



## Minutes

### Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020

**Panel Members Present:** Jeffrey Burke (JB), Caroline Malcolm (CM), Roger Bosley (RB), Nelson Agbor (NA), Mohammed Islam-Ruman (MI-R), Marian Langley (ML), Marianne Murphy (MM),

#### Hertfordshire OPCC/Constabulary

- Nicola Dean (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Inspector Crime Reduction and Community Safety) (ND)
- Amie Birkhamshaw (OPCC, Director of Strategy) (AB)
- Sara Miles (OPCC, CJ Policy and Research Manager) (SM)

**Apologies:** Sharon Farquhar (SF), Barbara Graham (BG), Ben Platt (BP), Mutee-ur-rehman Saifullah (MS)

The meeting was chaired by JB

#### 1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

It was noted that the panel are meeting during covid and as such are meeting virtually for the first time.

#### 2) Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February were agreed.

#### Update on actions:

Action two: MP had previously identified a few opportunities for community engagement. These included the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board Community Liaison Group, Serious violence workshop with the children & young people's team which Chris Treadwell was taking forward with CI O'Keeffe, linking up with the University of Hertfordshire, presenting to the Chaplaincy and engaging with Herts Black and Asian Police Association around black history month in October. Due to the current situation with regards to the pandemic it is unclear which of these opportunities will be possible during the remainder of this calendar year. However contact has been made with all of the

above and relationships built so when we are in a position to carry out these engagement opportunities they can be circulated to the panel members and representation arranged.

Action three: MP had previously spoken with Christian Birch who can put together a 6 month data pack. SM will follow this up to understand when this should be received.

Action four: SM will follow up with CI Treadwell regarding setting up a date for this training. In advance a terms of reference for the session will be drafted and circulated to ensure we are clear on what we are we trying to achieve, what data sets we want for the working group.

It was discussed that due to it being 4 months since we have met and that progress in some areas has been limited due to covid, that the action tracker would be updated to include a progress column to show that any possible progress is being made.

### **3) Stop & Search Annual report**

The Stop & Search annual report has been circulated to the group and thanks were noted for the feedback that has been received. JB noted that a key finding in the report was decrease in positive disposals compared to the last few years.

It was discussed that the report will be shared with the Police & Crime panel at their next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. JB will attend to present to the panel.

**Action:** SM to circulate the latest version of the report.

### **4) Review of May CSP Summary Data**

The reduction in positive disposal rate was highlighted and feedback noted from BP who was unable to join the meeting.

ML noted that the positive disposal rate a year ago for drugs was 40.5%. and now it is at 24.5%.  
Acquisitive crime down from around 30% to 21.6%

**Action:** ND to provide response for why positive disposal rate has decreased.

It was also noted that there had been lots of stop & searches in May – with over 1000. There were questions regarding how this figure was so high during lockdown.

ND noted that prior to the meeting they have canvassed all the Chief Inspectors across the CSPs. The feedback has been that since lockdown started in March they have gradually seen a slow increase in

people coming out their homes. With the streets being quieter than normal, people have stood out like sore thumbs. The Police have also increased their proactivity levels as normal call volumes have gone down.

Police have been engaging lots more with members of public in response to covid and public health guidance. This means they have approached and engaged with many more people proactively than they normally would.

It was noted that the majority were drugs searches which accounted for 719 of the total number of stop & searches for the month. ND noted that the force has seen an increase in neighbours calling to say they can see drug activity. When the police attend these calls those people who have been reported stick out and are easily identified where the streets are quiet.

#### **5) Dip-sampling of Stop and Search Records and 6) Feedback**

In order to be able to review data remotely and sent by email there is less data to look at than normal. It was noted that it is helpful to know where and the time that the incident took place.

**Action:** SM to identify if place and time can be left in the data shared.

ND noted that this is good feedback for Officers because grounds for search and narrative should contain all that information regarding place and time of stop. This is helpful development feedback to take back.

It was noted by members that the point earlier made by ND about people standing out due to it being covid and lockdown, was clear when records were being reviewed.

#### Group one reviewed 16 records

16 dip sampled.

Mainly drugs reviewed.

Confident in all but would like more narrative and information on 4 of them.

#### Group two reviewed 8 records

8 dip sampled records.

Confident in 7 and no confidence in 1. Would have liked more information and context on a couple.

There was 1 record that was inconsistent with the narrative stating that male and vehicle searched but the sheet stated only vehicle search.

*Summary:*

Total records reviewed	24
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Confident	23
Not confident	1
Unsure	0

**7) AOB:**

1. We are currently in a position where JB is stepping into the role as Chair since Chris Cowdrey resigned from the panel.

A discussion took place regarding electing a new Chair and it was proposed to postpone this until back to normal operation. JB confirmed that he would be happy stay on as Chair until this time.

2. CM noted that she is currently being bombarded with questions regarding Black Lives Matters stop & search disproportionality. AB shared that there is correspondence from Commissioners Officer and Constabulary with some press releases from the CC about what is being adopted in Herts. These will be forwarded on to CM.

The Commissioners office and Constabulary are looking at number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued during covid and we will be able to pass on these findings once completed. It was noted that there are some challenges regarding FPNs and covid as that during covid we won't have had 95% of the resident population available to get FPNs as they are in their own homes on lockdown. We don't know who the available population is and then from them who was issued FPNs. There will also be people issued with FPNs who have travelled out of area.

It was suggested that there should be a deeper dive in to the ethnic data. This will be added to the terms of reference that SM will draft for the data training session.

3. The panel noted that the virtual meeting had been successful. The next meeting is on 28<sup>th</sup> July and will be a virtual meeting. It was noted that this meeting is in the diary as an evening meeting and there was a discussion whether, as it is a virtual meeting, it could be held in the daytime. SM will contact members of the panel to identify a time which is suitable for the majority on the 28<sup>th</sup> July.

**Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 28th July via Microsoft Teams. Time to be confirmed