

## West Berkshire LPA IAG Meeting Minutes

DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 TIME: 6pm

LOCATION: Hybrid

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** AC

**2. Previous notes/actions:** All

Comms needs to put out there including social media on any positive engagement and police being proactive, so the public can see we are being supportive as there is a lot of negativity in the press. It was discussed that force comms would take too long so need to do at a local level. NWN and Kennet radio is popular with local people. *IAG members to send out communication highlighting key items.*

*PCSO's to visit day care centres every 3 months with scam advice.*

SG is a member of the South & Oxon IAG and they are really struggling. We have a really good IAG compared to others and we are the first to have a youth IAG. We are not afraid to challenge and we feedback to our communities. All members are committed. AKC will be attending the SIAG on 30/08.

BZ and NH are collaborating to create a questionnaire for five hotels' residents, aimed at understanding their concerns. However, an urgent issue has arisen where asylum residents are having to leave the hotels. This also includes Ukrainian families being asked to leave their host families. This will create a demand on West Berkshire Housing. HK intends to bring up a matter with the community safety team, specifically related to understanding the expectations of the police. The IAG is willing to assist by sharing information and collaborating on this issue.

Data Sharing – *HK has made inquiries and non-charitable organisations cannot request it. A requirement request is put in writing to Intelligence and only the specific information will be shared.*

EE to summarise on one page the new 23/24 VAWG strategy plan. *HK to chase.*

A discussion was held on the Nextdoor app. There is no footprint on this and police cannot respond on it. *IAG members to send out communication highlighting key items, using the Nextdoor app, copying from Facebook or Twitter. AKC & SG to let members know which official sites to follow.*

**3. Members Feedback / Issues to raise:** All

Clothing and other items have been stolen from a local community centre, and although there is CCTV footage available, the incidents have not been reported to the police. HK discussed the available options: reporting the crime via a web form, which is then investigated by the AIU. Additionally, the NHPT will reallocate resources to enhance patrols and deter further incidents. In the event of an ongoing crime, it is recommended to call 999 for immediate assistance.

**4. Neighbourhood Policing Team Updates:** HK

There has been a notable increase in burglaries, with 26 reported last year and 43 so far this year. The Thatcham area witnessed a surge in these incidents. While a male was initially arrested in connection with these burglaries, insufficient evidence led to his release. However, last week, during a burglary in progress, a PCSO spotted the same male, resulting in his recall to prison. Police are now aiming to link this individual to the series of burglaries. Police are hesitant to issue a media releases until charges are filed, but it's worth noting that burglaries in Thatcham have ceased. Police will share positive news stories without revealing names or pictures, and after sentencing, will repost with the individual's name and image. *HK to send members information on what the different crime types are for education.*

A long-term problem-solving plan is in place for an estate in the local area. This includes a full house closure due to persistent issues related to drug dealing and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The primary goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of the other residents in the area.

Engagement and preventative work was carried out in Pangbourne by the river due to students jumping into the river previously. Police were joined by the mounted section and fire service.

An unauthorised encampment in Thatcham resulted in individuals breaking into buildings to access water and electricity. The police swiftly evicted those using Section 60 powers, primarily due to the significant damage they had caused. While these actions constitute criminal offences, police couldn't definitively identify the culprits. Had they not taken prompt action to relocate the encampment, it could have posed serious problems for Thatcham.

## **5. LPA Commanders Update:**

**HK**

We don't have any repeat offenders or victims for hate crime.

In West Berkshire, there have been a total of 590 stop searches conducted, with a relatively low arrest rate of 4.7%. 40 of these searches were conducted under a Section 60 in the local area. While officers are focusing on the right areas, they have not yielded significant findings. There have been positive outcomes in other areas, and Stop and Search is an effective disruptive tool. The disproportionality in West Berkshire is the lowest in the force.

Inspectors look at their officers BWV and good examples are shared.

**Honor base violence and disabilities to be explored further at next meeting.**

## **6. AOB**

All to think about any events we can do. Force comms will help to publicise.

Newbury fair is taking place 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October at Northcroft.

Next Meeting Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6pm via Hybrid