



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

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW MEETING

30th September 2024

Attendees: Wayne Humberstone (WH), Katie Beaumont (KB), Samantha Denness (SD), Bethany Coles (BC), Mary Robinson (MR), Cara Gavin (CG), Tara Malciw (TM), Gemma McCormack (GM), Leanne Friel (LF), Lara Lewis (LL), Nicola Bayliss (NB), Jennifer Grant (JG), Tarushi De Cruze (TDC), Alysha Patel (AP), Phil McCarthy (PM)

Business Review Meeting	Actions
<p>Apologies: Phil Eaton (PE), Louisa Glynn (LG), Karen Cotton (KC), Francoise Julian (FJ), Jenna Skinner (JS)</p>	
<p>Acting Chief Executive</p> <p>WH opened the meeting and discussed the new Delivery Plan with the team. WH updated that a new Chief Executive has been appointed for the PCC's Office, Sharn Basra, who will take up the role on 21 October 2024. His appointment will be subject to a confirmation hearing at the Police and Crime Panel.</p> <p>The PCC is holding his Police and Crime Plan launch on the 3 October 2024 at Kempston Police HQ.</p> <p>Action: KB requested that the team review the Delivery Plan document in full and provide any comments to her by no later than 7 October 2024.</p>	
<p>Head of Governance and Transparency</p> <p><u>Police and Crime Panel</u></p> <p>Next Panel meeting is on the 3 December 2024. Requests for papers have been set – if you have been sent a request for info please respond within the timeline.</p> <p>Papers being presented are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Update paper • Mid-year review of Commissioner's budget and delivery against targets • Criminal Justice Paper 	

HMICFRS

PEEL Inspection was completed in September, awaiting final report.

Responses which has been drafted by the OPCC and submitted in response to inspections are:

- Progress to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigation
- State of Policing: the Annual Assessment of policing in England and Wales 2023

Joint Audit Committee (JAC)

- 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.
- JAC meeting took place on 20th September 2024.
- A deep dive will be completed in the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) now we have a new Police and Crime Plan to ensure all foreseeable risks are documented.

Performance and Governance

Performance and Governance Board due to be held on 29 October 2024. KB will ensure all briefings are complete prior to this meeting.

Freedom of Information (FOI)/Data Protection Requests

FOIs continue to come in and be managed by BC.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) / Dog Welfare Scheme

- ICV Panel held on 26 September 2024 via Teams – introduced TDC who will be covering as Scheme Manager whilst BC is on maternity leave.
- Training on using iPads/tablets for custody visits was delivered and well received. We hope to go live from 1st October 2024.
- We have introduced a new way of signing up to visits via using a Microsoft Form to select availability for the next quarter.
- 3 new starters which takes our numbers to 29 in total, one new ICV currently undergoing vetting.
- We have attended both Bedford and Luton University Freshers Fayres and promoted our panels. This was extremely successful, and we have a lot of students interested. Next steps are to contact them and book them in for interviews.



Stop and Search/Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

- Recent Bulletin produced.
- Data panel starting 29th October.
- We have taken on the Section 163 scrutiny panel and held our first training session on the 19th of September 2024. We are currently creating a training pack and quiz to be given to those who were unable to make the training.
- A Red, Amber, Green (RAG) traffic light system workshop has been arranged and invites have been sent out to all panel members. This will be held on the 8th of October 2024.
- We have attended both Bedford and Luton University Fayres and promoted our panels. This was extremely successful, and we have a lot of students interested. Next steps are to contact them and book them in for interviews.
- Regarding recruitment of volunteers, we recently had a successful interview and are in the process of booking them in for training.

Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel (ICDSP)

- Recent bulletin produced and published.
- Last meeting focused on Juvenile Strip Search – areas identified for learning passed to Chief Inspector.
- Pilot review been sent out and responses will be accumulated and reflected upon.

Legally Qualified Chairs (LQC)/Misconduct

On 7th May legislation changed surrounding LQC and Independent Members so new process is in place to ensure we are complying with this.

Pension Forfeiture

Awaiting update on five cases from the Force. Once received packs will be made and brought to the PCC for a determination if pension forfeiture should be completed.

