



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

**MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW MEETING**

27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

<b>Business Review Meeting</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<p>The BRM meeting did not go ahead due to operational reasons, however monthly papers have been documented in the below text. This has been reviewed by the Head of Governance and Transparency and agreed to be published. The Chief Executive and Director of Operations fed back to the team via the weekly team meeting on priorities and updates.</p> <p><b><i>Some papers not provided due to annual leave/absence from the office.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Head of Governance and Transparency</b></p> <p><u>Police and Crime Panel</u></p> <p>Next Police and Crime Panel is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March and requests were sent out to specific team members for updates.</p> <p>Focus for the panel meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stop and Search</li> <li>▪ Presentation from the Chief Constable</li> <li>▪ PCC Annual Report</li> <li>▪ Strategic Decisions</li> <li>▪ Bedfordshire Victim Care Services (BVCS)</li> <li>▪ VERU (Violence Exploitation Reduction Unit)</li> <li>▪ Norfolk Review</li> </ul> <p><u>Joint Audit Committee (JAC)</u></p> <p>Next meeting is due to take place on 22.03.2024.</p> <p>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 Strategic Risk Register (SRR).</p>	



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

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

Please be mindful on timeframes if you receive a request for information as to respond to an FOI, is a statutory duty and cannot be late.

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

BC has created an ICV photo directory following a request from the Temporary Chief Inspector so that Custody can be assured of ICV's identity on visits if required following enhanced security at Headquarters. This is also going to be uploaded onto the staff intranet page alongside some wording on the importance of custody visitors, what they do, the process whilst they are in custody and so that staff have a face to a name for the volunteers.

The next ICV Panel meeting is at the end of March, we will be joined by the Use of Force trainers who will provide some training to ICV's on Use of Force in Custody. We are also going to use this session for new Scrutiny Panel members to assist with their learning.

Following review of other HMICFRS inspection reports nationwide, we have started to record and produce minutes for our monthly meetings with the Chief Inspector and Inspectors of Custody so that action points can be recorded and it is a transparent way on holding the Force to account.

We are now also holding weekly meetings with the Chief Inspector on Custody Performance Data which assists us with Custody Visiting and with the Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel.

We are going to be working with Custody (Luton specifically) on the new digital screen which has been put up in the waiting area/booking in area. The Inspector advised that this would display signposting information for those that visit custody so BC suggested that we include information on ICV and the Custody Scrutiny Panel. BC would also like this information to be put up on all notice boards around custody – will design a poster.

BC is continuing to look at using Microsoft Forms for report forms in custody and is waiting to hear back on further information from Information Security via IT. BC met with Merseyside OPCC Scheme Manager to talk through what we have done so far and to provide some guidance and assistance.

### Stop and Search/ Use of Force

- New terms of reference document is complete and has been signed off by the OPCC Head of Governance, KB, however waiting for the Chair to approve – chased by AB on 26.02.2024 as this needs to be circulated to the Police and Crime Panel.
- Stop & Search training took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb in Dunstable. It was a very successful and informative training session and the OPCC received positive



feedback from the members. 10 members were in attendance – next training session is to be organised by AB for the members that could not attend this one.

- Next Stop & Search meeting is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb.
- AB met with CG to discuss the youth panel to be launched in April. CG is going to speak to the Force regarding this.
- AB and SD met with the Force w/c 4<sup>th</sup> March to find out how the education team can contribute to the youth panel.
- AB attended the first internal scrutiny panel on 20.02.2024 for Use of Force – follow up meeting with SD and the Force to be done to ensure the feedback mechanism is clear.

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

We now have 11 panel members, 7 of those being ICV's and 3 being newly recruited independent members. We also have a new member who has joined us from the Joint Audit Committee. We are continuing to recruit independent members with lived experience and who specialise in custody related practices such as Appropriate Adults etc.

SD and BC held a training session with half of the volunteers on 12 February and the second session will be held on 15 March.

As mentioned above, we are now also holding weekly meetings with the Chief Inspector on Custody Performance Data.

We are going to be inviting Panel Members to the ICV Panel in March so that they can observe the input from Use of Force trainers.

We have created a crib sheet and RAG (traffic light system) recording sheet for meetings going forward. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19 March where we will trial using these.

BC has met with South Wales OPCC to provide advice and guidance on how we have set up and are running the ICDSP. She shared information such as training slides and the new crib sheets designed. This is evidencing that we are a leading OPCC/Force with our Scrutiny Panel.

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

The allocation of LQCs and Independent Members continues and decisions are completed for each allocation, as the LQC allocation is one of statutory duties.

Police Appeals Tribunal (PAT) – one application received – currently 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

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.

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.

Elections

Protocol and website now live - <https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/pcc-election-2024/>

**Violence & Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU)**

Bedfordshire Violence Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) are entering the final year of their multi-year grant agreement with the Home Office, covering 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25. This final year sees a reduction of just over £400,000 from the original funding allocation. As a result, a review of the VERUs current operating model was undertaken, with the aim of ensuring that the unit continues to provide its core function of leadership and strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence, in the most effective and efficient way for the community.

As in previous years, in recognition of the fundamental importance of multi-agency working to the successful delivery of a public health approach, the review of the existing operating model and subsequent 24/25 Delivery Plan for the VERU funding has been developed in partnership with the relevant local partners. All appropriate governance processes were followed, and updates were heard, and later ratified, by the Serious Harm Board, made up of the VERU’s mandated ‘Core Members’ on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Commissioning**

Two new Commissioning Officers joined on 5<sup>th</sup> February.



