

DATE: 19th April 2023
TIME: 5pm – 7pm
LOCATION: Abingdon Police Station/MS Teams

Attendance

David Orpwood	IAG Chairman
Supt Prescott-Mayling	LPA Commander for TVP South and Vale
Chief Inspector Rachel Patterson	Deputy LPA Commander
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
Admin Support Officer	Minute taker
Apologies	
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member

1. Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made by everyone attending. The Chairman has spoken to his local MP about increasing the salary for new PCs as its not attractive enough to join up.

2. South and Vale update including Force Review

The decision has been made to move to five Operational Command Units rather than the 11 Local Policing Areas that we have at the moment. South and Vale is a Local Policing Area and going forward there will be an Oxfordshire Command Unit (OCU). A member of the IAG asked if that meant that the S&V IAG would therefore stop. The Command Unit would also see some geographical responsibility for the departments/team within the OCU and therefore would probably stay. The current policing model is about 14 years old and the population and local council structures have changed in that time. We haven't had the

details of how it will be split yet but it is thought that there will be a geographical split with the Chief Inspectors and Superintendents but also some thematic responsibility.

The Community won't necessarily see impact of changes in the new structure, although there will be an increase in Community Policing (Neighbourhood Teams will have an additional uplift of circa 150 officers across the force).

The South and Vale has had an uplift of 62 Police Officers. Our establishment is now at 258 with 208 officers, 40 PCSOs and 10 support staff. At the last meeting we outlined our vacancies in the Neighbourhood Teams which have now been filled and we are having an uplift of a further four Neighbourhood Officers.

We still have a lot of PCSO vacancies as we have lost a lot of them to PC recruitment. The Force is looking on how we can recruit and retain PCSOs.

We are still having Neighbourhood and Tasking Team Officer's backfilling the response officers for five week periods and we predict that this will happen until the end of 2023. This is due to the protected learning time that new officers get during their training so we have to backfill to meet the minimum numbers required for the response teams.

One member asked if we are losing many officers to discipline processes following what is happening within the Met. We do have challenges on how long the process takes. Each case is assessed individually and they can be suspended or taken away from the evidential chain (which means we remove access to systems and no contact with the public/taking statements etc). When we do dismiss officer's it is openly publicised.

Regarding the South and Vale performance, we detected a greater proportion of crimes than any other in force (in 2022/23) and therefore brought more offenders to justice either by caution or charge. 20% of our crime we brought someone to justice for it. We have a higher outcome rate on our priorities like violence against women and girls, stalking and domestic abuse. The South and Vale also saw the second largest reduction in knife crime. Our Local Policing Area (LPA) does have challenges and we have the lowest time to attend a call in the Force (slowest response). We are one of the largest LPAs and our main market towns are very scattered across the area. It was discussed whether going down to fewer Policing areas would improve our response times. Which is something that has been considered when looking at the new Force structure.

3. Violence Against Women and Girls

We have a plan around Violence Against Women and Girls that we will be focussing on for the next 12 months. One of our main Operations is Op Vigilant. The key aim of this operation is to identify individuals displaying predatory behaviour. Plain clothes officers are deployed in the night-time economy (so during nightclub/pub drinking hours). These

officers have been trained to spot these behaviours and engage with people who are out and also the door staff etc of the premises. We have also trained the CCTV operators so they know how to spot this behaviour. We are also planning more campaigns with partners around safe spaces in town centres. Each Monday we discuss the crimes over the weekend and look at future deployment and crime trends and focus our resource where it is needed.

We also have our MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination group). This is a partnership group where we meet and discuss our main offending perpetrators. We put plans in place to stop them re-offending. We have done a lot of work on the LPA and have 23 Domestic Abuse champions who work within their teams identifying opportunities to improve our response to Domestic Abuse. The South and Vale has a good outcome rate with Domestic Abuse crimes and are officers go to the arrest stage and engage with the victims quickly.

Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) are used to provide long-term protection for victims. This gives us 28 days to engage with the victim who sometimes are not willing to support the investigation at the start.

The group discussed whether victims of domestic abuse want to speak to female officers. One IAG member, who also sits on the Force Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) for Violence Against Women and Girls, said that in her experience at her workplace some women don't want to speak to male officers and maybe lost their trust in male officers. The SIAG has focused around the White Ribbon Campaign and what this means to officers and their training and how it's filtered down in the Force. The barriers for reporting Domestic Abuse is also been looked at by the SIAG and the confidence for people coming forward to report as well as sharing information with partners and the negativity around reporting to the Police. The next meeting will discuss how partners can come together to support the White Ribbon Campaign.

Reporting lower level domestic incidents was discussed and how we encourage people to do this so that it can be tracked if a larger incident then occurs.

The Police have got much better at identifying repeat Domestic Abuse offenders and Claire's law has been impactful as women can now request information on new partners if they have any concerns. However, this is not widely known about and work needs to be done to educate people and partners. Going forward TVP would like a mechanism where information on DA offenders is shared with the partner agencies and we would check against the Claire's Law database and proactively go out and disclose the information to the potential victim.

4. Force Strategic Plan

- The Superintendent outlined the new Force Strategic plan which is focused around four pillars.
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Serving Victims – there is a legal requirement to update the victims which we can now measure. Victim’s need to be updated at least every 28 days. How do we keep track of this? Officers record any victim updates in Niche (TVP recording system) and we can pull the information of the last date and time they updated the victim. We can also see how many crime are under investigation. These are flagged up to the teams in the Daily Management Meetings so that the Sergeants and Inspector can masked sure it’s completed. Officer’s need to improve on managing expectations to Victim’s when they are going off on rest days or working night shifts. We have also had problems with Officer’s not always being made aware that Victims are trying to contact them as a note has just been added to the crime log rather than a task that would notify the officer. We are also trying to encourage our Officers to give their work mobile phone numbers as a contact number rather than people having to call 101.

Building Trust:-

Understanding of public trust and confidence in TVP – The Supt outlined that we can show the IAG a live dashboard which shows how many victims we are updating and hold us to account for that.

Increasing visibility through targeted patrols – Officers have an App on their phones which can task them to patrol a specific location. We have had a tasking on a town in our area for a few weeks now because of an increase in ASB reports. At the moment we cannot see where they are in real time and they need to ‘check-in’ on the app. This is something that is being developed and we will then be able to use this information to report back on where our officers have been and the amount of time they have spent on the targeted patrols (in response to being asked what we have done to a particular issue).

Engagement with seldom heard communities – there will be a plan around this and we will need the IAG’s help with supporting this. Woman and ethnic minorities will probably be in the plan but we need to think about the other hard to reach communities in our area and increasing the diversity on the IAG.

Action: What seldom heard communities need to be represented on the IAG in the South and Vale? IAG members to consider how they can increase the diversity of the IAG.

Youth IAG

We are engaging with the youth via the local schools and our Problem Solving Inspector and School’s officer have been leading focus groups to listen to their concerns.

We discussed how we could get this fed back to our IAG and possibilities included the officers relaying the Youth IAG back to us or getting young people to come along to the meeting with a standing agenda item.

One member suggested that they know young people that they think would be interested to come along to the IAG to give us their perspective on the Police and their trust and confidence in us (especially a young person who has had involvement with the Police.)

Action: What are the next stages to get Youth representation on the IAG? Police to present to the IAG how the Youth IAG is working and how it can link in the IAG.

Action: Police to present the ‘seldom heard’ communities engagement plan at the next meeting.

Next meeting date: 12th July 2023 5pm – 7pm