Police Appeals Tribunal

Four finalised and one due to complete in October 2024.

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 – Three completed and one 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/>

Website Compliance – Specified Information Order

SD and BC are working on the retention policy and clearing files – this is still ongoing. Moving forward we will be looking at SharePoint and how we get the office moved over and using this system.

Website: meeting been had with Single Online Home (SOH) and initial barriers have now been completed so the next phase will be taking place on 1st October 2024. We will require all team members to assist by ensuring that their areas are updated. Due to timeline, we may be looking at Jan 2025 for launch.

OPCC Policies and Procedures

Currently with the CEO and PCC for sign off.

Audit

No upcoming OPCC audits.

Violence & Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU)

As of September 2024, the Home Office have not confirmed the funding arrangements for the VRU programme post March 2025. The VERU remain in regular communication with Bedfordshire's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within the Home Office, who have indicated that there is appetite to continue to support the programme nationally. However, confirmation of what this may look like going forward can only be finalised and shared following the budget and spending review set for October 2024. The VERU's Head of Service is set to attend the VRU Director's Conference, hosted by the Home Office on 23rd September 2024 where further information is expected to be provided.

In line with the change in operating model for 2024/25, the VERU set up a suite of new interventions, aimed at responding to the findings and recommendations contained within our Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). This year sees the largest amount of VERU funding allocated to the rollout of these programmes, as well as supporting our statutory partners in their work to prevent serious violence and exploitation.



Collection and analysis of data at the end of Q1 indicates positive performance across the board in relation to VERU / partnership interventions.

Integrating community and young person voice into the work that we do, continues to be a priority for the VERU. We have recently developed upon our existing VERU Village, creating our Youth Voice Fund. This opportunity was created with the aim of increasing engagement with our young people in the VERU and wider partnership.

Following a procurement process, Att10tive, as the successful organisation, has collaborated with the VERU to set up our youth forum, named POWER Youth Action and will work to support the core VERU team.

The Centre for Crime Justice and Policing at the University of Birmingham have now been commissioned to undertake an impact evaluation of the VERU 24/25 Navigators Schemes. These types of interventions are becoming increasingly recognised across the VRU network nationally. The aim is therefore to have a robust evaluation of our interventions on a local level, to aid learning, development moving into future rounds of funding. In addition, they will further carry out an in-depth analytical understanding of the entire VERU at a local level. This will require a review at a strategic level to understand how integrated services planned and delivered in the local area are being delivered. Additionally, it will enable to understand how the capacity and capability of the VERU have developed over time.

Commissioning

The Commissioning and Income Generation Lead is due to leave the role on 11th October 2024.

The Commissioning Team are preparing for quarter 2 monitoring meetings in October. The new monitoring return templates will continue to be used to inform system thinking and wider discussions on themes. Outcomes and outputs will be gathered into a Governance and Transparency presentation to share activity from within quarter 2, this meeting is scheduled for 19th November 2024.

A research provider continues to progress the independent needs assessment which continues into 2024/2025. The interim report is due to be submitted soon, date pending.

The Commissioning team presented to the Police and Crime Commissioner on commissioning activities and their alignment to current, short-term, and long-term goals within the Police and Crime Plan for Bedfordshire Police.

Commissioning activities are underway regarding two tender opportunities, Domestic Abuse Independent Advocate (IDVA) and Programme of Therapeutic Response and



