

# South & Vale LPA IAG Meeting



## Minutes

**DATE** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

**TIME:** 4pm – 6pm

**LOCATION:** MS Teams Only

Attendees	Initial	Position and Area
Supt Lis Knight – Acting Chair	LK	LPA Commander for TVP South and Vale
Chief Inspector Guy Elkins	GE	Deputy LPA Commander for TVP South and Vale
	DO	S&V IAG
	DC	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
Apologies	CS	S&V IAG
	VK	S&V IAG
CC	MD	South and Vale Schools Officer
	NC	Neighbourhood Inspector
	ET	Problem Solving Inspector
	DI	Team 4 ICR Inspector

### 1. Welcome and Introductions: IAG Chair

Supt Knight opened the meeting and introductions were made by everyone attending.

### 2. Previous notes/actions: All

1. Problem Solving Inspector and MD to discuss how they can utilise the Cadets?  
Due to Covid the Cadets still haven't returned.

Action 1 - to be rolled over to the agenda for the September IAG meeting.

2. MD to update the IAG at the next meeting on the progress with young projects. Again this action has been more difficult due to Covid and most students learning from home. However, Mike has approached secondary schools in the area about the Youth IAG and the response has been positive. This will be ongoing and plans put in place when the schools are back. RE mentioned that King Alfred's Sixth Form have a Pupil Parliament which has 6/7 members and chaired by the KAs Head Boy.

Action 2 – MD to contact RE (Chair of Vale Academy Trust) to discuss the Pupil Parliament and if we can use this existing platform to connect with young people.

3. RA to discuss the legitimacy of policing with NC and MD and how we can engage with the young people through the Youth IAG on the topics of stop and search, use of force etc. This is a very relevant topic at the moment as the ACC is setting up a Legitimacy Board. RA updated to say that she had spoken to Insp Cain but this still needs progressing. Inspector Tompkins is returning at the Problem Solving Inspector next month. ET has been working in Violence Reduction Unit which was set up to reduce serious violence in public spaces, with a focus on crimes affecting young people. The VRU works to improve community safety through enhanced partnership working, early intervention and behaviour change programmes associated with violence.
- Action 3- RA to speak/meet with the Problem Solving Team to discuss further. ET is back on the South and Vale from 1<sup>st</sup> April.
4. South and Vale to get some examples of stop and search/body warn video to show the IAG next time.

Action 4 – to be rolled over to next meeting.

### **3. Service Improvement Review - LK**

The South & Vale have recently had a Service Improvement Review. The review looks at the efficiency and effectiveness of the LPA and facilitating improvement when needed. This is done by a team who have a series of meetings, talking to officers and staff and also look into our performance so that they really understand what is going on. A report is produced and the Senior Management Team go through this with the Deputy Chief Constable, who then gives them recommendations/action plans.

To put some context around the figures:

- We recorded 13243 crimes in 2020 which was a 6% increase on the year before.
- Only 2 of the 12 local policing areas had an increase in recorded crimes.
- The S&V has 11% of the population covered by TVP and 21% of the geographical size. There is also a projected population rise of 60,000 people from 2017-2027 in the area.

DC asked if we had a breakdown of the crimes that have increased. The biggest increase was to do with low level domestic violence. This is due to Covid restrictions making families spend more time together, neighbours being at home more so reporting more and a few families being repeat offenders. CI Elkins discussed what is being put in place to help this and Neighbourhood Policing Teams are 'cocooning' which means when a report comes in they are talking to direct neighbours. The families are also visited and help from partner agencies like counselling and Turning Point is offered.

Another big increase was drug possession by 65% and an increase in possession of offensive weapons. However, this means we are being proactive with stopping and searching.

There was an increase in knife crime and robbery rise. Over half of knife crime recorded was in the home which suggests domestic related. This would be tackled differently to street knife crime (which was not highlighted as a problem for the S&V).

RA asked if scams/fraud appears on the figures. Fraud is now on the Strategic Plan and will now be given to Detectives rather than PCs due to the complex nature of the crimes which might not be suitable to give to young in service response officers. We have fantastic results with Courier Fraud – our Priority Crime Team (PCT) have stopped offending in our area in the last few months.

