

Strategic Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
Official

DATE:	Wednesday 28 July 2021
TIME:	18:00 – 20:00 Hrs
LOCATION:	MS Teams Meeting Only

Attendees:		Position and Area
	JBarl	Chair SIAG
T/ACC Christian Bunt	CB	T/ACC Local Policing - Thames Valley Police
T/Ch/Supt Bobbi Rai	BR	T/Ch/Supt - Head of Local Policing
Supt Geoff Robinson	GR	Force Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Programme Lead
Christine Kirby	CK	Assistant Director for People – TVP
	AKC	Chair – West Berkshire IAG
	MT	Bishop – NLCC Oxford – Pastor Forum
	DT	SIAG – Oxford IAG
Simon Godsave	SG	Strategic Governance
Catherine Hemmings	CH	Head of Strategic Governance
	CL	School of Law – Oxford Brookes University
	SJ	IAG – Wycombe & TVNHWA
	OS	SIAG - South Oxfordshire
	DO	IAG – South and Vale IAG and Rural Crime
	ET	Chair of Wokingham IAG
	SM	Chair of Reading IAG
Paul Gresty	PG	Violence Reduction Unit
Alastair Nall	AN	Strategic Governance
Claire Widdison	CW	Strategic Governance
		Observer
D/Sgt Kate May	KM	Staff Officer to T/ACC Bunt
Jo Braithwaite	JoBr	COA to T/ACC Bunt
Apologies received/no show:		
Supt Rory Freeman – apologies	RF	Supt - Joint Operations Unit
	JT	SIAG – Windsor & Maidenhead
	SMas	SIAG – Reading
	RMal	IAG – Bicester
	PC	IAG – Chesham and Amersham
	BRB	
Nita Pankhania - apologies	NP	Business Partner - Diversity and Inclusion
	JR	Deputy Chair SIAG and Chair of SSIAG
	RMoz	Chair –Wycombe IAG
	RA	IAG – Abingdon & South and Vale
DSgt Marcia Hardy – apologies	MH	Positive Action Engagement Team – PAET
	CM	IAG – Cherwell
	AK	SIAG – Milton Keynes
	SS	Representing Deaf Community

1. Admin.

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018 Welcome and Apologies noted Chair

PC from Chesham and Amersham IAG has tendered his resignation, which JB, as Chair of the SIAG, is declining. SJ advised he would get in touch with Chesham and Amersham Neighbourhood Watch members to encourage them to support their local IAG.

2. MOLM.

019 Minutes of Last Meeting held on Wednesday 28 April 2021

❖ **Accuracy**

Agreed as an accurate recording of the meeting.

❖ **Matters Arising**

- Serious Violence Reduction Orders Pilot.

Is it too early for an evaluation of the scheme and can it be extended to other LPAs?

ACC Bunt: The prevention orders are being piloted in Milton Keynes and are part of a national initiative and do target habitual knife carriers – we do not have any evaluation yet. The evaluation will feed into the National VRU infrastructure and it may be rolled out further.

- MK S60 Frequent individuals S&Sed.

ACC Bunt: S60s are run all over the Force – these S60s are in response to the carrying of knives in certain hotspot location. They are often put in place following a knife attack, and to prevent any further incidents. Moving forward, we will target our more hotspot locations, and individuals who carry knives.

JB: For noting: SIAG supports Stop and Search to tackle knife crime.

DO: Are Local IAGs notified if a S60 is put in place?

ACC Bunt: We do notify S60 activity on all of our social media channels. We are looking at how we can engage better with our communities and exploring Community Scrutiny Encounter Panels. A direction has been given to all LPA Commanders that their local IAG review Stop Search and Body Worn Video.

The Violence Reduction Unit are also doing a lot of work on S&S through our Schools Officers who are explaining to young people why we use Stop and Search and the risks of getting involved with knife and violent crime. .

SJ: If you could provide a simple leaflet explaining S60 and S&S - Neighbourhood Watch could communicate that to their members.

MT: Recommendation: Engage with Community Leaders and explain what you are doing, and they could cascade that information to their communities.

