



**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR BEDFORDSHIRE**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW MEETING**

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Attendees: Anna Villette (AV), Katie Beaumont (KB), Louisa Glynn (LG), Anesu Banda (AB), Samantha Denness (SD), Bethany Coles (BC), Mary Robinson (MR), Cara Gavin (CG), Tara Malciw (TM), Phil Eaton (PE), Karen Cotton (KC), Gemma McCormack (GM), Leanne Friel (LF), Lara Lewis (LL), Nicola Bayliss (NB), Alysha Patel (AP), Kiran Nandha (KN), Jennifer Grant (JG), Ade Abitoye (AA), Francoise Julian (FJ)**

<b>Business Review Meeting</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Apologies:</b> Wayne Humberstone (WH), Pauline Stewart (PS)	
<p><b>Director of OPCC Operations</b></p> <p>KB provided an update on behalf of WH. There have been six maternity cover applications for the Compliance Officer Democratic Services role.</p> <p>Regarding the Bobby Scheme, PE updated that he held a meeting with WH and the Local Authorities to discuss funding. They have pledged to support the Bobby Scheme and going forward for 2024/25 will provide £15,000 each towards the Bobby Scheme and will retrospectively provide funding for the 2023/24 period.</p> <p>MR asked do they fund the people or services? PE confirmed both as are funding the Scheme. PE has also reached out to the local housing associations to discuss potential funding opportunities.</p> <p>PE stated he is completing a review of the Bobby Scheme to review where we are and where we want to be, it will provide options.</p>	
<p><b>Head of Governance and Transparency</b></p> <p><b>Election</b></p> <p>There have been movements in this space since the last BRM with information surrounding complaints received and the OPCC and Bedford Borough Council meetings. We have received 14 complaints surrounding the candidates.</p> <p>KB reminded all that any affiliation/secondary employment is to be declared.</p>	



Protocol and website is live on the OPCC website.

### **Police and Crime Panel**

- Police and Crime Panel took place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Stop and Search Chair attended to give a presentation on the current functions and changes of the stop and search panel and the Supt provided an update on stop and search data.
- The panel requested for the stop and search data panel to start look at the Asian community and not just the black community – this was implemented in the most recent sub panels.
- The Chief Constable also attended the meeting and provided a short presentation to the panel.
- Next meeting will be taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.
- The focus for this meeting will be the annual report.

### **Joint Audit Committee (JAC)**

- JAC took place virtually on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.
- The new external auditors KPMG who will be replacing BDO attended and presented their report to the committee.
- AB is collecting the papers.
  - Any low-level or high-level risks that the team wish to bring to the Governance Teams attention, please get in contact via email or call, as KB continually reviews the SRR.

### **Deep Dive – Performance**

Deep drive is nearly complete, and conversations have started to look into new data dashboards moving forward.

### **Performance and Governance**

Performance and Governance Board held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Performance was the focus as it was the last one during this PCC term.

### **Performance meetings with PCC**

These meetings have been paused now until after the election.



## **Freedom of Information (FOI)/Data Protection Requests**

FOIs continue to come in and be managed by BC and AB.

4 FOI Outstanding

2 SAR Outstanding

## **Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) / Dog Welfare Scheme**

- BC is currently in the process of drafting up the ICV Annual Report and collating all data.
- Permissions have been granted to move forward with the online report forms. Due to implement in summer.
- The next ICV Panel meeting is on 24 June. We are scheduling for the Use of Force trainers to deliver some further training on ABD (Acute Behavioural Disturbance) in Custody.
- BC is continuing to provide coaching and support via monthly meetings to another ICV scheme. This is an invaluable meeting as able to share best practice with each other and support other schemes.

## **Stop and Search/Use of Force Scrutiny Panel**

- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) attended recent panel meetings and had discussions with chair and AB on new changes made to the panel.
- Discussions ongoing around S163 and providing an additional meeting to cover this area because of the Police Race Action Plan (PRAP) recommendations.
- Meetings held to discuss a collaborative approach to the youth panel and what the force and partners currently have in place. Met with Cambs OPCC to learn scope how they currently run their youth panel and we will look to incorporate this within our new panel. More detailed update to come at the next BRM.
- Shared best practice with Wiltshire OPCC at our recent panel meeting, as they look to develop their panel.
- Next Use of Force meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> May and next Stop and Search meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> May, HMICFRS will be attending.

