

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE  
DELIVERY AND BEATING CRIME MINUTES – PART 1**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

<b>Attending:</b>	<b>Festus Akinbusoye, Police Crime Commissioner (FA)</b>
	<b>Garry Forsyth Chief Constable (GF)</b>
	<b>Gavin Chambers, CFO for the OPCC (GC)</b>
	<b>Sharn Basra, Assistant Chief Constable (SB)</b>
	<b>Madelyn Doggrell, Staff Officer DCC (MD)</b>
	<b>Rachel Glendenning, Staff Officer (RG)</b>
	<b>Gemma McCormack, PA to PCC and Chief Executive (GMc)</b>

<b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME &amp; MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AND FOR AGREEMENT AND MATTERS ARISING</u></b>
FA welcome everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Gavin Chambers. The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 were discussed and agreed as an accurate record.
<b><u>ITEM 2 – PCC QUESTIONS OR ITEMS TO RAISE</u></b>
<b>2.1 Actions from previous meetings</b>
The actions were discussed and have been updated on the Action Log for November 2021.  71 – Additional spend on firing Range and Training Centre - PW advised that there will be an updated paper discussed at the SAS meeting today and following that a final decision will be brought to the Delivery Board. <b>To remain open on Action Log.</b>  73 - Crime in Business – FA advised that he is no further forward in finding out any further information and as yet has not received any feedback. FA said that he will look into this further and will discuss with the shop owners. <b>To remain open on Action Log.</b>  83 - SB has provided the information and confirmed that information is now being received and recorded on a quarterly basis. <b>To be closed on Action Log.</b>
<b>2.2 ASB Report</b>
SB went through and discussed the presentations.  SB advised that there is an ASB Conference on the 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 which FA confirmed he will be attending.  SB discussed ‘Operation Primrose’ which he said was a three-month long response operation to the issues that were happening in Tavistock Street in Bedford. SB shared that since Operation Primrose calls received reporting anti-social behaviour had reduced by 65% and recorded crimes had reduced by 52%. 14 businesses were contacted and out of those 85% said street drinking had reduced and 71% said that street begging had reduced. 79 residents were contacted and feedback received stated that they were very appreciative and happy with the outcome. Sainsbury’s on Tavistock Street have now hired dedicated security

staff which has also helped with reducing the anti-social behaviour in this area. SB confirmed that following Operation Primrose, the issues in this area have been solved and not displaced.

SB advised that there are some issues in Adelaide Square and in this area is a Drug Referral Centre (Pathways to Recovery - P2R). The issues tend to be around where people congregate in this area before and after they have attended P2R. Local Policing are continuing to monitor in this area.

**Action – FA would like to visit Pathways to Recovery, GM to arrange.**

Tasking Co-Ordination Process – SB advised that there are 2 weekly and 2 daily meetings where allocation of resources is discussed and issues identified. If local teams are unable to deal with particular cases they get escalated to these meetings where they are discussed.

FA discussed the vehicle crimes in Flitwick. SB advised that even though it is high, this has reduced from the numbers that were being reported this time last year. SB shared that Central Bedfordshire has a higher number of anti-social behaviour compared to Luton or Bedford but explained that Central Bedfordshire is a larger area but confirmed there is a better spread of Officers across this area.

SB shared that all crimes that have been committed the day/evening before are discussed in morning meetings which take place on a daily basis. SB advised that he will invite FA to attend one of these meetings. SB confirmed that in the last 7 days, there have been 9 reports of theft from vehicles and vehicle interference and said that this time last year, over a 7-day period, 12 were being reported. SB provided a further breakdown and provided the numbers of reports in relation to thefts from motor vehicles have been 5 so far this month, 4 in September and 7 in August. FA advised that he has received feedback from Central Bedfordshire residents and Councillors and said that he will feed this information back to them.

**Action – SB to invite FA to morning meeting.**

### **2.3 Response Update**

SB went through the presentation.

GF discussed what Response Policing looks like. The Tutor period for Response is 10 weeks and we tend to see those who drop out to be towards the end of Year 2 which is often due to individuals struggling with completing their NVQ as well as working and not being able to find that balance. SB advised that after the 10-week tutorship Student Officers are limited as to what they are able to attend which is why they need to complete their NVQ.

SB updated that there are currently 326 Students, out of those 148 are on Response, there are 114 Tutors in place and 4 Student Development Officers (SDO's). There are also only 6 Assessors for Bedfordshire who are responsible for signing off all of the Portfolios. We would like more Tutors in place and are currently looking at whether we can increase the numbers of Tutors and SDO's to ensure that the right support network is in place for the Students.

FA updated on some concerns he has regarding the Emergency Duty Teams (EDT). SB and GF both advised that these concerns have been raised and escalated and have also been raised at the Strategic Level Children's Board. GF agreed that this has been an ongoing issue for a long time but is now becoming a frequent problem.

**Action – FA to write to the Council Group Leaders/GF to provide FA information on the service failures.**

FA enquired how many Police Officers have Blue Light Tickets? RG confirmed that out of the 132 drivers in Response, 131 have their Blue Light Ticket. RG also confirmed that the establishment for Response is currently 154/180.