- CRED report

The SIAG will seek TVPs views on this.

- Use of 'BAME' (see 023)

The SIAG will seek TVPs view on this.

- Action 01 Advice 'Joining TVP' (see 022)

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Action Updated:

- Action 02 Rape Presentation
Action Updated.

- Action 03 VRU (see 021)
Action Updated.

- (Legacy) SIAG Training
Training Package now available - West Berkshire and Wycombe IAG have now been through the training.

- (Legacy) Update on IAG Chairs
Action 02: 28 July 2021

- (Legacy) IAG Minutes to TVP Website
Currently only SSIAG and SIAG minutes on TVP Website - no local IAGs minutes. **Action 01 28 July 2021**

For information: TVP Website is changing, Local Police Area pages will be more corporate and information will be easier to find.

- Additional: Information request on the number of additional officers and a briefing on the ability to retain officers who are near their 30-year service.
CK: We are achieving our target in terms of the up lift of new officers. We are proactively and engaging with Black, Asian and minority ethnic and other underrepresented communities. We do have a very busy agenda on diversity and inclusion.
The Operation Uplift presentation will be shared with this Group.

3. Standing Items.

020. Stop and Search IAG – DT;

Last meeting held on 28 July 2021

We requested to look at S60 data for March 2020 – March 2021 Power B1 will provide data.

Have seen an increase in stop and searches for the year

Pronto App goes live on 16 September 2021 – presentation was provided to SSIAG members.

All for Stop and Search – Officers should use their Body Worn Videos.

Violence Reduction Unit provided a presentation on Stop and Search Dashboard.

SSIAG are also looking to recruit additional members for the Group

❖ Equality and Diversity ORM

Action 03: 28 July 2021

❖ Legitimacy Board – Alastair Nail

Presentation - Arrests and Custody

Action 04: 28 July 2021

MT raised the question around disproportionality and what are TVP/SIAG doing to address that?

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JBarl: We have suggested a Working Group where we could look at this kind of data.

Supt Robinson: We do have a number of checks in place to see if it is right and appropriate to arrest someone – TVP position is, arrest on suspicion, and will always be an attrition rate in that – for example, insufficient evidence. Stop and Search provides an alternative to an arrest.

For noting: The information / presentations shared with the SSIAG and SIAG are not for sharing with members of the public. The presentations can be discussed at local IAGs

AKC: After you have arrested someone, and found nothing on them, and there is no reason for detaining them in custody, is there any follow up for that person?

GR: There has been a change to the bail process as we used to release people on very long bail. One of the provisions that came out of the Legitimacy Board was to look at working with individuals who have been through the custody process.

CB: When a person exits Custody, the Custody Sgt will explain to the individual why no further action has been taken. We are also in the process of setting up Custody Scrutiny Panels – these will involve a whole range of people, including Defence advocates, CPS and members of the local Community.

