Section 60's progressed

Background of people committing knife crime – demographics? Sulayman asked.

Andy Penrith advised we did analyse this data and there was no consistency in any of the recent incidents.

Operation Results (provided by Andy Penrith)

293 x s60s

20 (circa) PACE searches

43 arrests for 60 offences including 19 for bladed articles or offensive weapons, others including PWITS, burglary, robbery and wanted on warrant

9 community resolutions

3 PND issued

Several reported low level offences including COVID breaches

Multiple weapons seized include knuckle dusters, baseball bats, pieces of wood, machete, Stanley knives, screwdrivers, lock knives, kitchen knives, hammer; chair leg; poles

Knife Crime Update:

Schools work: commissioned work around knife crime on the LPA for knife crime.

Prevention and engagement with Violence Reduction Unit

Youth Voice Matters – will be run by our Schools Officers and education partners.

Emphasis on schools to lead. It will have interaction with senior police officers. It

has worked well in other parts of the force. Goal – to capture 'youth voice' as well.

We have had conversations within our community advised Sulayman

Action: DI Rich Jarvis to provide overview of knife crime at next IAG. Maria to action.

Crime Figures/Hate Crime and Stop & Search: *(provided by Andy Penrith)*

Last quarter (1st January to 23 March 2021) – 1120 carried out; 548 white; 109 black; 86 Asian; 69 mixed; 9 other; 299 didn't state; 8 undefined

Last Year – 360 carried out.

Section 60's – 300 searches for Operation Enterprise

Francesca Yates asked about member of the public who collected knives. It was on the news. Andy Penrith advised it would not have been possible for us to sanction him doing so due to possible injury, etc. Would like to focus more on what the community can do as a whole. Additionally, we are looking at an amnesty with the Council and this would be performed safely. It would be good to have a campaign around the amnesty.

Using more social media – including videos

Working with charity sector – 'talking heads' pieces to create more interesting comms rather than having people hear the same 'old' message from police

What can parents do to identify early stages of problems teens or younger/older? Identify issues early on – asked Sulayman. It would be good to have information for parents.

Action: Andy Penrith to review any information that can be provided to parents regarding identifying issues early on with their children/young adults.

How can we restrict access to knives? Errol asked

We do not have community centres as we used to – areas that we could meet with youth/young adults, commented Errol

Safe space? Youth/young adults to come forward to get help and break the chain. Errol asked.

Support from 'big players' in Games to provide message to youth/young adults suggested Errol. Maybe a 'warning' before the game starts?

Police are looking at ways to stop knives coming in advised Andy Penrith. Test purchasing will also be done. We are also trying to identify new areas of work that will be more effective in today's (more modern) world. Any feedback, suggestions – please feel free to speak to Andy Penrith.

COVID Lockdown Easing Plans: *(Andy Penrith provided update)*

Phased re-opening and we expect to see a surge in violent crime and possibly with sexual offences and plans are in place to address. We are working with licensed venues as part of the plan.

Item Four

AOB

Discussion: Action that can be taken to provide support to make our situation/lives better we would like to do advised Nick Harborne. Sulayman advised this included issues around the country, including policing. Andy Penrith advised this group, itself, is of help to police and any views or comments – please feel free, and comfortable, discussing further. As the 'big' events happen, we can discuss them further in this group and then members can cascade to their

Reading LPA IAG Meeting



Minutes

own community groups suggested Andy Penrith. For example – violence against women and what we can do – this could be added to our next agenda. Early engagement is key advised Andy Penrith. Sally Leonard commented about the good work done by the street pastors during Olly's vigil.

Meeting concluded at 3:17pm.

Next Meetings:

15 June 2021 at 2pm

14 September 2021 at 2pm

16 November 2021 at 2pm