

DATE: 31st October 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
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
TVP Retention Team	PC
Admin Support Officer	Minute taker
Apologies	
Chief Inspector Rachel Patterson	Deputy Commander
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member
	IAG member

1. Introductions

Agenda

1. Welcome and Aims of the IAG
2. Community Engagement
3. Issues of Criticality (if required)
4. Performance Update
5. Hate Crime
6. Communication
7. AOB

1. Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and introductions were made by everyone attending. The minutes and actions from the last meeting were agreed.

2. Community Engagement

The Chair asked the group how they are involved in their local communities. One member is very involved in their rural community and in constant communication with the local landowners and gives any feedback to the Police on how they feel we are performing and issues of concern. Others are involved in local Parish Councils with local issues like speeding, and others more through their jobs with young people and how they view the Police and what experience and interaction they have had.

There was a discussion around Police engagement and visibility and some of the members had mentioned the importance in a rise in police visibility and that is what the community wanted. However, others suggested that the Police work is much more than visibility and a lot of the teams that are working in the community are not always visible, for example the South and Vale Tasking Team who concentrate on county drug lines. Not all the community would welcome a police presence and some maybe fearful of it.

The Supt showed the IAG a slide on the evidence of active engagement with selected communities. There were 350 engagements between April and October 2023. These engagements included Safer School's visits, Have Your Say meetings, engagement with various communities ie. The Abingdon Muslim Prayer Group, local cricket clubs etc.

In November we will be supporting Remembrance Services and parades. We also have a month of action around raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls including Op Vigilant patrols where we look for predatory behaviour in the night-time economy.

We are also trialling a 'Guardian' car. Someone from a Domestic Abuse charity will be deployed with an officer to Domestic Abuse incidents rather than us referring them to support services. We will update on the trial at a future meeting.

Black History Month Event

TVP South and Vale recently hosted an event at Abingdon Police Station during Black History Month. We had guest speakers and some of our own Officers talking about their own personal experiences. The theme of the event was Allyship with a good attendance from TVP officers and staff and some of our local community.

Cadets

The Police Cadets have now got up and running again after a break throughout Covid and we now have 12 new Cadets who meet up at the station weekly to learn about different

Youth IAG

We have been using questionnaires that are QR enabled to send to local secondary schools. The data is collated automatically and this feedback gives us an insight on what the local young people think of policing and what areas we can concentrate on with engagement, learning and visibility.

These types of questionnaires could also be used for our Seldom Heard Communities.

Visibility through social media and Alerts

The IAG asked to be given the details to pass onto others on how to follow TVP South and Vale on social media and how to sign up to Thames Valley Alerts which sends information by location about crimes, good news, witness appeals and crime prevention advice.

- South and Vale Facebook – www.facebook.com/TVPSouthandvale (24,000 followers)
- South and Vale Twitter/X – @TVPSouthandvale (5,600 followers)
- Thames Valley Alerts – www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk (you can sign up to receive alerts about what is happening in your area (over 13,000 subscribers)).
- Thames Valley Police Force Facebook – www.facebook.com/thamesvp

Stop and Search

We have recently set up an independent panel for scrutinising Stop and Searches. The panel view randomly chosen Body Worn Video and give feedback on how they feel they were carried out. There were some concerns on a couple of Stop Searches recently on the South and Vale that the Supt raised with the group.

3. Issues of criticality - Israeli/Palestine Conflict

The Supt talked to the IAG about how the conflict in the Middle East is causing a demand on our Police service through a rise in crime and community tension. There have been 85 crimes across Thames Valley Police which are linked to the conflict, usually through people's behaviour like public order offences and using abusive and threatening language online. We have some businesses in the South and Vale that are affiliated with the Jewish community and we have had to take steps to help protect them.

4. Performance update

The South and Vale is doing well at updating our Victims (see diagram below). What we are not doing very well at is attending grade 1 incidents in under 20 minutes and only managed to do this 44% of the time. The South and Vale is the second largest Policing area in the Force (Cherwell and West is slightly larger) at approx. 500 sq. miles. However, we do have a disproportionate amount of grade 1 calls in our area compared to the rest of the force which could be due to the road networks. The 20 minutes is from when the call reaches the call centre.

Right Care, Right Person

It has been a national decision that the police will not attend when there is a mental health crisis unless there is an immediate risk to life or serious harm or when a crime is involved. The Police are usually not the most appropriate agency to respond to provide the supportive care that is needed. Therefore, our demand around mental health has decreased.

The Supt outlined some of the different things that we are measured on to improve trust and confidence and asked that if there is anything that the IAG would like us to justify then please let us know, for example the community engagement plans. Also if there is something that you would specifically like to find out more about then we can bring that into the agenda for the next meeting.

The Chair said he would like to find out a bit more about Violence Against Women and Girls and Project Vigilant and reaching out to young people in the area. The Chair has been looking into an initiative of providing First Aid Courses for vulnerable young people in the area.

One member suggested they would like to see more events like the Young Farmer's event we held in September which was a positive engagement event with young people and feels like these events help build trust.

5. AOB

Force Review

The group asked about the progress of the Force Review and progress from changing to the Local Policing Areas (LPAs) to the larger Local Command Units (LCU).

The first Command Unit to be consolidated is Buckinghamshire which is now in progress. Oxfordshire LCU will be created from the merging of South and Vale, Cherwell and West and Oxford LPAs and this will start in Summer 2024 with staff consultations earlier. This will be added to the agenda for future meetings so that Supt Prescott-Mayling can keep the group informed on the progress.

Fraud

TVP has a central fraud team who investigate most Fraud jobs. However, our Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) do a lot of crime prevention work and engage with the victims who may have been targeted. Action Fraud still deal with the high-level fraud.

Drink Spiking

The Supt was asked if the South and Vale run any campaigns around drink spiking/injecting. We have done quite a lot of work around awareness and safety in the night-time economy around covering bottles/glasses etc and have trained dogs who can detect the drugs.

Autism Training

One member asked what training is in place to help officers deal with Autistic people. TVP has an Autism Network support group which does provide training and there is some training around Stop and Search and autism.