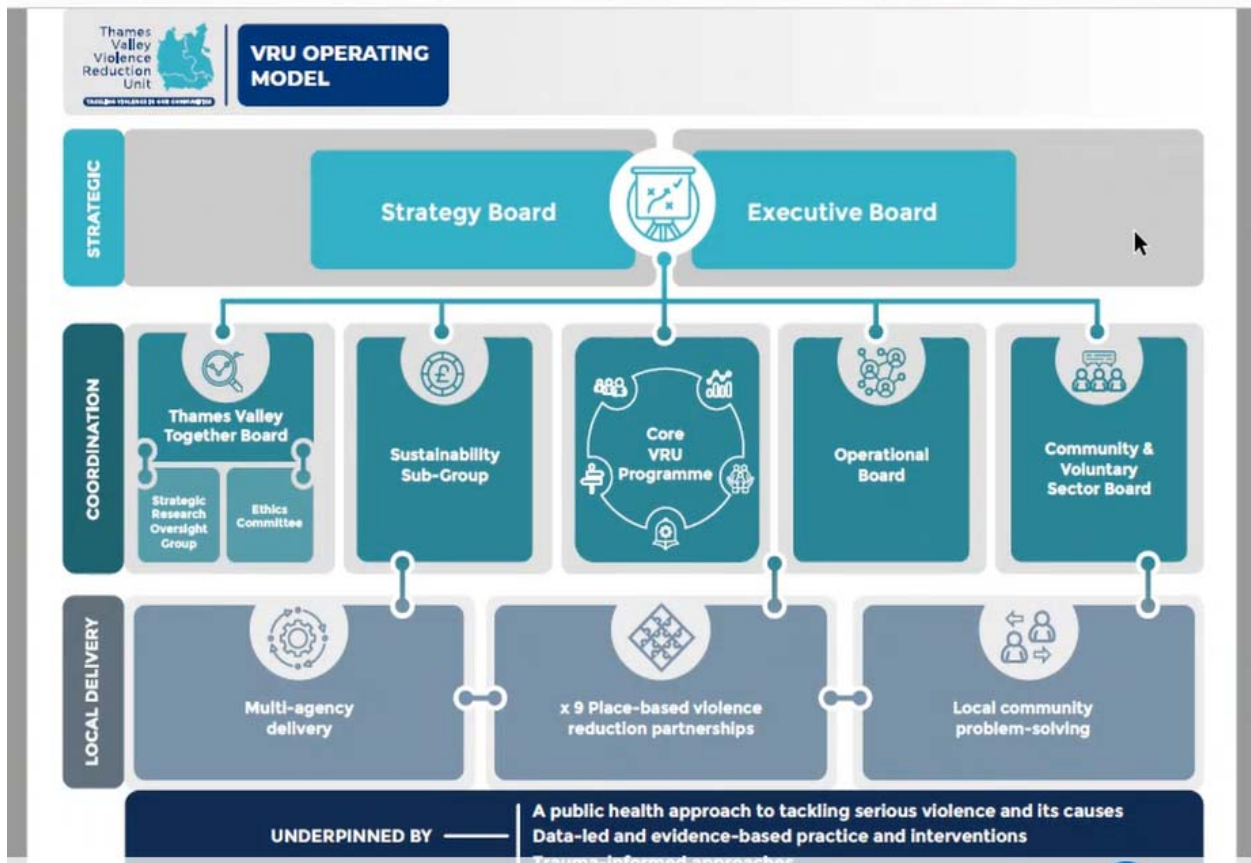
The Legitimacy Board was set up to scrutinise our operational disproportionality – the data you have been shown goes to that Board, and where we task further analysis around disproportionality. JR sits on the Legitimacy Board to provide independent scrutiny from the SSAIG. One of the key actions coming out of the Legitimacy Board is the Community Scrutiny Panels – these Panels are in addition to the IAGs, and will enhance our community scrutiny.

PG: The VRU is piloting the Custody Navigator Project in Abingdon Custody Suite - a Custody Navigator is a member of the community with lived experience. They will work alongside Liaison and Diversion around vulnerability screening and navigate some of those young people to the Local and Voluntary Community Sectors. They will also provide peer-to-peer support. An update on the Project can be provided at a later date if required.

CH: From a Strategic Governance perspective – External Partner, HMICFRS put a huge amount of time and effort in inspecting our Custody arrangements – they do field work in our Custody Suites, files reviews, interview officers and staff who work in that environment. Another Partner is the IOPC – will look at any complaints that arise as a result of an arrest or police treatment – the IOPC link in with our Professional Standards Department.

4. Main Items:

021 Violence Reduction Units – Paul Gresty – Lead for Education in Reading / seconded to TVP VRU as the Lead for Partnerships and Communities



Overview and Structure of VRU

The VRU is supporting the 9 X Local Authority Place-based Partnerships with problem solving to tackle and prevent serious youth violence.

Sitting below the Strategy Board, is a VRU Operational Board, chaired by Supt Stan Gilmour. The VRU Work streams sit on this Board along with Local leads from each of the 9 x Local Authorities. The Operational Board has oversight of central and local work preventing violence.