## **Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel (ICDSP)**



- We are still in the process of creating a Microsoft List to capture all the feedback which we can share with the Force and create dashboards, as well as feed information up to Performance and Governance Board.
- The next meeting is in June 2024. Meetings are held quarterly. We have provided a Custody Tour for new members (who are not ICV's) and new members joined the ICV Panel on 27 March to observe Use of Force Custody training.
- Recruitment is ongoing and we are planning a recruitment push. Leaflets have been designed and printed.

All volunteers will be offered new training on ABD (Acute Behavioural Disturbance) as part of the ICV Panel in June.

### **Legally Qualified Chairs (LQC)/Misconduct**

On 7<sup>th</sup> May legislations are changing surrounding LQC and Independent Members so new process will be put in place to ensure we are complying with this.

### **Pension Forfeiture**

Cambs and Beds have finalised the Pension Forfeiture policy – this is awaiting final sign off in Governance Boards.

### **Police Appeals Tribunal**

We have 4 cases at present that are being worked through.

### **Complaints**

Work is being completed in this area – Dip Sampling and liaising with the Force. Team will now have additional working group updates with force CS.

Reviews – 0 currently outstanding

There is no time frame for a review to be completed however the aim is to complete as soon as practicable.

The team are currently working on the Quarterly Transparency Report, that is published - <https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/opcc-transparency-reports/>

### **Decisions**

If any member of staff is unsure of the decisions process please link in with KB.



<p>All known decisions are now on the website. All team members are asked to remember the process in regard to decisions, if your department needs to draft a decision or you are aware of a decision made in a meeting please let KB and BC know as we need to ensure nothing is being missed.</p> <p><b>Website Compliance – Specified Information Order</b></p> <p>The renewal process for our new website is still ongoing. In the meantime, SD and BC are working on the retention policy and clearing files. Moving forward we will be looking at SharePoint and how we get the office moved over and using this system.</p>	
<p><b>Violence &amp; Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU)</b></p> <p>CG updated that she has formally seconded into the VERU now as Head of the VERU until March 2025. Regarding reporting – quarter four has just been submitted. We have gone through a whole commissioning cycle and procurement process with the commissioning team and KN support which has been great.</p> <p>CG stated we have now procured, and grant agreements have gone out, we are currently in the mobilisation phase. CG suggested that she will not run through the suite of interventions now but will be keen to discuss this at the next BRM.</p> <p>The annual report has been completed and has been published on the VERU website. AA has done an incredible job with the annual report, and it has been very well received by partners.</p>	
<p><b>Commissioning</b></p> <p>LG updated that TM has completed great work on the finalised Ministry of Justice end of year returns product which was signed off by the CFO today.</p> <p>Most of the quarter 4 monitoring meetings have been completed. LG, TM, KS and WH are currently reviewing the wording of grant agreements.</p> <p>TM thanked TG for her support with the return.</p>	
<p><b>Project Manager – Policing and Contact and Safer Streets</b></p> <p><b>Safer Streets 5:</b></p> <p>ASB Project:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Operation Meteor which is a dedicated operation dealing with nuisance motorcyclist's has on average completed 36 hours of patrols each month targeting hotspot areas, they have recruited and trained 4 more officers in Q4</p>	



so the number of hours they will be able to dedicate will increase over the coming months once these newly trained officers are competent in role.

Central Beds Council has now procured the Trail Camera's for the fly tipping intervention and will be reporting back in the next return as it has taken them sometime to source the appropriate equipment.

Bedford Borough Council have procured 3 semi-deployable CCTV cameras and associated fitting equipment to help identify perpetrators of fly tipping, these have now been installed and are in operation.

The Speed Watch scheme has now taken delivery of 8 new portable Speed Indicator Devices and are averaging 72 speed watch sessions a month which in the month of March generated 443 letters being sent to speeding motorists.

#### **Neighbourhood Crime Project:**

The Op Maze team (burglary team) has taken delivery of equipment to distribute to victims of burglary and those identified at higher risk of being a victim. They will start distributing these in year 2 and have plans to attend events promoting crime prevention and security devices.

