



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE
Delivery and Beating Crime Board
Tuesday 22 November 2022

MINUTES – PART 2

Attending:	Festus Akinbusoye, Police Crime Commissioner - OPCC (FA)
	Trevor Rodenhurst, Acting Chief Constable - Force (TR)
	Sharn Basra, Assistant Chief Constable – Force (SB)
	Dan Vajzovic – Acting Deputy Chief Constable (DV)
	Phil Wells, Chief Finance Officer – Force (PW)
	Wayne Humberstone, Director of Delivery – OPCC (WH)
	Simon Powell – Head of Victim Services and Commissioning – OPCC (SP)
	Katie Beaumont, Transparency Manager - OPCC (KB)
	Gemma McCormack, Executive Assistant – OPCC (GM)
	Pauline Stewart, Executive Assistant – OPCC (PS) Minute taker Part II

WELCOME

FA welcomed everyone to the public section of the Delivery and Crime Board meeting.

FA provided a quick recap regarding various matters discussed in Part 1 of the meeting; however some areas cannot be put into the public domain. FA went on to explain that the Board have gone over the crime figures, some of which have restricted details.

ITEM 9 – UPDATES:

9.1 Force Activity against the Police and Crime Plan:

FA invited DV to provide an update in his position as DCC.

DV stated that he has provided a written report that he believes will be published. He referred to the report and went on to say that he will provide context and highlights to add value.

DV provided an update on Priority 5 within the Police and Crime Plan.

DV explained that the priority is a multi-agency approach to community safety and crime reduction (one of the 7 pillars within the plan). DV referred to the report, section 3 (and a table within the document).

DV went on to say that Bedfordshire is a mature and effective partnership landscape for policing and wider public service organisations. Within the paper we have set out examples of partnerships that are working. Both Pan Bedfordshire and then within each of the three unitary authority areas



of Bedfordshire, strategic, tactical, and operational levels. DV went on to say that this is a well populated area of business and there are lots of partnership groups working across the county.

DV highlighted that there are a number of organisations that link with what is being done, from micro community level all the way up to national. DV explained that they are looking across the region at ERSOU, networks, and range of other partner organisations.

DV continued, aside from formalised partnerships there are a range of other community groups where they are seeking to engage with, both Community and partner organisations informally. DV referred to FA's and the Chief Constable's attendance and presenting awards at a recent event, working in partnership with the Luton and Bedfordshire Community Awards, celebrating the community coming together with Public Sector organisations and individuals.

DV referred to the eight sections and highlighted areas within the paper (described in the schematic).

DV Highlights:

4. Strategic partnership case study

Force OCG Strategic Co-ordination Group looks at how the Force tackle, crime groups, county-lines (organised groups) and the (Section 4 of the paper).

VERU operates across the county dealing with violence and exploitation.

DV stated that they have a new Superintendent Nick Bellingham who chairs the Silver Group dealing with crime activity across the county.

DV refers to 4.1 bullet point within the report.

Ensure that partnership intelligence and resources are effectively coordinated to understand the local SOC risk and identify emerging OCGs operating across Bedfordshire

DV continued that this is something Bedfordshire does really well. Working at grass roots level to develop intelligence and tackle organised crime is well placed.

DV stated that over the last 6 – 7 years Bedfordshire Police and partners have been working to develop training of not just users but all officers and staff within a range of other organisations.

DV continued by saying that they have invested in training members of staff to ensure that they know what is required to submit intelligence to the Police. This has resulted in cases of about 6 to 800 intelligence reports being received with partner

organisations for our consideration on how we tackle knife crime and county-lines within the county.

DV refers to the bottom of 4.1 bullet point within the report.

Drive the commitment to shared ownership of the SOC Local Profile; bring together a wide range of information and datasets to enhance the content.

DV explained that the information within the document is a range of data resources, including health, alcohol teams, patient services, youth offending services and produces an annual report of what has been happening, what the priorities are. DV further explained that the partnership prioritisation of SOC activity is a mature process working well and there has been discussion regarding the success or organised crime across Bedfordshire, locally as a Police Force with our partners and other organisations who have a regional and national footprint (National Crime Agency and ERSOU).

5. Tactical partnership case study: Child Exploitation and Missing Group

DV referred to section 5 of the paper. DV apologised and went on to say that there is an amendment to the paper. 5.1 refers to the Clinical Commissioning Group, however it should read Integrated Care Partnership, however this does not make any difference to the paper.

DV stated that there has been some fantastic work taking place in partnership with local authorities and those responsible for missing children. Operation COTY was a case explored through the CSEM group. DV went on to say, that this identified a group of 8 children who were missing. Additional resources were commissioned to the Force Tactical and Co-ordination Group working with Children Services across Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough; to identify what was going on and to disrupt the exploitation taking place in that case. DV was pleased to report that the intervention (subject to the operation) improved safety and safeguarding of the children.

6. Tactical partnership case study: County lines Silver Group

DV referred to section 6 of the paper.

DV spoke about the fantastic work with the East of England regarding county-lines, National county-lines co-ordination and DI Kelly Grey, who has been fantastic at securing grant funding for county-lines including a number of bids for Bedfordshire Police. DV went on to say that the activity of the county-line Silver Group oversee

the operational implementation of the bids and there has been some successes in dismantling organised crime groups.

DV asked if there were any questions. There were no questions and DV moved on to Section 9 of the report.

9. Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum

DV stated that he and Chief Fire Officer Andy Hopkinson (AH) from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service met to discuss the Resilience Forum. AH is the current chair however the intention is for DV to take up the position of chair in the New Year. A position shared with the Fire and Rescue Service.

DV stated that AH and he looked at the financial year for 2023, to ensure that the Local Resilience Forum is able to respond to any civil contingences, emergencies, or incidents across the county. DV went on to say that he has met with key partners within the local resilience forum. The resilience is fit for purpose regarding any contingency they may face.

10. Operation Encompass

DV stated that Operation Encompass is about improving the passing of reports from the police to schools informing them of children who are experiencing domestic abuse. DV explained that this is a tactical example of where through police data and responding they can assist with safeguarding and improved welfare of children.

11. Bedfordshire Police Education and Diversion Team

DV explained that the final section of the report deals with the Police Education and Diversion Team. DV referred to 11.5 of the report. DV stated that in September of this year the Education and Diversion Team attended 12 freshers' events across the County's eight standalone sixth form centres through universities. DV went on to say that by attending the freshers' events they were able to provide educative material and support to freshers and new students issuing 1500 personal alarms and 3000 anti-spiking bottle stoppers and promoted the 'hollieguard' smart phone personal safety app. DV went on to say that there were 1700 children in September alone. DV stated that he was attending the Police and Commissioners debating competition to support the commitment to reach out to schools across the county.

DV asked if there were any questions.

FA thanked DV.

FA asked how well are the multi-agencies working as far as the Force is concerned, in terms of partnership working and engagement?



DV responded that due to limited time working with partnerships, he would ask Chief Officer colleagues to respond. DV said he was hugely impressed with the partnerships in Bedfordshire and met recently with the CE of Luton Council. DV referred to his meeting with the Chief Fire Officer and his passion to develop the services of LRF and work on a range of issues such as forensic fire examination post a potential crime scene. DV said the partnerships across Bedfordshire are strong and vibrant plus there is huge community involvement.

TR stated that DV had done a good job on the paper as he had only been in position for the last 2 months.

FA agreed.

TR went on to describe the partnership landscape in Bedfordshire, stating there are 3 unitary authorities, 2 hospitals and a couple of Trusts involved. Work is delivered at a tactical level with Dallow Cares, involving the community – a collective endeavour to improve people's lives.

TR stated the partners know each other and are on speed dial. TR explained that he chairs the Chief Exec Forum, attended by wider partners and statutory ones, this enables them to dig deep into real system problems.

TR mentioned that SB chairs and sits on a number of Pan Bedfordshire processes. With regard to safeguarding and looking after children, partners come round the table and work effectively together to deliver safety and security of children across the county. TR went on to say that they have a Pan Bedfordshire approach to serious violence and drugs and have dedicated funding.

SB added that it has been reflected in inspections for them and within the local authority as well. Inspection identifies that they are committed to working together and to provide joint solutions.

FA stated that he is pleased with the reports and partnership landscape which is crucial for both; from a crime fighting point of view and crime prevention.

FA went on to ask if there are any concerns regarding multi-agency partnership working and the sharing of information.

TR suggested that it could be better regarding data. TR went on to say that they comply with all statutory obligations to safeguard people. TR stated that it is still 'human manual process led' where systems are not joined up. Over time investment and innovation will maintain the security of data and will help them to answer problems before they manifest in serious occurrences. In response to FA, TR explained this is an ongoing conversation to exploit their own data in a highly effective way.

FA said it would be good to keep an eye on improvement. FA went on to say that he was impressed with the Education and Diversion Team and enquired about the budget and full complement of numbers.



DV did not have the answer and referred to colleagues and stated that if they do not know the answer, they will get it.

FA referred to the document (section 11 – 11.5). FA stated that they have a tremendous amount of work with just over 350 schools in the county. FA referred to the document (Section 11 – 11.1), stating that school age children commit over 50% of burglaries and robberies. FA went on to say that perhaps the activity by the team could be ramped up.

DV explained that they are alive to the fact and Bedfordshire is not alone. We are a young county so therefore we have higher numbers than some other areas in the country. DV stated they are aware and working in partnership to provide diversionary activity and pathways from the criminal justice system.

FA provided information about his recent visit to Wilmington on the border with Northants. It was raised to FA that they see more Northamptonshire Police vehicles drive through the village. FA asked if the Education and Diversion team could engage in far flung rural areas. FA provided an example of behaviour regarding a dead deer at Halloween.

DV stated that they will redouble their efforts to make sure they are as visible as they possibly can be across the whole county.

TR added that they encourage healthy dialogue with schools, so if the schools reach out with a particular challenged individual or group, they will respond to the needs of partners.

FA asked how is this communicated to the schools?

TR responded that every school should know the name of their community officer, with a direct ability to reach their local community team, which has a PC and a PCSO, dedicated to that role.

FA asked if the information can be communicated again (due to school staff turnover) so they know who to contact and FA will have a separate conversation with the Head of VERU to ensure everyone is aware of the resources available to them.

TR agreed and said they will take it away.

ACTION TR AND TEAM

FA referred to the report (Section 11 – 11.8), Relaunching the Junior Police Squad, which is amazing.

SB updated that it is a programme run every year, introduced to different schools, not just about preventing crime but to engage with younger age children to possibly become police cadets.

SB went on to say that he will source the information regarding what schools are involved.

ACTION SB

FA thanked DV for the report.



ITEM 10 – COMMUNITY POLICING:

10.1 Community Policing Model – Establishment Update

FA invited SB to participate.

SB stated that DV had already covered some of it within the community policing footprint. SB went on to say that they want Bedfordshire to be a safe place and two of the strengths are prevention and problem solving.

SB explained that the community teams follow the 7 pillars of community policing with visibility and engagement across the communities. SB said there is a need to balance resources across the organisation. Currently there are 10 vacancies at Constable level across the community footprint, against an establishment of 67 shared across all three areas. SB went on to say that their priority is the patrol function to enable them to deal with immediate incidents.

SB stated that there is a dedicated Education and Diversion Co-ordinator aligned with the 3 CSPs who sits at a strategic level on children boards and with all 3 with education representatives. They are cited on what the footprint looks like and how to access resources.

