

# South & Vale LPA IAG Meeting



## Minutes

**DATE** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

**TIME:** 5pm – 7pm

**LOCATION:** MS Teams Only

Attendees	Initial	Position and Area
Chairman	DO	Retired farmer/ Businessman
Supt Lis Knight	LK	LPA Commander for TVP South and Vale
	CS	S&V IAG
	DC	S&V IAG
	VK	S&V IAG
	RA	S&V IAG
	GF	S&V IAG
	RE	S&V IAG
	RSA	S&V IAG
	ET	Problem Solving Team/VRU
	JW	ASO/Minute Taker

### 1. Welcome and Introductions: IAG Chair

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made by everyone attending.

### 2. Previous notes/actions: All

Everyone was happy with the last minutes and that all actions had been closed or moved over to the next meeting.

### 3. Violent Reduction Hub: South & Vale Problem Solving Team Inspector

ET presented the work that was being done on the South and Vale Local Policing Area.

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation included with these notes.

The Serious Violence Strategy comes from the Home Office and the Serious Violence Duty place a statutory duty on responsible authorities to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce violence.

18 forces were identified to set this up as there has been a huge increase in violence and drugs in under 25s. Responsible authorities are police, local authorities, health, fire and criminal justice system (probation and youth justice). The VRU (Violent Reduction Unit) brings these multiple agencies together to come up with a set of common objectives to put a strategy in place to reduce the violence. The Hub is key to sharing data and intelligence with partner agencies in a community centred approach.

On the South and Vale we have had a serious violence strategy for about 18 months. TVP and the CSP (Community Safety Partnership) mapped all the services that are available in helping with intervention (see presentation, page 6) and includes mentorship, outreach, mental health support and school mentorship.

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The Hub is a single point of access and therefore the police or another agency can put a referral in which goes through this triage process and a co-ordinator will match them and offer the support or intervention that is needed (see page 9). The referrals will be on different levels of vulnerability.

All 3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers will be able to apply for funding through the CSP. Funding application must include how they will aim to reduce violent and knife enabled crime. Can apply for up to £10,000.

Page 11 shows the different levels of referrals; Prevention, Early intervention, High Risk Vulnerable, Custody.

Prevention is stage 1 – outreach work like Damascas support this work.

Early Intervention – we often see the same names coming through. Parent and young people need to consent but they need some help. The referral goes to the Hub and the police step away and the right agency is brought in. Colleagues in the neighbourhood geographical teams will be in key in helping identifying the children for the early intervention.

High risk/vulnerable - regular names that the Problem Solving Team and Children's social care would be aware of with a high risk of exploitation. Any offer of support is always at the consent of the young person.

Custody – if a young person is arrested we need to support them as soon as they leave custody. Within 24 hours can we refer to them hub. Support needs to happen straight away for example Mentorship.

The IAG asked if there are gaps in the provision. It was suggested that Wantage and Henley need extra support. Main towns like Didcot and Abingdon have a lot more support.

Education – families that cross over more than one school. The Hub could help with the co-ordination between the schools. Key information could be shared from the schools who would see the first indications i.e. truancy.

There were some concerns over the very young people and what support can be given.

There is a certain amount of competition between the charities due to funding. The advantage of the Hub is that the needs of the child are matched to the charity. If more than one charity is needed for a child then this is co-ordinated and make sure communication is made between them.

What happen if nothing in the Hub would meet the needs of a young person? The CSP can look to see if something can be commissioned to meet this. We also need to identify the gap and ask if anyone can extend their services to cover it in the future. It's important that these people do not drop off the radar.

The IAG members were really impressed with the VRU Hub and suggested it is something that has been needed for a long time. There will be an update at the next meeting.

#### **4. LPA Commanders Updates: LPA Commander - Greatest challenges across South and Vale and TVP including discussions around Retention and Uplift numbers (Supt Lis Knight).**

The South and Vale Local Policing Area (LPA) has Incident Response Officers. These are shift officers who respond to urgent calls 24/7. These are split over five shifts and cover the entire South and Vale.

Neighbourhood policing is made up of Geographic Neighbourhood and Problem Solving. The Geographic Neighbourhood team has consists of officers and PCSOs based at Wantage, Faringdon, Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame and even though they work shifts they do not cover 24/7. The Problem Solving team concentrate on high risk individuals. The South and Vale is also made up of:

- Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team who investigate serious violent offences like manslaughter and rape.
- Priority Crime Team (PCT) who investigate burglaries, robberies, fraud etc
- Tasking Team (TT) which who work on the Country Drug Lines and exploitation and work closely with the Problem Solving Team

South and Vale is 1,250 sq km, (Oxford City is 47 sq km to put in perspective). Our population is 100,000 more than Oxford so the size of our LPA is a challenge. The population growth is projected at over 60,000 in the next few years in the South and Vale.