<p>The 24/25 Commissioning plan has been devised; a decision paper was drafted and was approved by the Senior Leadership Team and the Police and Crime Commissioner as per the channel of authorisation. Specifications for bidding opportunities were released, overall, 18 bid responses were received, evaluation panels took place on 24th and 25th January 2024, progressing into a period of clarification w/c 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</p> <p>A decision paper on the outcomes of the evaluation papers has been drafted and is awaiting sign off by the Senior Leadership Team.</p> <p>Grant renewal meetings have been arranged with organisations that are receiving an extension to their funding.</p> <p>Commissioning, Governance and Transparency meeting for quarter 3 is arranged for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</p> <p>Preparation for quarter 4 monitoring meetings has taken place, meetings are being arranged with partners ahead of the MoJ return deadline.</p> <p>A research provider has been successfully commissioned, to deliver an independent needs assessment prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and work is progressing.</p> <p>Funding opportunities relating to OPCC projects, and the Cameras, Tickets and Collisions funds were released, all bids were successfully awarded through the process and have been issued with grant agreements.</p>	
<p><b>Project Manager – Policing and Contact and Safer Streets</b></p> <p><b>Safer Streets</b></p> <p>Mobilisation of interventions and procurement has progressed in Q4.</p> <p><b>Public Access Terminals</b></p> <p>Work has been progressing with Morrisons and we will soon installing terminals in the larger stores in Bedfordshire, further update in March.</p> <p><b>Bedfordshire Victim Care Services (BVCS)</b></p> <p>BVCS will move back to the Force on 1st March 2024, the staff have been consulted with and there are no objections or issues.</p>	
<p><b>Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator</b></p> <p>Referrals:</p> <p>Two referrals since last BRM (both self-referrals), 1 enquiry following BVCS contact.</p>	



6 cases actively working on, 3 on hold.

Prison project:

Training at HMP Bedford has been delivered to a group of staff. Awaiting a meeting with Senior Leadership Team.

Visited HMP The Mount on 20/02/2024 to discuss the service Belong offer there, and processes they use. Also linked with the Business Community Engagement Manager to explore how different areas of restorative practice can refer to one another (Sycamore Tree victim awareness programme / internal restorative approaches delivered by Belong / external restorative justice delivered by Beacon (Catch 22) for Hertfordshire and the OPCC for Bedfordshire. Seeking to deliver an all staff briefing and talk with the Offender Management Unit.

Schools project:

Training dates are progressing, with a few alterations. A lot of dates are coming up in the next few weeks, across March and April.

Links:

Spoke with the Force around the new NPCC minimum standards for RJ, and how RJ fits with out of court disposals and victim and witnesses' portfolios. Meeting with the Force on 27/02/2024 to discuss further.

Presented at the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership forum on 01/02/2024 – largely positive responses and lots of questions.

Contacted manager for Victim Engagement Officers and awaiting contact from RASSO Inspector.

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

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 19 April 2024, the themed focus will be “Partnership Working Within the Criminal Justice System – A Whole Systems Approach”

Minutes from the 19 December Board and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be published following sign off at the April Board. Link to BCJB AGM recording can be found at; <https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/criminal-justice-board/>

#### **Criminal Justice & Victims Partnership Working**



**Luton Knife Crime Summit:** OPCC and the Police have been actioned to look at Comms with parents and any gaps relating to education packages relating to serious violence and knife crime for young people.

**HMP Bedford:** Engagement with colleagues in the prison service is ongoing. In view of recent funding agreed for an HMP Bedford will also attend the Reducing Reoffending Board and Transitions subgroup in future.

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

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

**Bedfordshire Emergency Department Navigator Pilot Update**

The Pilot will target young people aged 10-25 who present at AE who are identified of being at risk of violence, criminal, or sexual exploitation. Signs will include self-harm and mental health. They will be supported to move away from criminal activity including exploitation, gang, and county lines and to positively engage with other local services (statutory and third sector).

The pilot is on target to commence on 1 April 2024.

**Communications Officer**

**Press release schedule update (this week)**

1.4 asbo investment announced by Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner

**Next week:**

- Bedfordshire pupils invited to PCC event in Westminster
- PCC attends 100<sup>th</sup> school
- PCC funds anti-burglary kits
- Public access terminals rolled out into Morrisons stores

**Newsletter**

- PCC backs zombie knife ban as anti-knife crime campaign reaches 5,000 Bedfordshire students!
- PCC advocates Neighbourhood Watch at local group's quarterly meeting.
- Watch back the PCC's accountability meeting with the Chief Constable
- PCC backs efforts to tackle sexual violence during awareness week.
- PCC confirms police precept increase.
- PCC hosts second Annual Business Conference
- PCC backs national Victims' Code campaign.
- PCC supports new officers in week of celebrations.



- OPCC funds CESAR scheme to offer half price tracking equipment to farmers.
- New webpage will support PCC candidates in their preparation for May election.

### **Upcoming events**

Schools Debate final

### **Socials**

- PCC supports new Right Care Right Person rollout in Bedfordshire.
- Chief constable and PCC recorded meeting 29th Jan.
- PCC backs crack down on retail crime.
- It's Not Ok week.
- Reporting a crime.
- Monthly newsletter.
- PCC confirms police precept increase.
- PCC and CC one to one update.
- Annual Business Conference.
- New Victims Code info.
- PCC supported new officers at grad ceremony.
- Farmers get 50% off security systems for farming equipment.
- Deputy PCC at launch of BCH young riders course
- Pre-election – vote on 2 May
- Officers from Serious Collision Investigation Unit running half marathon to raise money for Road Victims Trust.

### **Website**

Work underway and brief being worked on for new website May 2024.