



South and Vale IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE 12th July 2023
TIME: 5pm – 7pm
LOCATION: Abingdon Police Station/MS Teams

Attendance

David Orpwood	IAG Chairman
Supt Prescott-Mayling	New LPA Commander for TVP South and Vale
Chief Inspector Rachel Patterson	Deputy Commander
Inspector	Problem Solving Team
Inspector	ICR 4 and Stop and Search specialist
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
Admin Support Officer	Minute taker
Apologies	
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member

1. Introductions

Supt Prescott-Mayling opened the meeting and introductions were made by everyone attending.

The minutes and actions from the last meeting were agreed. The actions set at the last meeting would all be covered in today's agenda.

A brief presentation was shown to the members on the aims and objectives of an IAG.

- Act as a Critical Friend to the police and give a personal perspective to help inform policies and shape TVP.
- Advise the police on cultural and other issues, commenting on the effect of police activities on communities and cultures.

- Advise the police on cultural and other issues, commenting on the effect of police activities on communities and cultures.
- Advise the police on how to communicate effectively with their communities.

Aims and Objectives of an IAG

To maximise the trust and confidence of the diverse community of South and Vale through communication, exchanges of views and discussion of policing issues.

- To provide a forum for the community to help shape service delivery.
- To enable TVP to develop policies and procedures that are both accessible and transparent.
- To increase our engagement with diverse communities and help expand the potential for community resilience through the Neighbourhood policing plan.

2. Membership and Roles

Encouraging others to apply for the IAG

- Live or work within Thames Valley & have knowledge or commitment to issues of diversity, equality and inclusion.
- Attend, on average, 4 meetings a year that are 2 hour in length.
- IAG members will not be asked to become directly involved in current police investigations.

IAG members are not expected to be representatives for their community, but provide their individual view as a member of a community.

- There is a minimum 3 year residency criteria in the UK immediately prior to application to become a member.
- Basic vetting will take place as part of the selection process.
- The LPA has a dedicated point of contact if they wish to have a conversation. If you know of a person then Rachel Patterson happy to call them.

The Supt then outlined the proposed new agenda for the IAG meetings with standing agenda items to allow the IAG to meet the strategic aims:

Community Engagement - Update on the engagement with *seldom heard communities* & community engagement plans from Thames Valley Police.

Stop and Search & Use of Force - To review and improve the use of S&S our understanding of disproportionality

Performance - IAG to be updated on fighting crime performance and plans to develop against the force plan.

Criticality - Thames Valley Police to raise any issue of criticality to the IAG for oversight and advice.

Hate Crime - Updates on Hate Crime investigations and their status.

Community engagement – the strategic aim of the TVP is engagement with seldom heard communities. One of which will be the Black and Asian communities. The next will be a community that relates to violence against women and girls which will be generally young women and the third will be the travelling community. One member asked what % of the population is Black and Asian in the South and Vale. They represent 1.7%, so a discussion was had around why we would focus on the engagement with this group when it was such a low %. The conclusion was that the aims and objectives of the IAG are to maximise trust and confidence in TVP in the diverse community regardless of how large or small the community is. We also need to be aware that disproportionality can affect these smaller community groups.

There was a discussion around violence against women and girls and the issues around some of them not wanting to come forward and report/support the investigation of the crime because they don't want their names in the public domain. How can we give confidence to these women to encourage them to come forward and investigate the crimes even if the victim wants to remain anonymous?

The Police will still investigate crimes without victims and TVP is leading on projects around Violence Against Women and Girls using high profile celebrities.

Stop and Search – The South and Vale has a large disproportionate use of Stop and Search compared to our resident population of black or ethnic minorities.

Performance – The Supt will justify the South and Vale's performance to the group at each meeting, outlining what we are doing well and what we need to improve on.

Criticality – The IAG will be given oversight of any critical incident that might affect the public's confidence in the Police. Depending on the nature of the incident a separate meeting may be organised.

Hate Crime – The IAG will also be given an overview of hate crimes and will talk to you about any impactful cases.

3. Community Engagement

The Problem Solving Team (PST) Inspector outlined some engagement projects the South and Vale have been working on in recent months.

The PST has created a survey for the young people on the South and Vale using QR codes to open up the survey on their phones. This was a way of hearing their voice without physical meetings which can be daunting for young people. The survey consists of ten questions. Most of them are yes/no answers with a couple of more open text questions. These surveys were shared with local secondary schools in the South and Vale. The results of the survey can then be presented using graphs to show the responses. The first survey was around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including bullying etc. This information can also be shared with our partners. The first survey responses will be shared with the IAG at the next meeting.

