



Minutes

Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

Friday 22nd November, 2019

Panel Members Present: Chris Cowdrey (CC), Marianne Murphy (MM), Caroline Malcolm (CM), Jeffrey Burke (JB), Mohammed Islam-Ruman (MR)

Hertfordshire OPCC/Constabulary

- Chris Treadwell (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Crime Reduction and Community Safety) (CT)
- Alicia Shaw (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Stevenage) (AS)
- Sally Phillips (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector North Herts) (SP)
- Matthew Pugh (OPCC, Policy and Project Officer) (MP)

Apologies: Danielle Turner (DT), Sharon Farquhar (SF), Barbara Graham (BG), Michael Reeve (MR), Benjamin Platt (BP), Marian Langley (ML), Roger Bosley (RB)

The meeting was chaired by CC

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

Introductions were made for Chief Inspector Alicia Shaw and Chief Inspector Sally Phillips.

2) Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the meeting on the 22nd October 2019 were agreed.

Update on actions;

Action one: CT updated the Panel that as had been previously thought, Athena cannot communicate with TuServe and therefore, the Positive disposal rate shown in the summary data does not include outcomes recorded after the incident.

Action two: MP provided a verbal update on the use of Section 60 over the last eighteen months.

- There has been 87 searches conducted under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in the past 18 months. This constitutes 0.68% of all searches during that time.
- Out of the 87 searches four resulted in positive outcomes, with positive disposal rate of 4.59%.
- The impact on the overall positive outcome rate is only 0.19%

Action three: MP circulated a new useful pointers sheet for positive outcomes and changes to GOWISELY guidance.

Action four: MP updated the Panel that feedback forms from the meeting in October were highlighted to show when searches were done by 'student officers'. No clear trends were identified.

3) Discussion of findings from the strategy meeting – 21st November 2019

CC provided an overview of the strategy meeting which taken place on the previous day.



Minutes Novemb

Action 1: OPCC to speak with counter-parts in Bedfordshire to understand the structure of their scrutiny Panel and the format of their meetings to determine if any learning can be captured.

4) Overview of Stevenage and North Herts CSPs

Stevenage – CI Alicia Shaw

CI Shaw has worked in Stevenage throughout her career but has held the Chief Inspector for the last two years. She is also Chair of the Black Police Association and recently attended an event for Black History month in which she discussed the role of the Panel in a public forum.

Stevenage is one of the smallest CSPs in the county. It has a population of approximately 89,000 people, with good rail and road links through the area. This does impact upon the nature of crime with many offenders travelling into the area. All officers in Stevenage are based out of the same station, including one of the counties two custody suites.

As part of the Operational Performance Review meeting held each month, CI Shaw asked for stop and search data to be re-added to the data pack so each local commander could be made aware of the stop and search figures in their CSP and be held to account accordingly.

A stop and search SPOC has also been appointed who can provide support to officers who may wish to seek guidance on the use of stop and search.

Section 60: 00:01 08/11/2019 to 07:00 08/11/2019 and 19:30 08/11/2019 to 09:00/11/2019

A section 60 was authorised between these time frames, following a violent assault resulting in serious and possibly life changing injuries. The Panel will review this authorisation at the meeting in December.

North Herts – CI Sally Phillips

CI Phillips began her role in January 2019. North Herts is predominantly a rural area, with three police stations, Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock. The districts borders South Bedfordshire and Luton.

The proportion of searches was relatively low prior to sally coming into role, however the introduction of a Scorpion team and the increase in officer numbers, enabling more proactive work to be taken, has resulted in a higher number of searches in 2019 in contrast to previous years.

In July of this year a double shooting took place. The investigation has highlighted the activities of a criminal group operating within North Herts with strong links to Luton and as such, has resulted in messages going out to officers to encourage the use of effective and legitimate stop and search.

It is felt that the image of North Herts as a rural area has resulted in criminal groups seeing the district as an 'easy' target.

5) Review of October CSP Summary Data

CC highlighted a big jump in the use of stop and search in North Herts (157) from the previous month (around 80 searches) and an even bigger jump than the month before that (44 searches). CI Phillips updated this could be attributed to the impact of the double shooting and the subsequent messages going out from senior officers to encourage the use of stop and search.

6) Review of body-worn footage

North Herts - SS/1778546691/4

BOF alerted officers that a vehicle was stopped outside the address of known drug dealers and was flagged with intelligence marker as involved with drugs. The video shown involves two females found in the back seat of the vehicle. Females are searched under S.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 for possession of drugs.

The Panel are shown the video from 02:55 to 06:00

The officer completes the YGOWISEL procedure prior to searching the two females. The Panel felt confident in the search conducted.

Stevenage - SS/0522758412/7

Officers receive a report that the subject has thrown a pool ball at an individual in the pub and subsequently taken cocaine in front of them. Officers arrive at the scene and are directed to the subject who is standing in the road outside the pub.

The Panel are shown the video from 03:30 to 06:00.

The officer completes the YGOWISEL procedure prior to searching the individual. The Panel felt confident in the search conducted.

7) Dip-sampling of Stop and Search Records and 8) Feedback

Group one reviewed eight records: The group felt confident in four records reviewed. They did not feel confident in four records which were all linked to the same incident. In these grounds, officers detailing the searches from the same incident appeared to give conflicting accounts as to the reason for the vehicle search. Additionally, no information is given as to what intelligence is provided or how the individuals match the description.

Group two reviewed fourteen records: The group felt confident in all records reviewed and highlighted four as examples of best practice.

Summary:

Total records reviewed	22
Confident	18
Not confident	4
Unsure	0

9) AOB:

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 17th December (1000-1230) Hertsmere Borough Council, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, WD6 1WA