



Minutes

Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

Thursday 17th December, 2020

Panel Members Present: Jeffrey Burke (JB), Caroline Malcolm (CM), Ben Platt (BP), Mohammed Islam-Ruman (MI-R), Marianne Murphy (MM), Robert Lloyd (RL), Bukola Efunshile (BE), Kristina Dimitrova (KD), Demitrius Nurse (DN), Barbara Graham (BG), Afam Onyenakala (AO), Chelsie Osborne (CO), Marian Brusselen (MB), Tahlia-Rose Carter (TC)

Hertfordshire OPCC/Constabulary

- CI Christopher Treadwell (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Crime Reduction and Community Safety) (CT)
- Sara Miles (OPCC CJ Policy and Research Manager) (SM)
- CI Ian Grout (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Watford (IG)
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Apologies: Marian Langley, Roger Bosley, Alexander Allen

The meeting was chaired by JB

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcome to Chief Inspector Chris Treadwell. It was noted that Chief Inspector Grout would be joining later in the meeting.

Welcome to new members – Afam Onyenakala, Chelsie Osborne, Marian Brusselen, Tahlia-Rose Carter.

Apologies noted from Marian Langley, Alexander Allen & Roger Bosley

2) Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the meeting on the 30th November were agreed.

Update on actions

Action 4: Deep dive into data to be held by the Constabulary with those panel members interested.

Action 6: Constabulary to provide response for why positive disposal rate has decreased

A data session has been arranged for Thursday 14th January 2021 with Chris Pratt, Head of Thinking and Analysis. This date has been sent to the panel and many have replied to say they will join. The session will also be recorded and can be circulated afterwards for anyone who is unable to join.

Action 7: CI Mason noted he would review the data for Oct and feedback to the panel.

Feedback from CI Mason:

October was a little higher than other months but not a big anomaly with the last four months showing:

July 33% BAME stops

Aug 41% BAME stops

Sept 38% BAME stops

Oct 43% BAME stops

CI has shared an ethnic breakdown for the Hertfordshire University students as below:

44% white

1.6% unknown

54% BAME – (of which 40% black or Asian)

3) Meetings in 2021

Discussion about how to approach scheduling of meetings for 2021 and need to start inviting Chief Inspectors in order to hold time in their diaries.

Agreed that we should schedule attendees for the next six months so it gives more flexibility than arranging all meetings for 2021 now.

Discussed making invites to meetings a two way process with Chief Inspectors so they can request the scrutiny of the panel. For example if there has been some new ways of working or processes implemented then they might ask to come back to the panel later in the year to review these.

Discussed looking at conducting the occasional deep dives in to a particular issue such as drugs and having a theme for meetings such as focus on bladed articles.

Agreed to schedule some meetings and also keep some blank so panel can respond flexibly when needed.

CT noted that there will be surge weeks around knife crime where there would be an increase in certain searches and it may be a good focus area after those events.

Action: SM to draft a schedule for the first 6 months of 2021 and link in with the Constabulary about certain months where there will be a focus of activity / operations. SM to send draft to panel to feedback on.

4) Review of summary data – November

Summary of comments on the November data set:

- November had 25% positive disposal vs an average for past 6 months of 23%. The trend is slightly upwards.
- Broxbourne had a lower than expected positive disposal rate at 18% (six month average = 25%)
- Hertsmere and Three Rivers saw improvements with 38% (six month average 29%) and 39% (six month average 27%) retrospectively.
- St Albans and Welwyn/Hatfield had good stop to positive disposal ratio
- Watford saw high percentage of BAME stops at 50% (six month average 53%). Welwyn Hatfield also high at 44% (six month average 33%)
- Hertsmere had high percentage BAME stops at 43% however positive disposal rate was also higher at 38%. This compares with a November average of 25% positive disposal/30% BAME stops for Hertfordshire.
- 0% arrest rate for bladed articles with only 2% positive disposals.

5) Dip-sampling of Stop and Search Records and 5) Feedback

An overview of Watford was given in relation to Stop & Search:

- Lots of people travel in to Watford whether for the night time economy, shopping or college so quite a transient population.
- Accept figures are down and there are mitigating reasons for that.
- Work in progress to improve the Stop & Search forms
- Grounds are often there but appreciate they haven't been written properly.
- It can often be the case that the intelligence is there to arrest first and therefore these cases and figures will not show up in the data the panel sees.

Group one reviewed 11 records

Confident in 8, not confident in 3 records

General theme that they were not as well written as they could be and that it just didn't provide enough narrative.

Couple of stop & searches on very young individuals.

Group two reviewed 10 records

Confident in 6, not confident in 2 and unsure of 2.

Found some poor reporting. Needed more narrative about what intelligence there was. Needed to know what the description was and how it matched the individuals.

Group three reviewed 14 records

Confident in 9, not confident in 3 and unsure of 2.

Some of the records where they were not confident was due to the narrative suggesting they had stopped and searched someone by association.

A discussion took place about why one record noted an unsociable hour 7pm in the evening. Feedback from CI Grout included that there would be no reason for a group to be in that vicinity (college) at that time as everything was closed.

Summary:

Overall feedback was that there was information missing and the records needed to be clearer and more explicit. Without the necessary information with regards to intelligence, grounds and what led to the stop & search the panel found they were not confident or unsure on a number of records.

Total records reviewed	35
Confident	23
Not confident	8
Not sure	4

7) AOB:

None

Date of next meeting: Thursday 28 th January 2021 10-12.30pm