SB explained that within community policing, the initiatives are followed up with feedback from the residents within those three areas i.e. events like 'Coffee With A Cop'. They publicise on Facebook, meetings, and provide QR codes so that people can get actively involved beforehand.

SB previously supplied a paper with 'really good news stories' from across all three CSPs evidencing engagement with the community. SB stated that they are dedicated to providing a better and more bespoke service.

SB shared an example of partnership working and a case study regarding Operation Pentagon in Leighton Buzzard. Twelve young people aged 12 – 16, who were positively dealt with by the Youth Offending Teams, keeping them out of the criminal justice system.

SB stated that there is a PCSO in Leighton Buzzard who has implemented a 'Run Safely Run' safety campaign where she runs with members of the public which is well received. SB went on to say, in Bedford they have listened to their communities, and set up speeding enforcement and drug warrants in Queens Park and the Town Centre.

FA stated that he is aware of the excellent work that the Community Police officers are doing. However, he went on to say that the communication is not as effective or as frequent as it could be. FA asked if the priority setting meetings are on the website and asked for a catch up following the meeting.



FA asked what can be done to further make the public aware of what is being done in their area.

SB stated they have taken positive steps and introduced the Social Media Academy to address the concerns that FA highlighted. He went on to say that it is a development programme, specifically designed for community policing to support the use of social media (same language, same forum). It is being rolled out across community policing.

FA stated that it is better than it used to be. It is about spreading the message on what they are doing. FA provided an example of Land Rover Defenders being targeted by thieves.

TR stated that updating the public adds reassurance. Community policing is doing well in Bedford, and he would like the other two areas to follow this lead. Visibility by way of social media and other communication channels will help. TR went on to say that it would be tracked via the board.

FA asked to see the populated community pages for policing priorities by the next meeting.

ACTION SB

FA asked if 'Track My Call' was still being worked on?

WH stated that they now have access to that data and working on this with the Force. They are looking at how they can release the data, however the data is available to the office.

FA asked if we could get it out in the new year.

WH responded that early new year is possible, they are just looking at how to package and publish it.

TR stated that it is important to deliver the right information with 10% resources to add value.

ITEM 11 – VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:

Update on Special Constabulary and Recruitment

FA asked TR for an update on the Special Constabulary.

TR responded that Special Constables (SCs) want to work in their own area. The Force have community teams across the county, responsible for geographical areas. TR went on to say that the recruits have to attend all of the training to become an effective independent Special Constable however, to do that it cannot be in one specific area. Once trained they can then be aligned to the areas that they know.

FA stated that there are no short cuts.

SB updated that currently they have got 91 SC's, 82 are at constable level, 4 sergeants and 5 inspectors following a streamlined process and actively deployed. 39 aligned to community teams, 15 north and 24 in the south. 47 are aligned to the patrol function, 30 in the north and 17 in the south. SB pathways included in specialist roles. SB went on to say that over the past two years,



74 resignations, some leave to join as regulars and some are not aligned to our culture. Of the 91, 79 are operationally deployed. SB stated that currently they have 23 in the recruitment process (different stages) along with Cambs and Herts. We like to have 20 in a cohort (to make it cost effective). SB stated that the dedicated hours increased in October, and the Special Constabulary delivered over 2100 hours.

FA thanked TR for a visit to the Special Constabulary.

TR said that it was good to see them, and they were a great strength during the pandemic. He went on to say that the Force are grateful for what they do to support Bedfordshire Police.

FA stated that the contribution is good, smaller numbers and better output. FA went on to say that he will ask the OPCC to help.

FA thanked everyone for their hard work.

Meeting closed.

11 Issues raised to the PCC

None

ITEM 12 – AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

Items for December meeting:

- **Recruitment – Special Constabulary**
- **Estates Strategy**
- **Chief Constable Update for the Police and Crime Panel**
- **National Uplift Figures (NUP) data gaps**

Next Meeting: December 2022