This type of survey will also be used for some of our hard to hear communities to receive feedback about the Police and we can do some targeted surveying by going to a specific geographical location if there is a need. Some feedback was to add questions to capture demographics into the surveys.

Our School's officer and School's PCSO have also been going to the Primary Schools in the area to talk about PC Ben. PC Ben is a fictional character in books of the same name, which are aimed at children. The book helps to explain the role of the police and to promote positive interactions with children.

A presentation that is used has also been sent to the IAG as a separate attachment. This is not complete yet but this will be used by the School's PCSO to talk to Year 3 children about how important it is to treat everyone with equal respect and give some added focus to VAWG (Teachers have also had a chance to provide feedback).

4. Stop and Search & Use of Force

Our ICR 4 Inspector and our Stop and Search Specialist for the South and Vale gave an overview of Stop and Search on the LPA. After another area put together a Legitimacy Board we are now forming one on the South and Vale. This is a panel of people that come together every 3 months to look at random Stop Searches to make sure certain criteria is met and people who have had experience in Stop Searches will be invited to join.

Stop and search power help the police tackle crime. It's targeted and intelligence led and practised on people who are suspected of being involved in crime. Without the power of being able to stop and search individuals we suspect of having participated in or are about to commit a crime, we would be faced with a much tougher challenge on our streets.

The Inspector went through a brief presentation around Stop and Searches. We believe a stop and search is most likely to be fair and effective when:

- The search is justified, lawful and stands up to public scrutiny

- The officer has genuine and objectively reasonable suspicion they will find a prohibited article or item for use in crime
- The person understands why they have been searched and feels they have been treated with respect
- The search was necessary and was the most proportionate method the police officer could use to establish whether the person has such an item

Our Chief Constable supports the use of stop and search in a fair and effective way that enhances public confidence and is independently scrutinised. We will continue to work with our communities and stakeholders to improve the quality of interactions and ensure that stop and search continues to protect the public.

The police officer who stops and searches you must provide you with certain information including:

- Why you've been stopped and searched
- Why they chose you
- What they're looking for
- Their name and the station where they're based (unless the search is in relation to suspected terrorist activity or giving his or her name may place the officer in danger. They must then give their warrant ID number)
- The law under which you've been stopped
- Your right to a copy of the form

There must be reasonable grounds for a Stop and Search:

The IAG were then shown an example of a Stop and Search taken on an officer's body worn video (BWV).

A Legitimacy Analyst came to the meeting to discuss his work around Stop and Search and Use of Force. TVP has a new Assistant Chief Constable post for Legitimacy and Public Value. This role is to ensure that our trust, confidence and scrutiny approaches add value to the legitimacy of TVP through the delivery of key programmes such as Violence Against Women and Girls and the Race Action Plan. The Analyst produces data packs to look at disproportionality within Stop and Search and Use of Force to look if it is carried out proportionately, for example on Black and Ethnic minorities.

5. Issues of Criticality

Not applicable.

6. Performance update

Victim codes – We agree with victims how often we will update them. We do a victim needs assessment. The Chief Constable has set us a target of 80% of victims to agree the needs assessment. The reason this is not 100% is because we can have duplicate crime reports or you can be the victim of multiple crimes but one officer will deal with them all. The South and Vale LPA is third in the force with an 81% rate. What this means is that if you are a member of our community and report a crime you will have a contract that tells you how often you will be updated on the investigation.

Victim Satisfaction – we carry out surveys with victims and those that report incidents to us to see how satisfied they are. We ask questions about first contact, how they rate the officer, the ongoing contact and how satisfied they are with the service. We had a 55% said they were satisfied with the average in the force being 47%. The South and Vale was the second worst police area for Victim Satisfaction last year and now we have improved to be the third highest in the Force. The survey questions are ranked on a scale from 1 to 6 (6 being the most satisfied). The main reason for the 1's are that they heard nothing back from their crime report. The Supt explained that he sometimes calls them up personally. One example was that someone scored us 1 out of 6 because they reported an incident and heard nothing. On looking into the crime report 4 people were charged and remanded for fighting. But as the person who reported it wasn't a material witness they hadn't been updated. So the learning for us was around who we do our surveys with as we are not contractually obliged to update everyone but we do survey them.

Neighbourhood Crime – we have seen a rise in neighbourhood crime (burglaries, thefts, robberies) across the Force which follows a national trend. The South and Vale has a relatively smaller rise compared to some areas with a 7% rise.

Increase visibility – We can now record where officers have been on patrols using an app on their phones. The South and Vale does more high visibility patrols in the community than other areas in TVP. We want to start publishing this data to the communities so they can see that we have been patrolling specific areas of concern.