<p>Sexual Violence Independent Advocate (ISVA) and Programme of Therapeutic Response.</p> <p>During the process of developing the specification for the ISVA service, a decision was made to collaborate with Essex Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, preparing a joint specification.</p> <p>The IDVA specification was released to bid respondents on 5th August 2024 and the ISVA specification was released to bid respondents on 2nd September 2024.</p> <p>The IDVA tender opportunity closed on 9th September and the bids are currently being evaluated. The ISVA tender opportunity is due to close on 7th October.</p> <p>The Commissioning team are working on an options paper which will lay out to The PCC the funding options and risks for 2024/2025 and beyond.</p> <p>The Commissioning team have explored opportunities for income generation in terms of accessing funds, self-generated funds from commissioned services, collaboration and approaching organisations regarding social value expectations. Scoping is ongoing to understand external opportunities for funding and how other OPCCs manage income generation, however initial findings suggest that the main source of income generation will remain focused on governmental funds.</p>	
<p>Project Manager – Policing and Contact and Safer Streets</p> <p>PE and KC sent their apologies for the meeting. Updates to be provided at the next BRM.</p>	
<p>Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator</p> <p>Office Update:</p> <p>AP is now back to work full time after being off for maternity leave.</p> <p>Referrals:</p> <p>1 new referral and 1 enquiry since last BRM.</p> <p>4 cases actively working on, 1 on hold.</p> <p>Prison project:</p> <p>Dates for Train the Trainer course have been set for 29th October and 5th November.</p> <p>Schools project:</p> <p>The last of the roleplays were delivered.</p>	



Plans are still being put in place for each school to see how they want to use restorative approaches in the new school year.

Training:

The team will be delivering an awareness session to Emerald on the 4th of October. Training dates for the Out of Court Resolution Team have also been booked for the end of October.

An intranet article went out to highlight the training work the team have been doing. Off the back of this, Community Policing got in touch and scheduled in training dates for the team.

Links:

Work is being done around tracking referrals and information given by the police to victims. This is being done with the Victim Tactical Lead and Analyst. A page on PowerBI will be created under Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) which will hold the Force to account.

Links with the probation still continue with drop-ins being delivered at the Luton and Bedford offices. The drop-in sessions were well received and had some positive conversations.

Criminal Justice and Victims Project Manager

FJ sent her apologies; however a paper was provided ahead of the meeting.

Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board

- Next Meeting scheduled for 15 October

The key actions below, highlighted in the August BRM report have been progressed, updates to be provided to the October Board.

- Work with the Prison service relating to;
 - Individuals exiting the prisons into the community and the support around – actioning with commissioning lead/s
 - Progressing a cross county Housing Protocol
- Review Reducing Reoffending Board
 - Look at what the outputs are, their value and how they feed into the CJB



- Priorities
- Membership

- Following the launch of the Police and Crime Plan on 3 October, the BCJB Business Plan will be tabled at the Q3 BCJB for comments and sign off.

BCJB, CJ&V Partnership working

PCCO and Bedfordshire Police

Outline business case prepared and submitted to the NPCC for potential Star funding for a diversion worker, to triage perpetrators from the CJS where they have been identified as offending as a result of being victims of domestic abuse.

- Strict criteria, primarily related to first time offending

HMP Bedford and HMP Peterborough

Beds OPCC through and the BCJB Reducing Reoffending subgroup/partnership, are currently supporting HMP Bedford with;

- Pathways for Prison leavers supporting the prison's assertive outreach programme
- Knife Amnesty Bins within HMP Bedford

A contact has now been identified for HMP Peterborough, in partnership with BCJB colleagues, we are together exploring:

- A Bedfordshire Housing Protocol
- A Bedfordshire Housing Navigator in line with the Ipswich Navigator model

Police & Crime Panel

Two reports will be tabled at the December Police and Crime Panel for scrutiny:

- BCJB Report
- Support available to prison leavers in Bedfordshire

Communications Officer

Press release schedule update

- Letter from Chief Constable and PCC
- An update on 24 hours in Police Custody
- Police and Crime Panel back PCC's policing plan



- Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner announces new Chief Executive of his office

Upcoming events

- Meet and Challenge the PCC – 16th Oct - Leighton Buzzard
- Meet and Challenge the PCC – 20th Nov – Luton
- Rural Crime event – 6th Nov – Thurleigh

Socials

- Meet and challenge the PCC – Harrold event
- PCC attending Wixams Residents Association
- PCC met Yasin Mohammed
- DPCC spent time with Grow Your Potential
- Meet and Challenge the PCC – Leighton Buzzard event
- Update following Harrold event
- Meet and Challenge the PCC – Luton event
- Bedford Independent Monthly column

Website

Work underway and brief being worked on for new website

AOB

No AOB discussed.