- We have shift teams coming out of all stations now (Wantage, Didcot, Abingdon, Thame, Henley and Faringdon). 18 months ago there was no shift cover in Faringdon and Henley.
- We get demand from Reading as it is on the border of our LPA.
- We have young police force. These officers are young and still learning which whilst it can bring great opportunities it will also take them longer and need support.
- In 2016, 9% of TVP officers had 25+ years' service.
- 30% of TVP have 5 years' service.
- Reversal of civilianisation. Police officer roles were changed into staff roles years ago. Not all the work needed warranted powers. This is now being reversed and the uplift is bringing new officers but taking place of staff.
- The young officers have to do more training and also need more supervision. New students are more time consuming to manage for the Sergeants.
- Policing has changed. More complex investigations due to the amount of date/intel.
- Member suggested that the biggest two biggest concerns by the public is that people do not see enough police officers and some crimes that are reported are not investigated.
- The police cannot investigate everything and we need to manage expectations. If a crime is committed and unwitnessed, officers will speak to the victim, but they must look for investigation opportunities as we have to prioritise risk, threat and harm. For example we have to prioritise domestic violence, exploitation of children and county drugs lines and carefully manage resources.
- One member has regular involvement with Police in her work and personally and felt that they were quite thorough and responded quickly.

### 5. Stop and Search Data and Discussion: All

This discussion will be rolled onto the next meeting. TVP are getting a new stop and search database which means our data will be more sophisticated and detailed and will show us the demographics. Officers will get an App on their phones instead of a paper form. Update on this at the next meeting.

Action: GF to speak to South and Vale Team 4 Inspector regarding stop and search figures and how he can support it.

### 6. Police visibility and engagement (Supt Lis Knight)

Engagement and visibility in Policing has had to change due to resourcing challenges. Social media has become a valuable tool for the Police and reaches a wide audience. TVP South and Vale have officers and staff who used social media and are responsible to put up what they are doing, achievements etc. We have seen an increase in engagement with the public via these channels.

There was some discussion about how Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) has been restructured and not sure on the interaction between the Police and NHW at the moment.

### 7. Rural Crime Update

New Thames Valley Police Rural Crime definition after consultation with partners. Rural crime is really broad and difficult to define.

#### ***Rural crime definition:***

*Offences that relate to farms, agriculture, wildlife, the environment and heritage sites where they are targeted due to their isolation or rural location.*

- *Agricultural crime constitutes any statutory or common law offence which may be committed against people in agricultural communities, their lands, businesses and property (property includes plant and agricultural machinery and animals such as livestock and horses). Agricultural communities are those who live within a rural area as defined by the Office of National Statistics 2011 Rural Urban Classification to Super Output level and are involved in the agriculture industry.*
- *Environmental crime constitutes an illegal act which directly harms the environment. This element of the strategy will be largely delivered by supporting partner agencies.*
- *Heritage crime constitutes any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings.*
- *Wildlife crime constitutes any unlawful act or omission, which affects any wild creature, plant or habitat.*

Some rural crime can be considered as fairly minor by most people. However the criminal damage that is caused during some rural crime i.e. poaching has a huge effect on the rural crime community and ruining the countryside. Also landowners are targeted due to their vulnerable and isolated positions and intimidation and violent/threatening behaviour. Higher end thefts of vehicles and tractors can be linked to organised crime groups.

- The police need help with rural crime and partnership work is really important.
- WhatsApp sharing of real time activity has been invaluable for information sharing in the rural community and keeping the police involved. WhatsApp has given the isolated and vulnerable rural community reassurance.
- RA – how does rural crime in our area compare of other areas. LK – our understanding of what is really happening is limited. Not all crimes are reported due to lack of confidence that it will be investigated and we are aiming to change this through the Rural Crime Task Force (a force wide dedicated rural crime team). We work closely with Cherwell and West Oxfordshire LPA as we get a lot of cross border crime with our neighbouring LPAs and other forces like Wiltshire.

**8. AOB: IAG Chair - NA****Agenda items requested for next meeting: All**

- Update on the VRU Hub
- Stop and Search figures
- Examples of Body Warn Video
- Neighbouring Local Policing Areas and we support each other when crimes are on the border
- Increasing our IAG membership.

**9. Next Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 5-7pm on Microsoft Teams.