



Minutes

Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

Thursday 27th August, 2020

Panel Members Present: Jeffrey Burke (JB), Roger Bosley (RB), Caroline Malcolm (CM), Ben Platt (BP), Mohammed Islam-Ruman (MI-R), Marian Langley (ML), Marianne Murphy (MM), Barbara Graham (BG), Sharon Farquhar (SF),

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: CI Chris Treadwell

The meeting was chaired by JB

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

The document that had been sent to the panel that morning was discussed. This was from HMIC and noted the items they look at when reviewing stop & search records. The Chair asked for this document to be a substantive agenda items and the next meeting for discussion and to identify if panel should adapt their approach.

Action: Add to agenda for the beginning of the September meeting.

2) Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the meeting on the 28th July were agreed.

Update on actions:

Action 2: SM to identify 3-4 meetings for the Panel to present at in 2020, as part of the Panel's efforts to engage with the public.

Mohammed will be presenting to the Community Liaison Group (part of the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board) this evening. RB asked if Mohammed could feedback a summary of how it went at the next meeting.

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

Specification has been amended after feedback from panel members.

This action has merged with some aspects of the action below with Constabulary Head of learning & insight agreeing to share their analysis and hold a separate meeting to focus on the data. Can bring together the disproportionality and positive disposal rates. This will be scheduled for October/November time.

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

This action has been escalated and is now being picked up by coercive powers board.

There was a further discussion around this action and this is summarised below:

- Coercive powers board meet quarterly with 3 panel members sitting on that board.
- It was appreciated that the panel would like to understand this issue sooner than the next coercive powers board meeting would allow, however this is a big piece of work and it will take time in order to do it properly.
- Data is one aspect of Stop & Search – it is also about being disruptive.
- The panel asked for a specification or outline of the work that is being planned. AB noted that she would see what was available to share.
- Constabulary have a plan to do this work and they recognise the importance of it. Operational demands can alter timetable for this kind of work.

Action 8: Terms of reference to be amended to note that meetings will take place virtually in exceptional circumstances.

SM has drafted an update and will circulate with the minutes of this meeting.

3) Update from Constabulary

ND updated on a piece of work currently being undertaken to gather feedback from those individual who have been stopped and searched in Hertfordshire. Currently feedback would only be received if an individual complains. ND noted that a business card with a QR code is being developed to handout at stop & searches. Which will provide an opportunity to give feedback. This will be trialled first in the Watford area.

MG asked if the panel could see a sample of the card and NG agreed to circulate.

Action: ND to circulate sample of the business card

4) Review of July Summary Data

The panel had a couple of things to note:

- Rise in Stop & Search for Asian ethnicity over the past few months – particularly in St Albans.
- North Herts, St Albans & Stevenage have high number of stop & searches & panel asked for feedback on why that may be.
- Female stop & searches have increased.
- St Albans stands out as having a high number of positive disposals compared to other areas.

Following updates provided by Chief Inspectors since the meeting:

North Herts: Increasing threat from Beds/drugs supply and increase in anti-social behaviour from those not in employment, training, education. Been an increase in proactive patrols both locally and through joint protective services. This month has seen 2 stabbings across 2 weekends so there has been enhanced intel focus/briefings.

Stevenage: Figures fluctuate monthly, and currently there is nothing significant operationally that might affect stop and search figures.

Breakdown of stop & searches over the past 4 week period shows that Intervention teams for did between 10 and 18 searches. Considering how many officers on average are on each team, this amounts to between one and two searches per officer per month. With approximately 90 front line officers in Stevenage only 12 do more than 2 searches per month.

SM asked that wherever possible questions on the data pack are sent in advance of the meeting. This will allow them to be passed on to Constabulary colleagues and should enable an answer to be ready for the meeting.

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

Group one reviewed 11 records

11 dip sampled (relating to 7 incidents)

Confident in 7 and not confident in 4.

3 records needed more narrative.

Group two reviewed 15 records

15 dip sampled cases

Confident in 10 and not confident in 5 records.

4 records needed more narrative.

Group three reviewed 21 records

Confident in 18 and not confident in 3. Not confident due to lack of information.

Had 5 cases related to one incident – some narrative was cut and pasted, however individuals were picked out as to why specifically they were stopped. This was positive

Some records said there were grounds or intelligence to do the stop & search but didn't state what those grounds or what that intelligence was.

Summary:

Total records reviewed	47
Confident	35
Not confident	12

7) AOB:

Discussed challenges viewing body worn video footage and that it won't be possible at the next meeting but working to find a solution.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 29th September 10 – 12.30pm