

Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

The IAG is a collection of volunteers who feel able to represent all sections of society irrespective of their own background but are not linked to the judiciary, civic duties, employed or substantially connected to the police. They are therefore independent from the LPA (local policing area) and Thames Valley Police but work in partnership with us as our 'critical friends' to advice on local and national policing issues that may cause concern to local people and communities.

IAGs have a vital role in helping us build trust, confidence and better relationships, especially with our diverse communities. This underpins our legitimacy.

An IAG is a genuine partnership between the Police and the Community where advice can be sought on policy, procedure and practices and in doing so protects both the reputation of the police service and safeguards against adverse impact on any section of the community (College of Policing). IAG members are expected to 'represent' the interests of their own communities and the wider communities, and be willing and capable of engaging them effectively.

We are keen to establish IAG groups with volunteer members drawn from our communities from various backgrounds. We would welcome applications from a cross-section of our local communities who may have an interest in policing and its effect on our communities.

We would like to hear from people from a variety of different personal and varied backgrounds including but not exclusive to, gender, disability, age, race, religion, faith/no-faith and sexual orientation.

IAG may meet at least 4 times a year but in addition to scheduled meetings, individual members may also be invited to offer their views on matters that specifically relate to their particular skills or expertise to scrutinise service delivery (for example how well we are engaging with the public, or how a policy will impact on the local communities) and secondly to work alongside senior management team in the event of a 'critical incident'.

A critical incident may be a serious crime, a policing operation, an event, or anything that may have an impact on public confidence or community relations.

Having an IAG helps to ensure that Officers and Staff act fairly, without discrimination and consider how our actions will impact on communities.

Main Duties

- To attend quarterly IAG meetings
- To provide advice and guidance to the LPA in the event of a critical incident
- To develop and maintain appropriate links with relevant communities
- To bring your personal knowledge and experience to the group and actively contribute where you are able to
- To act as a critical friend to the local policing area (LPA) in cases of critical incidents, which may have potential to affect local communities and public confidence
- To increase trust and confidence in policing amongst the communities
- To encourage good relations between the Police and the diverse communities

Person Specification

You must be able to:

- Consider the views of others
- Question and challenge in a constructive way
- Consider your own values and beliefs
- Work as part of a team and contribute to the success of group's initiatives
- Work with people from diverse backgrounds
- Work with people that may hold very different views or beliefs to you
- Validate residency
- Contribute the time, energy and commitment to attend regular meetings

It would be desirable if you have some experience of:

- Working with other people on issues of mutual interest (eg voluntary work)
- Sharing your views and understanding of issues with others (eg in a family, community or work setting)
- Situations where you need to compromise
- Balancing time and commitments in an effective manner
- Working and taking decisions as part of a group