

Birmingham East IAG Notes

Monday 14 October 2019

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees

Aftab Chughtai (chair)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Roger Leek

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Abdullah Rehman

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Police Representative's

Chief Supt Bell

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Apologies

[REDACTED]

No conflicts

Previous notes circulated but none present at meeting. Nothing raised.

[REDACTED] - Presentation on Birmingham Consular Association

Birmingham Consular Association was established in 1882 and is an umbrella body for 24 diplomats from across Birmingham. They are required under the Vienna Convention to perform certain tasks for nationals of the countries that they represent. They work to represent and on behalf of those countries.

[REDACTED] is currently the president of the association. They engage with West Midlands Police and have an annual conference at which the Chief Constable arranges for speakers relating to issues affecting their communities. Other examples of their work include involvement in planning for the commonwealth games and engaging with [REDACTED], Cabinet Member for Communities.



The meeting then raised point for discussion with [REDACTED], the main point of which was the chair's desire to have the IAG representative of the whole community of Birmingham East. He extended an invitation to anyone from another country to request to join the IAG to ensure that their community's views and concerns are represented. He also extended an invitation for a member of the consular association to have a rotating seat on the group.

This discussion also touched on the residence status of communities and whether this mattered for membership of the IAG. Aftab (chair) agreed to find out.

[REDACTED] informed the group that a list of diplomats and members of the consular association could be found online.

Commanders Update – Ch Supt Kenny Bell

[REDACTED] This has come from a combination of [REDACTED]

Burglary has reduced. This time last year BE NPU were dealing with around 160 burglaries a week which has come down to around 50 per week this year. [REDACTED]

There has been a welcome announcement relating to new police officers being funded but they will take time to recruit and train. In the meantime, they have been using some of this budget to recruit short term staff, often ex-police officers, to start to make an impact. The amount of officers being recruited is more than the number of officers retiring or resigning from the force so overall there will be an increase.

The focus on youth violence is being maintained and is monitored daily. Although there are investigators at Stetchford investing their whole time in youth violence offences, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. In order to fill this gap, Mr Bell has committed to ensuring that all suspects for violent offences will be challenged on their behaviour. This doesn't mean arresting or criminalising all of them, but it might mean that they are visited and spoken to by officers.

[REDACTED] Policing is also being heavily influenced by Brexit with officers being sent to the south of England to support forces there.

[REDACTED] echoed the importance of working with schools and their families to look at the whole problem. She also raised the issue that many young people have mental health issues which cannot be discounted from the picture either.

[REDACTED] raised a concern about officers not being sent out to all

Further discussions took place around policing priorities; [REDACTED]; mentoring opportunities through police cadet schemes; the public feeling let down by the police especially with offences like harassment and ASB.

Impact Areas Briefing – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] gave a short presentation about Impact Areas (IA's), how they came about and what information has been considered the identify them.

Birmingham East IA's are:

Bordesley Green

Sparkhill/Sparkbrook

Erdington

[REDACTED] – Bordesley Green IA

The area is made up of 36000 people, 51% of whom are Pakistani and in total, 68% are of Asian background. Most of the population is under 25 years old also. 40% total recorded crime comes from violence with the next being vehicle crime but this is only a small amount. The IA team are going to tackle violence by trying to understand what is driving it. The team consists of 4 PC's and 2 PCSO's.

[REDACTED] – Sparkhill/Sparkbrook IA

A map was circulated round the meeting showing the IA. The priority is dealing with violence relating to under 25 year olds. There are challenges around the transience of the community with a large volume of HMO and short term rented accommodation which means that there are also challenges around community guardianship such as neighbourhood watch and street watch.



They intend to tackle the issues from two approaches – connect and build and intervention and prevention. Connect and build is about going back to basics using WMNow, neighbourhood watch and street watch schemes to engage with the community. [REDACTED] is really proud that his constituency have the highest WMNow signup rate. They are working with Bahu Trust to engage with young people, they have the first Street Watch scheme within a school at Joseph Chamberlain college and are promoting junior PCSO schemes in primary schools, recently Christchurch Primary. He is also in discussion with public health about long term prospects for the area around employment.

The officers on the team are focussing on intervention and prevention, disruption of offenders and problem solving work. Much of the crime is driven from drugs. The team are looking to engage with Somali business community around [REDACTED] both to get them on board but also considering enforcement opportunities where they are breaking the law.

[REDACTED] which was done in partnership with the proactive gangs team.

The team have been flexing their hours to accommodate with around ASB in the area and they have used dispersal order to do so.

[REDACTED] – Yardley

There is no impact area specifically within Yardley constituency although there is still a large amount of under 25 violence being experienced. There is no pattern or hot spotting to this violence it is just all over the area although there may be a link to children's homes and they are working in partnership with those homes to problem solve the issues.

They are also problem solving at Stetchford retail park.

They are looking to set up a youth stop and search scrutiny panel and they are working with Police and Schools panel to do this.

Although there is no IA, there are a large number of children and families who access schools within the IAs which means that there is a link.

To reduce the violent crime picture, the team have been focussing on Yew Tree area running [REDACTED] activity.

There have been fortnightly meetings regarding burglary offenders

Ark Boulton school have launched a new cadet scheme.

Each of the Inspectors asked the IAG members for ideas and advice around what they think could be done about the problems in the IA's.

This prompted discussions summarised as below.

- Inspectors move on too soon and this spoils the relationship with the community
- Vehicle crime could be tackled by having a better relationship with all of the garages in the area, of which there are many
- Insurance fraud also impacts on the vehicle crime issues and there are a large number of claims management companies in the area
- In respect of addressing issues with you people, this should be done in partnership with schools and families and not isolation and this should start at the age of 8-10 years in primary schools
- Could young people be engaged using our technology such as giving them experience with our drones?
- Bahu Trust are running a programme to engage young people with violence issues from a faith based approach and has engaged some influential young people in its delivery
- Perhaps young people would be interested in a visit to firearms department to increase their aspiration
- Engaging with mosques would be a good way into difficult communities
- Using people about to be released from prison as lived experience presenters at young people sessions has been successful for [REDACTED] in her schools – she offered her contacts and links to assist
- There is a successful football club for young people on Wash Lane who might assist with engagement
- The communities don't know their officers so don't feel they can help police
- A suggestion was raised that although there is a high turnover of officers in neighbourhood policing, this consistency can be achieved with proper hand over periods and introductions to KIN. Relationships would also be built better if the first contact with the community were made by a senior officer as this helps the communities and organisations to feel valued by WMP
- The importance of teams working in partnership with other agencies and not in isolation was emphasized during the discussion

Actions:

[REDACTED] to send out a reminder regarding the launch of the Sultan Bahu Trust project – faith inspired video campaign on domestic abuse and knife crime – scheduled to be sent on 11 November



AOB:

None raised.

Next meeting:

