



**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE**  
**Delivery and Beating Crime Board**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**MINUTES – PART 2**

<b>Attending:</b>	Festus Akinbusoye, Police Crime Commissioner - OPCC (FA)
	Dan Vajzovic, Acting Deputy Chief Constable (DV)
	Trevor Rodenhurst, Acting Chief Constable - Force (TR)
	Sharn Basra, Assistant Chief Constable – Force (SB)
	Phil Wells, Chief Finance Officer – Force (PW)
	Katie Beaumont, Transparency Manager - OPCC (KB)
	Anna Villette, Chief Executive – OPCC (AV)
	Rachel Glendenning, Superintendent - Force (RG)
	Emma Francis, Staff Officer – Force (EF)
	Ian Dalgarno, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner - OPCC (ID)
	Gemma McCormack, Executive Assistant – OPCC (GM) – Minutes
	Pauline Stewart, Executive Assistant – OPCC (PS)

**WELCOME:**

FA welcomed everyone to the public section of the meeting and updated on some of the areas that were discussed in the closed section of the meeting such as; Force performance data, estates strategy, demand pressures, work that is ongoing in relation to the mental health demand on Officers and work that is being done with Partners on how to address this, and also the Budget which is going to be discussed at the upcoming Police and Crime Panel.

**ITEM 9 – UPDATES:**

**9.1 Force Activity against the Police and Crime Plan – update - ‘Spotlight – Priority 6 - Transparency and open communication’**

DV provided an update in relation to how the Force are responding to the Police and Crime Plan around Section 6 – Transparency and open communication’.

DV went through the attached report.

DV advised that he will send the Joint Channel Strategy to the PCC following this meeting.

DV shared that the Force have been trying to engage with a younger audience via social media, particular those at risk of crime or who are vulnerable. A campaign has been run through the VERU which focussed on understanding attitudes to knife crime. Officers and staff are being trained on social media on the Digi Desk and how to get those messages in the public domain.



FA thanked DV for all the good work that has been completed on this. There has been a marked improvement in the level of engagement on social media, but also on the type of engagement and it is really good to see in some cases where the Force are answering questions in the comments section. Members of the public are keen to hear from the Police Force and some Officers are being creative on what is being posted on social media which is very positive.

FA advised that there has been a lot more output in terms of enforcement actions where videos are being posted, this is important for residents to see. It is also good to see that when members of the public have been involved in providing intelligence this is being acknowledged by the Force.

FA asked regarding the Social Media Academy, there is currently no process in place on what is happening after staff have come through the academy, what is being done about this? DV advised that after a period of time the corporate comms team do look at what those staff members have posted on social media and how effective that has been, so there is a debrief and follow up of those staff who have gone through the academy.

FA asked would it be worth the main Police Facebook page having a list and links of all the teams social media outputs, this would then allow the public to follow their community teams? DV agreed this is helpful advice, we will take this away and look at doing this.

**Action:** Links for all social media groups for community teams to be included on the Force Facebook Page.

FA advised that he has been very impressed with the improvement and the content that is now coming out, more and more teams are sharing stories and this is being well received.

DV shared that the Force have a number of scrutiny panels such as the Custody Visitors Scheme. There is also now a scrutiny panel looking at the PSD outcomes and ensuring the processes are achieving the right outcome for the community but also, making sure that the Force are proportionate in how we are dealing with our Officers and staff.

DV advised that there are a number of mechanisms on how the Force provides data to the public such as - when this is a misconduct case outcome, this is a transparent process and the outcome is published on the Force website.

DV discussed the ongoing success of the Force appearing on the show '24 Hours in Police Custody'. The vast majority of the episodes have received a positive response from the public but there was an episode recently where a huge amount of feedback was received from the public. We are looking to carry on this initiative going forward as it highlights the difficulty Officers and staff face and also provides information on how the criminal justice system works.

FA thanked DV for the comprehensive report and also thanked TR for being supportive with being as open and transparent as the Force can be. There are things that of course cannot be



put in the public domain but also there are things that are now being shared with FA to be made public. This is a good model for policing nationwide to take on board as it is important for everyone to know that this is not normal and not every Chief would allow their PCC to have access to information that can then be shared with the public, so this is very positive.

FA asked for reassurance that going forward the Force are going to continue engaging with 24 Hours in Police Custody? TR advised that he recently met with the Producer and advised that a lot of work goes into this such as; we have to ensure that it is not the same staff every time as this puts them under a lot of pressure, in order to highlight transparency we don't have any say over the editing and because of this it is a true reflection of the work our Officers and staff do. TR updated that we continue to keep this under review but as it stands, we will be going forward with the programme. It is also important to note that we do not get paid for appearing on the show, this is purely an exercise in transparency and showing the work that we do.

FA advised that he recently had a discussion with TR spoke about the 'What, How and Why; of police powers and on the back of that discussion FA has written to the Chair of the NPCC, Martin Hewitt and the Chair of the College of Policing, Andy Marsh about this subject. FA shared that when looking at some of the cases of the disgraced Police Officers that have recently been in the news, these Officers have preyed on the ignorance of the public on what they can do as Police Officers and law abiding members of the public will trust what the Police say. FA feels it is important that policing does a better job of explaining to the public, what it does, how it does it and why it does it. This then allows members of the public to challenge appropriately and is also good for Officers to show they are acting well within their rights. FA has received a reply and a meeting has been arranged to discuss this further. FA asked for any suggestions from Force Exec on how this can be achieved in Bedfordshire? DV advised that You Tube is the preferred mechanism where we can provide updates and anything along those lines would be shared via You Tube. FA feels that the vast majority of the public do not really understand what the Police do and more needs to be done to explain this to the public.

TR agreed that he is supportive of this but does not want the public of Bedfordshire to have any doubts over the Officers in our county, this is where the focus will be. There is a benefit to having education material available for the public and we can look into how we can make this more accessible.

SB advised that part of the responsibility of our scrutiny panels and groups is to have the focus on policing and to share what they see in those forums. When an Officer is routed to an incident that requires action for example – a male in a play park with a knife. When Officers attend that incident they can either do nothing, arrest that person or do a stop search. Stop search is an investigation tool and this education is something that is really encouraged and is then reviewed by the scrutiny panels.



FA asked regarding the Digital Crime Performance Pack, this will be published in February 2023 and will be shared by the OPCC and the Force. This will be accessible to residents and will be more easier to access. SB advised the launch date for the DCPD is the 28<sup>th</sup> February and will be available through the HMRCIS website.

TR stated that the Forces good practice would not have been achieve without the support from the residents of Bedfordshire. **35.16**

**ITEM 10 – COMMUNITY POLICING:**

**10.1 Community Policing Model Establishment update**

**ITEM 11 – VOICE OF THE PUBLIC:**

**11 Issues raised to the PCC**

**ITEM 12 – AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**Items for March meeting:**

**Next Meeting:** TBC