#### **2.4 Force Officer Assaults**

SB advised that due to this meeting being earlier in the month than it usually is, this information is not available as a true record at this time.

**Action – SB to provide this information at the November meeting.**

### **ITEM 3 – PERFORMANCE FOCUS**

#### **3.1 Crime performance figures with restricted detail**

SB confirmed that he is satisfied with the performance data but advised that he has concerns about Officers caseloads. SB shared that at the moment it is the highest that he can remember with 5,335 assigned crimes. SB said that there are two elements to look at to get these numbers down which are CIB and Allocation of Crimes. We also need to look at and address whether Sergeants have the confidence to file reports. One of the issues with crimes being high means that the number of outstanding suspects also remains high.

Force Control Centre – SB advised that the new model went live on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and will provide a full month's update at the meeting in November. SB also advised that this week in International Control Room Week.

GF updated that this is the third month in a row where we have had over 10,000 999 calls and the answer time for these have been just over 10 seconds. This time last year we had 8,000 999 calls. These figures are also being replicated across the Country. GF shared that the level of 101 calls and call abandonment is concerning. There is now a webchat facility in place and we have received 4,500 online enquiries however there have also been 5,000 abandoned 101 calls. We may need to look into alternatives if this doesn't improve as demand is increasing. The National target time for answering 999 calls is 10 seconds and we are currently running at 70% of 999 calls being answered in under 10 seconds. The current data shows that 999 calls are being answered in 12 seconds maximum and this time last year it was 7 seconds, for 101 calls they are being answered in 5 ½ minutes and this time last year it was 3 ½ minutes.

### **ITEM 4 – CC UPDATE**

#### **4.1 Verbal Update**

GF feedback from the Senior Leadership Day where the focus was on culture in the organisation.

'Ask the Exec' – 100 people attended online where lots of good questions were asked and discussions had. This was recorded and will be uploaded onto the Intranet. The next 'Ask the Exec' will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

An online Wellbeing Session with Adam Kay is being planned for November 2021 and details for this will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

GF advised that he has sent a letter to DFT regarding Luton Airport. FA advised that he will be meeting with the CEO at Luton Airport in the New Year, GF advised that he will brief FA ahead of that meeting.

**Action – GM to advise RG of the meeting date once it has been booked.**

### **ITEM 5 – LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE**

#### **5.1 Chief Constable Complaints**

None recorded – no concerns
<b>5.2 Reviews</b>
No concerns
<b>ITEM 6 – QUARTERLY REPORTING EFFICIENCY</b>
<b>6.1 Finance Capital Update &amp; 6.2 Force Annual Delivery Plan</b>
<p>PW updated that there is a £900k underspend forecast by year end. There is a slight concern around overtime expenditure and ring fenced which will be looked into.</p> <p>Costello spend review – We haven't included any expectation on the Home Office COVID Grant and we will also be putting together a Luton Airport case.</p> <p>There is a slight underspend on Emerald and any external support to reduce the caseload, SB advised that this is something he and Dee are currently looking into.</p> <p>FA queried what is the reserves strategy? PW updated that the general reserve is £3 ½ million. If there were to be a major incident we would be asked to contribute and use the first 1% of the Revenue Grant.</p> <p>PW confirmed that any underspend at year end will be looked into and a decision made as to where is best to allocate it.</p> <p>PW discussed the Greyfriars building in relation to all parties not yet agreeing to the Section 106 contributions/ FA advised that he will discuss this with Mayor Dave Hodgson.</p> <p><b>Action – GM to arrange a meeting with FA, PW and Mayor Dave Hodgson.</b></p> <p>PW went through the Capital Programme underspends and highlighted areas to be considered;</p> <p>In Headquarters, Police dog's accommodation - £100k - £150k.</p> <p>SOCO's in Headquarters and separating the team into clean and not clean.</p> <p>Luton Police Station – replacing the toilets throughout the building and redecorating the stairwells.</p> <p>PW confirmed that the custody building is on target for completion to open in April 2022. PW advised that he will be attending a walkaround of the building in the next few weeks and will include FA in the calendar appointment.</p> <p><b>Action – GM/PW to liaise regarding FA attending the walkaround of the new Custody Building.</b></p>
<b>7.1 Risks and any key updates from the Force to OPCC if any</b>
CC confirmed that he had nothing to report at this time.
<b>ITEM 8 – AOB</b>
<b>8.1 Information Management Update</b>
FA asked for an update regarding Officer safeguarding checks. GF confirmed that upon investigation there have been 20 cases relating to sexual misconduct, one of which involved a Student Officer getting a

vulnerable person pregnant, this Officer has since been dismissed. GF advised that there have been a significant number of cases coming through the system in relation to Police Officers. FA asked if any are reports are in relation to Officer to Officer or staff to staff, GF confirmed yes there are. GF also advised that 178 reports of indecent exposure have been looked into for the last two years, three Officers have been identified including a potential sex offender has been identified. These cases will be reopened and investigated. GF updated that vetting processes are also being looked into and confirmed at this time there are no issues in terms of any backlog however there is still a 12-week waiting time for Police Officers and staff.

**Next Meeting:**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 9am, The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine.