

# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON POLICING ISSUES

## Do you want to:

- Live in a safer community?
- Help to police your neighbourhood better?
- Advise on police operations and strategy?
- Share your experience and expertise to help build trust with diverse communities?
- Work with people from a wide range of backgrounds, lifestyles, cultures, ages and interests?

**If you can answer yes to any or all of these questions, then West Mercia's Independent Advisory Groups need you.**

## Help the police to better support your community

Join our independent advisers, drawn from a broad cross-section of society of all ages, interests and ethnic backgrounds. Members of Independent Advisory Groups act as 'critical friends' to the police, influencing, advising and shaping how the police support and protect your community.

At present, there are three main themed groups offering additional specialist advice and guidance for policing in relation to these aspects of diversity:

1. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic IAG

2. Disability IAG

3. Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender + IAG

There are also IAGs covering each of West Mercia's Local Policing Areas:

- **Shropshire IAG** - covering the county of Shropshire, not including Telford and Wrekin.
- **Telford and Wrekin IAG** - covering the areas under Telford and Wrekin Council.
- **Herefordshire IAG** - covering the whole of Herefordshire.
- **South Worcestershire IAG** - covering the areas under Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils.
- **North Worcestershire IAG** - covering the areas under Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch District Councils.

## You say, we listen

The IAGs and their members are here to:

- Provide advice to the police about a wide range of issues, telling them what effect policing is having on different people in the community. This is particularly important regarding hate crime and when there's a major incident which may be of particular concern for certain groups in our communities.
- Look at policing policies and practices, pointing out any issues or unforeseen impacts of these, giving their views on whether these are working well and making suggestions for change or improvement, particularly in relation to fairness and inclusion.
- Examine reports about police powers (such as use of force) to make sure that they are using these in a fair, transparent and proportionate way. This helps to improve practice and to build mutual understanding, confidence and good relationships with all our diverse communities.

**IAGs have been vital in providing advice and guidance to the police in many areas, including:**



**Critical and major incidents**



**Use of firearms and Tasers**



**Stop and search**



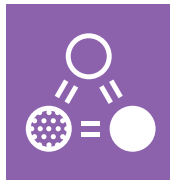
**Hate crime**



**Community relations and engagement**



**Disability access**



**Equality and diversity issues**



**Community activities**

## Join us

The Independent Advisory Groups are now recruiting people like you to help shape and impact local policing. You are welcome to join as many of the themed groups as you feel is appropriate, and/or the local IAG group where you work, live or support somebody. And of course, bring your understanding of diversity issues to all topics discussed at any IAG.

If you would like to join, all we ask is that you have an interest in policing, can volunteer for a few hours every couple of months and would like to share your opinions on policing and community matters. You also need to be open to the views of others and be committed to fairness and respect for difference.

## Want to know more?

To join us or find out more, contact:

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