

## Avon and Somerset Police B&NES Independent Advisory Group

### Meeting Notes

FoBRA representatives in attendance: Sabrina Earnshaw, Malcolm Baldwin.

Also in attendance: Three policing representatives and six other IAG members.

- Chief Inspector Scott Hill provided an overview of the activities of the neighbourhood policing team and in particular the increased seasonal demand placed on them by Summer events and activities across the Avon and Somerset policing catchment area.

The re-configuration of deployable police resources by the end of September following the designated Summer period, called Operation Reset, is targeted to bring the B&NES area policing resource back to its normal operational level.

MB questioned what was the normal total level of deployable police resource in the overall B&NES area and in the absence of knowledge by police representatives present, Chief Inspector Hill committed to provide details of that number to the IAG forum.

- Chief Inspector Hill presented the quarterly update of significant policing activity within the B&NES area. This included the force's 'hot spot' policing activities which had identified 37 locations/areas of particular interest<sup>1</sup> across B&NES, three of which relate to specific Bath locations and two to Keynsham.

Details relating to a particular predatory male's behaviour, which had occurred in Bath, were highlighted within the update and a commitment was made to further highlight, via appropriate social media postings, information in order to alert the public to how they should best respond and to whom if they are witnesses to any such activities/offences.

It was also reported that there had been no identified serious assault attacks, such as knife attacks, since the knife attack in Victoria Park in June. [ Note: This statement being made prior to the reported knife incident in Odd Down later w/c 2nd September ].

It was highlighted that much work continues in respect of criminal activities designated as serious crimes, such as county-line drug activities and other drug orientated activity. The active, often coerced, involvement of children in these activities was highlighted and C.I. Scott committed to provide to the forum a detailed breakdown of the prevailing child-arrest profile.

A presentation of statistics relating, in particular, to stop and search activity by the force was discussed by the attending forum. MB requested whether there was any information regarding the dissection of stop and search activity between the general population and minority groups as national statistics available appear to suggest some concerning disparities. There was no familiarity with such requested ratios that could be provided at the meeting.

C.I. Scott also highlighted that currently there were circa 840 designated hate crimes under investigation relating to individuals/activities within the B&NES area. These would include both online and non-online potential criminal activity.

- IAG members were invited to participate in a firearms exercise at Portishead on the 7th and 30th September.

- The issue of the use of unregistered and illegal electric scooters was highlighted at the meeting.

Whilst the police representative recognised the issue, it was intimated that police action was most likely to be at the level of cautioning any individual involved, particularly if they were children, as opposed to a charging of the individual. MB highlighted that this was presumably not the case if serious injury or worse was the result of such illegal activity ..... which was conceded.

- Improved access to appropriate social media on-line groups was discussed with the aim of improved coverage and access for the forum members and potentially the general public to better utilise.

- It was agreed to share/reshare both the "STREETS SAFE" and "WALK AND TALK " advisory posters through the forum members' respective networks (see below attached).

- In respect of widening the profile of representation on the IAG it was emphasised that further efforts in this respect would be encouraged and welcomed, although it was also acknowledged and welcomed that two new group members had joined the forum for the current meeting which extended the previously prevailing attendee profile in a positive manner.

Malcolm Baldwin.