



## What are Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs)?

Independent Advisory Groups - known as IAGs - are made up of members of the public who meet quarterly to advise and offer ideas to the police on a wide range of activities relating to local policing.

The main role of an IAG is to act as a 'critical friend' to the police. Unlike other more formal groups that advise the police (such as scrutiny panels) IAGs do not offer expert or specialist advice, but exist simply to understand the viewpoints of its members.

IAGs are not, therefore, made up of councillors, magistrates, politicians or other interested parties, but by ordinary members of the public.

## What do IAGs talk about?



IAG members constructively advise and challenge BaNES Police on policies, procedures and practices and advise the Force on how to do better.

Specific tasks might involve a critical assessment of an operation, policy or incident. The aim is always to identify ways to make policing better for all.

IAGs were created to challenge conventional thinking, to give an

independent perspective on issues and to work as genuine partners with the Police to improve policing.

As a member of an IAG, your input will help us to be more effective, to engage better with our public, and respond better to the needs of the community.

## What do I need to know?

You don't need any expertise or special interests to join the IAG; you just need to be prepared to share your views and opinions in a polite and thoughtful manner.

IAG members will often visit local police facilities and receive presentations from police staff on particular areas of interest. We regularly review and discuss crime figures and recent incidents.

We can also arrange 'ride along' sessions for individuals to experience real policing, for example with the response teams or call handlers.



## Join us!

If you have a keen interest in policing we want to hear from you. We're open to constructive criticism and ideas on how we can do things better.