The Cesar scheme has supported farmers with a security marking scheme with a total value of £466,000 equipment being protected and the rural policing team and local NFU representatives are promoting the scheme. We will be attending a young farmers event on the 24<sup>th</sup> April to further promote this scheme and other initiatives.

The various Watch schemes have been active again providing a highly visible presence across the county and have amassed in the region of 648 hrs Horse and Dog watch patrols this quarter. I have inserted an example of the monthly reports we receive.



## Street, Dog and Horse Watch Activity March 2024



During March our volunteers have completed a total of 418 hours of patrols across the county. Patrols are being carried out in areas where there have been incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour reported. As the days are becoming longer and the weather is improving we are looking to increase our volunteer numbers across the county. If you could volunteer for two hours a month in your local area, at a time that is convenient to you, please do contact us. Full training and support will be given. Many thanks to all those involved who are assisting us in making our communities a safer place to live



316 hours  
of patrols



26 Incident Reports

Dog & Horse  
watch completed  
102 hours of  
patrols



The Supportive Pathways has exceeded the target for 10 referrals by the end of March with 3 new referrals received in March. Some of the clients have false starts but You Turn will encourage them to try again.

### VAWG Project:

During March Luton All Women's Centre (LAWC) attended and supported every Performance in Education (PIE) performance. A couple of March bookings were re-arranged at the school's request - a Safety Squad workshop and staff training session. LAWC have 8 bookings for April for Staff Training (x 3), Year 5/6 Workshops (x4) and their 1st Year 7/8 workshops. LAWC have also created a new "Raising Girls" parent's webinar to replace the "Parenting 24" webinar as they felt that gender specific workshops are more focused and effective. LAWC will be offering a programme of this online webinar along with "Raising Boys" May-Jul 2024. Feedback from the March parenting webinars has been superb. Here are a few comments: "a nice high level information session"; "it was really great to know there is help out there and you are trying to change the mindset"; "it's vital to challenge gender stereotypes"; "the conversation openers will be useful"; "very interesting and thought provoking".

PIE delivered the firstly tranche of workshops and over the two weeks of delivery, the team performed to 19 schools, and approximately 3315 pupils. The team had a positive response from the schools with great support from the staff – it's clear that the session has made an impact with both the students and teachers. Following feedback, it has been identified that the two-hour session was just that bit too long, particularly for the year 7 age group, so PIE



are considering shortening the sessions to a maximum of 1.5 hours. Evaluation review meeting planned for early April and second tranche of workshops to be planned across 5 weeks in Sept/Oct.

L'Oreal Stand up against Street Harassment training will be promoted across the Watch schemes. An additional credit card sized aide memoir have been designed around the 5D's and includes the Safer Streets QR Code and 6000 have been ordered. LAWC will develop an online VAWG webinar for deliver to Watch scheme volunteers later in the year.

The Digital Investigation team have looked at 12 offenders from all three projects (ASB, NC and VAWG) to try and identify the perpetrators and they have so far identified 9 out of the 12 and these have been allocated for further cation by officers.

The license with West Yorkshire Police to enable access to all Bedfordshire schools to the Pol-Ed platform has been signed and mobilisation has started and the following shows the take up since the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

L/A	Primaries	Signed up	%	Secondaries'	Signed up	%
Beds Borough	60	6	10	27	6	22
Central	100	11	11	34	9	26
Luton	42	6	14	24	3	12
Total	202	23	11	85	18	21

The below shows the usage data so far:

	Number of lessons delivered April 15th - April 19th	Number of students April 15th - April 19th
Bedford	0	0
Central Bedford	5	150
Luton	6	180
Total	11	330





### **Public Access Terminals:**

The first Public Access Terminal has been installed in 3 of the 4 larger Morrisons stores.

### **Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator**

#### **Referrals**

1 referral since last BRM (self-referral); 4 closed.

3 cases actively working on, 3 on hold.

#### **Prison project**

Met with the new Governor to discuss the Restorative Approaches (RA) project and booked in a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) input in May. Governor agrees with RA aligning with their priorities as well as those of the prison and is keen to support those who attended the training. Will be asking those who are trained what they need from their SLT/the training providers/RJ Co-ordinator and ensure this is covered in our session.