In summary the service improvement review showed that the South & Vale were the 5<sup>th</sup> best for overall outcomes (including charges, summons, cautions and out of court disposals) and 500 extra people received a criminal justice outcome this year. LK was very pleased with the review report and the South & Vale did not get action plan. The Deputy Chief Constable is encouraging other Local Policing Areas (LPAs) to come and see how we do things! This is a testament to the staff on how hard they had worked.

RA asked if could we discuss partnership working as this sensitive information needs to be shared and we need to improve on this. The Violent Crime Network (VRN) for South Vale is undertaking a piece of work to help the young people at risk of exploitation. All the charities and partner agencies are being mapped and brought together.

Action 5 – To add partnership working on to the agenda for the next meeting and invite ET to come and discuss this.

#### **4. Covid**

CI Guy Elkins updated the group on how Covid has impacted policing and resources.

#### **5. Stop and Search update**

Main points raised:

- The South & Vale had the lowest number of stop and search in the Force but with a 28% positive outcome rate which is good.
- A positive outcome is not achieved if we are searching for a knife but find drugs (you have to find what you are looking for).

- Stop and search are intelligence led to make sure we are stopping the right people.
- Stop and search is a visibility tool and a safeguarding tool.
- All stop and searches are reviewed to make they are done according to the legislation.
- 75% of stop and searches are looking for drugs – same across the force.
- Difficult to get correct ethnicity data as not everyone is willing to tell us what it is (say not stated). The S&V have a low number of 'not stated' because we have been training our officers on how to approach this to make sure we get this data going forward.
- The South & Vale is a large LPA which makes resourcing more difficult.
- It was asked how we record a stop and search if we do not find what we were looking for. These are recorded as a crime but will not be a positive outcome.

Action 6 – DI to find out if we can identify the stop and searches when we found something other than what we were looking for, i.e. drugs when we were looking for a knife.

Action 7– DI – do we know if the data included repeat offenders or are they for every stop search? This information would be useful for future education of any repeat offenders.

Action 8 – ET– can we link in with partners to get support for repeat offenders? For example Education and other wrap around care? TVP South & Vale have regular partnership meetings around CCE/knife crime. As stated before partnership working will be added to the IAG agenda.

## **6. Rural Crime update**

- LK is the strategic lead for rural crime working with Assistant Chief Constable Christian Bunt. The Police Crime Commissioner has raised funds for a Rural Crime Task Force. It is still in the consultation phase and is subject to change. However at the moment it will be made up of 1 x Inspector, 2 x Sergeants, 18 x PCs (uniformed Police Constables), 2 x DCs (Detective Constables) for the Force (not S&V). An Inspector will be recruited in the next few months who will then build up their team over the coming months. Equipment for the team also needs to be thought about, for example what vehicles are needed for this team and also other specialist equipment like drones.
- RSA asked if any officers were drone trained at the moment. This is not done at a local level but our colleagues in the Joint Operations Unit (JOU which includes firearms and roads policing are trained to use drones and assist our officers when needed. It is important that the drone licenses are continually used so we need to target who gets them carefully.

## **7. Electing an IAG Chair**

The following was discussed and decided by the group:

1. Anyone wishing to put themselves forward as chair must write a small 'why me, why now' email stating why they would like to be Chair of the IAG and what they can bring to the group.
2. Anyone wishing to put themselves forward for Deputy Chair to do the same.
3. These need to be put in by Friday 30th April to JW.
4. JW to send out the nominations anonymously to all members.
5. The IAG members to vote on who they think would make a good chair by Friday 14th May.
6. Results discussed the next IAG meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and Chair and Deputy elected.
7. The term of the Chair and Deputy to be one year. They can be re-elected the following year.

Action 9 – all members wanting to put themselves forward for the Chair or Dep Chair positions to do the above.

- **8. AOB**

Action 10 - JW to arrange 1:1 calls between LK and the IAG members. LK is conscious that a year has passed and with Covid she has not had a chance to properly meet with IAG members so would like 1:1 calls in the next few weeks.