Problem Solving - Communities do need to play a role in preventing violence. We are establishing a central Community and Voluntary Sector Board – currently advertising for a Chair of that Board. Sat beneath this Board, will be a large Community Network. The 9 x LA place based Partnership will grow this network – Local IAGs could be a part of this wider network.

Questions:

JBarl raised the question around secured ongoing funding.

PG: The funding is annually but there is no guarantee we will get funding from April next year. The ask is that we put in place a long-term solution at a local level to tackle serious violence that is sustainable. We have just secured £800,000 additional funding for Oxfordshire.

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AKC: How will you select the Community to be part of the Board?

PG: Terms of Reference have been produced for the Board and we will use existing routes into the Communities. We want the Board to be a committed group, and will be using Neighbourhood Teams, CADOs, and IAGs to reach out to their communities and get them involved in problem solving.

AKC: How are you going to deal and support children who have adverse childhood trauma?

PG: Within the VRU, we have a data project, Thames Valley Together, which is recognised nationally. Any data sets on an individual are populated into one place / system, which can identify those individuals who may be perpetrators or victims of violence.

MT: Will the volunteers going into Custody, Hospitals or Board members, have training?

PG: Members of the public who play a role in the Hospital or Custody Navigator Scheme will be DBS checked, vetted and will be aligned to an existing local Voluntary Sector provider. The provider will manage and co-ordinate the Navigators. The Navigators will be trained in community engagement. The VRU is putting together a Service Directory of local Voluntary Sector that the Navigators can sign post young people to.

SJ: Neighbourhood Watch has 8,000 Co-ordinators and 140,000 members. **Action 05: 28 July 2021**

JBarl – SIAG will support this initiative and help to take it forward. **Action 06: 28 July 2021**

022 Joining TVP – JB

- ❖ SIAG Paper Advice to TVP July 2021
- ❖ Working Group Proposal

JBarl: Will progress with Working Group as a number of SIAG members have expressed an interest in being part of the Group.

5. Other Items:

023 CRED Report 1 – Geoff Robinson

- Recommendation 24: Disaggregate the term 'BAME'

GR: We have spoken to the College of Policing and the NPCC (National Police Chief Council) for guidance. As a Force, Thames Valley Police will not use the term BAME we will use it in its expanded format – Black, Asian and minority ethnic. Going forward, our data will reflect individual cultures and not as an overall group.

024 CRED Report 2 – JB

- TVP Approach to Report

JBarl: This will be picked up in the Working Group

025 Data Ethics Committee – Report Back – SS

- Confirmation of SIAG representatives. – JB

Action 07: 28 July 2021

026 SIAG observations on disciplinary matter – JB

The Chief Constable has now made a decision regarding this matter – but it may go to a judicial review.

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The decision was made to remove this as an agenda item, but bring it back at an appropriate time.

ACC Bunt: Thanked the members for the independent scrutiny to the matter. The Police Federation are taking it to judicial review. The Officer was taken to a Gross Misconduct Hearing and was not dismissed by the Independent Panel. Thames Valley Police were not happy with that decision and dismissed the Student Officer under performance process. Thames Valley Police are standing by our position.

CL: Thank you for the update –Thames Valley Police had expressed concerns about the Independent decision and they have a right to express an opposition to it – but the fact that TVP used amenities available to them, to dismiss the officer, is admirable

GR: The action of the Federation is due to the principle of the process, and not agreeing with the sentiment of the office. **Action 08: 28 July 2021**

027 Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Report (Rape) – CL

- Police and CPS working together
- Phase I of their inspection is out
Phase II will be later this year.

Although the SIAG are happy with the care and diligence, that TVP is putting into this issue. With the publication of Phase I of the CJI, it would be good to hear on the following:-

- The Report has 13 recommendations
- The first 7 recommendations are directly attached to Police Forces
- The recommendations 8 – 13 span between Police Forces and CPS

The question was asked, could TVP, in time, provide a written response to the first 7 recommendations.