#### **Schools project**

Training dates are still progressing, outstanding dates have now been arranged except for the CPD 3 x 2hour sessions. A lot of dates are coming up in the next few weeks throughout May. The training has been well received and feedback has been positive from staff sessions and those with pupils. Follow on work will be exploring how data/outcomes can be captured with each school, and how incidents will be reported/dealt with by police (if required).

All trained staff who have attended the 3-day courses will be invited to be a part of a working group to create a handbook to disseminate information amongst the wider staff team and potentially other schools in Bedfordshire.

A project review meeting is being held before May half term to discuss the schools' requirements post-training.

Planning has begun for the next restorative pilot.

#### **Links**

Met with the Chief Inspector for Community Policing to discuss how RJ fits with his portfolio including with the Safer Schools officers. Collaborative working with RJ Practitioner in Herts, internal HMP RJ service and providers of prison-based victim awareness course to create referral pathways between services. Awareness input



with the ISVAs is scheduled mid-May, the focus is more on a victim's right to receive information about RJ rather than solely pushing for referrals from agencies.

Information on the Force Single Online Home is being updated, with an online referral form – similar to the Met Police page.

New RJ contact cards have been printed and delivered – these can be discreetly shared, and people can self-refer using the email address and QR code on the reverse of the cards.

## **Criminal Justice and Victims Project Manager**

### **Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board (BCJB)**

The next meeting rescheduled for 2 June 2024. The themed focus will be “Partnership Working Within the Criminal Justice System – A Whole Systems Approach”:

- HMP Bedford: New Governor, invited to give a 20min presentation on the prison's reform programme and a new Assertive Outreach Programme commissioned by the OPCC.

BCJB Partners will be asked for support in relation to continuity of care for individuals when they exit the prison; specifically, DWP, Health, Housing and Probation Colleagues.

- Yarlswood: Bedfordshire Police have been asked to provide a brief assurance report on partnership working with Yarlswood.
- HMICFRS Joint MH Thematic: Feedback coming in from all partners. No concerns.
- Disproportionality: Responses from partners regarding disproportionality to inform this discussion on 2 June.

Minutes from the 19 December Board and AGM will be published following sign off at the June Board.

2022/23 Annual Report and Link to BCJB Minutes and AGM recording can be found at;

<https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/criminal-justice-board/>

Work on 2023/24 Annual Report in progress.

## **Criminal Justice & Victims Partnership working**

**Luton Knife Crime Summit:** OPCC and the Police progressing action to look at Comms with parents and any gaps in school education packages relating to serious violence and knife crime.



**HMP Bedford:** Engagement with colleagues in the prison service is ongoing. In view of recent funding agreed for an Assertive Outreach worker in the Prison, HMP Bedford will also be represented at the Reducing Reoffending Board and Transitions subgroup in future. Meeting with the new Governor on 23 April very useful, we will be looking at how the OPCC can support with the prisons reform programme.

**Serious Violence Duty (SVD - The Duty):**

The OPCC continues to act as conveners of the Serious Violence Duty, reporting into the Bedfordshire Serious Harm Partnership Board for governance.

- SVD Strategy: Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) have completed and signed off their SVD delivery plans which incorporated the VERU strategy.

Next steps to ensure that the next version of the VERU strategy picks up the recommendations and also ties in with the CSP plans.

- SVD Subgroup: Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared by the OPCC who have asked CSPs with Integrated Care to take a greater lead with the SVD Subgroup in future.
- These agencies are currently reviewing the ToR and the function of the Subgroup.

Home Office returns completed, signed off by Finance and returned ahead of scheduled (due 30 April 2024).

**Communications Officers**

LF updated that herself and LL are currently completing some comms planning surrounding the election. The count is on Friday and then the announcement will be immediately after. LF has been working with KB on this and LF will work with GM on what can be planned in.

LL has been working with commissioned partners around promotional materials. We have a video which is ready to go out to the public working with victims of domestic violence. KB stated she thinks that publicising and promoting the commissioned services that we work with is a great idea.

**AOB**

No AOB discussed.