

Walsall strategic community reference group

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2014 at Walsall police station

In attendance:

Nirmal Singh (NS)	Sikh Community
Sandeep Singh Sohal (SS)	Walsall Sikh forum
Inspector David Whordley (DW)	Force stop and search
Desmond Jones (DJ)	Brownhills
Imran Sacha (IS)	Darlaston Youth Club
Mahmood M Sacha (MMS)	Muslim Welfare society/UMO
Marcin Klein (MK)	EWA CIC
Elizabeth Kardynal (EK)	WEA CIC
Bill Ellens (BE)	CUSP
Harnik Rama (HR)	University of Wolverhampton
Cllr. Rose Burley (RB)	Councillor Bentley/Darlaston North
R.K Mehmi (RKM)	STRG Darlaston
Vasant K Mistry (VM)	Hindu Forum
Sue Parker (SP)	Walsall Police
Jody Martin (JM)	Walsall Police

Apologies:

Pauline Beckett
Alison Davies
Thomas Hardgrove
Michael Gladstone
Peter Griffin
Kevin Pitt
West Midlands Police Force Contact

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting were read and accepted. RKM pointed out that his Initials are RKM and not RM. This error has been corrected.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Front office review

SP explained the review of front offices as force contact weren't able to attend. The force are surveying 41 front offices and expect results mid-June. It will then be up to PCC to make a decision on results found.

BE made a point that police will then become invisible and only see rushing to or from jobs and also more vehicles will be used so how are we as a force reducing our carbon footprint.
SP-Electric cars are being used more often and staff will be 'hot desking', however more officers will be out on the beat so neighbourhood policing should not be affected by these changes.

MMS raised concerns about closure of small bases as well as front offices- where will a point of contact be?

NS gave a positive example of doctors surgery services re calling the doctor for an issue instead of visiting the surgery, saving time and money for all involved.

Electronic recording of stop and search- Inspector Dave Whorley

A short video was played regarding the new way to record stop and search

DW- explained the old stop and search records and mistakes that had been made by officers previously due to lack of training and confusion of the old forms.

-New stop and search has been trialled in Sandwell and has been deemed a success and should go live in Walsall possible the latter part of the summer.

- There will be a scrutiny panel for each borough which the PCC fully supports.

-New recording system can tell exact figure of how many stop and searches have been conducted.

RKM asked how confident are police to conduct new stop and search after previous confusion and mistakes

DW- officers should be very confident as new training has been provided to all.

EK asked how cost effective is the new system of stop and search?

DW- No additional costs have taken place and system is very easy and cheap to use and introduce. It is also more cost effective as old stop and search forms were all carbon print forms whereas this is free.

Electronic recording of stop and search

SP advised that LPUs are trialling body cameras however Walsall is not using them as yet.

DW explained that the home secretary was asking for 4 criteria's to be met regarding stop and search which were, 1. Training 2. Scrutiny panels 3. System for recording 4. Quality of grounds. The force is in a good place regarding all these criteria's and is continuing to improve.

DW- once the go ahead is confirmed then leaflets and literature will be provided to hand out

Stop and search update and scrutiny

SP- fewer stop and search to date compared to last year:

-April 2013= 234 -April 2014= 143

Fewer stop and search but better quality and legality

DW- There is a consideration for ethnicity codes to be changed due to more people living in the country, however this would have to be a home office decision and not local. (Eg. Eastern European are classed as white other)

EK- can training be set up for teachers in schools regarding searching students

ACTION for Gary Iliff

Update: Emails have been sent out to all secondary schools in the borough to arrange a training day regarding stop and searching students and the powers to do so. We are still in the process of receiving responses.

Performance update

SP- comparing figures of reported hate crime from last year to date, Walsall have had 7 more

Hate crimes reported in April 2014 compared to April 2013 - however the performance rate for solve and resolve has been the highest for the 4th consecutive year in Walsall compared to the rest of the force.

Walsall continues to achieve response times and officers have been increased from 20 constables to 23 constables per shift to achieve this.

Estates

SP- due to remodelling Walsall LPU has had a loss of 100 officers

- Investment has been made into the investigation teams and our commitment is to give 100% best service

To tackle the challenges on moving forward, officers have been moved around the LPU to meet the more demanding areas.

Staff changes

26th May 2014- Superintendent Jo Clews will be leaving the LPU

June 2014- Superintendent Lee Kendrick will be joining Walsall LPU

A.O.B

SS enquired what was in place for the elections

Update: Within Walsall 139 polling stations have been identified with 113 sites.

- They have been graded as either:
 1. Red- this requires a static police presence
 2. Amber- this requires hourly visits
 3. Green this requires 1 visit in the morning and 2 in evening

Only 4 have been identified as red and therefore will have a permanent police presence

All the rest have been identified as green and therefore will have a few visits throughout the day.

MMS had concerns re the Caldmore village festival and previous parking issues.

ACTION for Kevin Pitt regarding ID badges

MMS gave dates for Ramadan being 28th/29th June for 30 days.

SP reassured that local policing will be looked at and consideration for the fasting community and staff members will be looked after

EK mentioned grooming concerns in the borough

SP deferred this for a future meeting where more time can be spent on this issue

BE- can an intelligence officer attend a future meeting to give an input into their role (e.g. Airport ECT)

SS- can officers who deal with grooming also attend a future meeting

ACTION: Kevin Pitt to try and arrange for these speakers to attend future meetings.

SS- The annual WASA (Walsall Asian Sports Association) is taking place at Aston University 24-25th May 2014- Police and community welcome.

Close and date of next meeting

Thursday 7th August 2014, 6pm at Walsall police station