CH: Governance of HMIC Reports. Thames Valley Police were not a field work force for this part of the CJI Rape Inspection. What we always do, on publication of any report, our own internal audit, that is shared with Strategic Leads. We then develop our own understanding on whether the recommendations apply to us, or whether we are already undertaking the recommendations. A written response (Force Position Statement) is provided to the PCC who has a statutory responsibility to formally respond to an Inspection Report within 56 days of publication. Any actions that we do need to take forward, in relation to any HMIC Report, is allocated out to the different areas of business and they are tracked through the DCC Improvement and Innovation Meeting.

In response to the question asked by CL, we are currently doing that piece of work and once it has gone through our internal governance processes, we will be able to share with this Group. **Action 09: 28 July 2021**

ACC Bunt: We have agreed to have a dedicated D/Supt for Rape who will take forward the recommendations from the HMIC Report, and to ensure we are working with our colleagues in the CPS to get better service and outcomes for victims of rape. We are also putting in place dedicated Serious Sexual Offence / Rape Teams who will investigate non-domestic rapes

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DT: The Prime Minister stated every victim of crime would have a dedicated police officer
ACC Bunt: 'Beating Crime Plan' - Thames Valley Police are already doing some of the things in the plan – we do have dedicated Neighbourhood Officers. There will be some challenges around having a dedicated Officer in Charge of a case, due to the nature of the crime. There are also some opportunities for us, which we will look at.

6. AOB

028 As notified prior to the meeting

❖ Selective Training for S&S IAG Members

GR: There was a sub-group, attended by a few members from SSIAG to do some work around improving Community Engagement and they attended an on line Behavioural Economics Session.

DT: Op Vigilant was presented to the Oxford IAG - can this also be presented here?

Action 10: 28 July 2021

029 Dates of next meeting: 20.10.2021 – 18.00 – 20.00 hrs

LIST OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS:

April 2021

Action 01: 28.04.2021. JBarl to circulate questions at the end of the meeting – members who wish to comment forward comments to JBarl who will collate and forward responses to GR.

Update: 28 July 2021

SIAG have compiled a response from the questions asked and forwarded to GR – JB suggested a Working Group to look at each topic individually.
Carried over

Action 02: 28.04.2021 – Ch/Supt Rai will seek permission from ACC De Meyer and advise.

Update: 28 July 2021

Ch/Supt Rai advised we are unable to share the presentation just yet, the whole rape agenda has a number of changes going on and ACC De Meyer is getting these in place. Once they are in place, we can seek ACC De Meyers permission to share the presentation.
Carried over.

Action 03: 28 04 2021: For clarification (a) BR to speak with ACC Bunt about the proposal, and (b) each LPA Commander has conversations with their IAGs on what opportunities there are.

BR will speak with Supt Stan Gilmour to send a representative from the VRU to the next meeting to discuss community involvement and changes to funding and what did TVP achieve. .

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TVNHW Scheme – BR to speak with Supt Gilmour and request someone to speak with SJ

Update 28 July 2021

Paul Gresty from the VRU present and will provide update.

JULY 2021

Action 01: 28.07.2021 - Staff Officer Kay May to contact LPA Commanders to ensure local IAGs minutes are passed to Corporate Comms and put on TVP Website - clear indication where the minutes are stored on the website would also be helpful.

Action 02: 28.07.2021 – JBarl requested an up to date list of Chairs of the Local LPAs IAGs. (JoB to action)

Action 03: 28.07.2021 – JBarl to circulate to the Group data provided by DT on S&S along with JR notes on Equality and Diversity.

Action 04: 28.07.2021 – Arrests and Custody – Presentation will be shared with SIAG

Action 05: 28.07.2021 – PG to speak with SJ re Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Action 06: 28.07.2021 – PG to be invited to a future SIAG Meeting to provide update on Violence Reduction Unit.

Action 07: 28.07.2021 – JBarl to circulate the report from SS on the Data Ethics Committee

Action 08: 28.07.2021 – PSD to inform the SIAG when the results from the Judicial Review are known.

Action 09: 28.07.2021 - Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Report (Rape). TVP to share with SIAG their response to recommendations identified in CJJI Report at the next meeting in October.

Action 10: 28.07.2021 – Ch/Insp James Senior to present Op Vigilant to SIAG members at the next meeting (October)