



Minutes

Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

Tuesday 28th July, 2020

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

Hertfordshire OPCC/Constabulary

- Nicola Dean (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Inspector Crime Reduction and Community Safety) (ND)
- T/Chief Inspector Simon Mason (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Welwyn/Hatfield CSP)
- T/Chief Inspector Mark Bilsdon (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertsmere CSP)
- Sara Miles (OPCC, CJ Policy and Research Manager) (SM)

Apologies: Sharon Farquhar (SF), Roger Bosley (RB), Kristina Dimitrova (KD)

The meeting was chaired by JB

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were noted. It was also shared that Michael Reeve had taken the decision to step down from the panel due to other time commitments. The Chair noted his commitment to the panel over a number of years.

2) Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the meeting on the 23rd June were agreed.

Update on actions:

Action 1: Constabulary will randomly dip-sample 100 previous stop and searches and track their progress to determine a 'reasonable estimate' of the impact the introduction of TuServe may have had on the positive outcomes in recent months TuServe doesn't show outcomes updated after an incident has occurred & therefore this isn't included in the data the panel is provided.

A 6 month data pack (action 3) has been provided by the Constabulary and compared to the monthly data. This will be circulated after the meeting and identifies any changes to positive disposals after an incident.

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.

It was noted that many events remain on hold and SM will be keeping a watch on these. There is an invite to attend and present the work of the panel to the Community Liaison Group (part of the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board structure) on Thursday 27th August 5-7pm. It will be a virtual meeting. SM will send details to the group and ask for a volunteer to present to the meeting.

Action 3: SM to contact Christian Birch and request that a report covering all stop and searches over the previous six months is provided to Panel twice a year.

This has been provided and a report will be circulated to the panel after the meeting.

Action 4: Training session to be held by the Constabulary with those panel members interested on how the data is worked through.

A draft specification for this session was sent to the panel ahead of today's meeting. It was noted that the wording for the action should be amended as it isn't a training session but a deeper dive in to some of the data.

Action 5: SM to circulate latest version of the annual report

Completed

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

Response sent to panel ahead of the meeting. There was some further discussion regarding this in the meeting and the panel noted that the same month last year saw over a third of stop searches ending in positive disposals, suggesting something deeper than county lines. The panel asked for a further response at the next meeting. ND noted that this will be taken to the coercive powers board.

Action 7: Identify if place and time can be left in the dip sampling records shared

Completed - time of day is included this month.

3) Overview of CSPs – Hertsmere & Welwyn/Hatfield

Hertsmere

CI Bilsdon gave an overview of Hertsmere.

During lockdown there was a lot of proactive work across Hertsmere with proactive patrols which saw an increase in Stop & Searches in April and May.

Crime is now going up post lockdown. In particular vehicle crime and acquisitive crime. Theft from and of motor vehicle is on the rise – including key less theft of vehicles from driveways.

Welwyn/Hatfield & Hertsmere suffer similar problems with break-ins of vans and tools stolen. Also seen an increase of small items stolen from insecure motor vehicles.

23rd June, 2020

Border the Met and whilst do get people coming from London to commit crime, Watford, Hatfield, Waltham Cross seem to be more affected by this. This may be because Hertsmere is made up of small towns and the density of population isn't so great.

Theft from motor vehicle – theft from insecure vehicles is mainly local crime. Higher end tool thefts are more tracked to people from Luton, Essex, London who are coming into Hertsmere to commit crime. Theft of motor vehicle while often be organised crime groups that come with electronic devices.

Catalytic converter theft has been on the rise and are gathering intelligence on this style of criminality.

Some local home grown drug dealing going on which have limited intelligence on and some county lines but not impacted as much as other CSPs -perhaps due to the small towns and population make up.

Positive disposal rate has increased over the last year.

Welwyn/Hatfield

Priority is drugs and county lines - 4 out of top 10 county lines for Hertfordshire are in Welwyn/Hatfield.

Van break ins are second priority with anti-social behaviour the third.

The University of Hertfordshire is within the district which is like having a micro community. There is a University policing team who work alongside the University. It will be a very different challenge this year with the University opening back up in September – things like freshers week will look very different.

Traditional crime dropped during lockdown. There have been concerns about drugs and county lines – if people have normally funded their habits by committing by crime then how have they been funding this in lockdown – the team have been trying to get an intelligence picture.

As lockdown has eased there has moved to be a significant amount of violent crime – looking at links to drugs and county lines and if this is a consequence of people have people being allowed to build up debt. Acquisitive crime is also up.

Stop & search numbers across Welwyn/Hatfield is generally middle of the range. The numbers don't tend to go up/down and generally around 60/70 stops a month.

4) Review of June CSP Summary Data

No additional comments

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

Group one reviewed 9 records

9 dip sampled

Confident in 8 and not confidence in 1.

More narrative and information needed on 4 of them.

Group two reviewed 11 records

11 dip sampled records. 5 records involved more than 1 person.

3 records could have been better.

Not confident in 1 record.

Group three reviewed 12 records

12 records (6 pairs)

Noted that there were a lot of records that where they had been cut and pasted.

Confident in 8 and not confident in 4.

Some had irrelevant information included and not enough information relating to the intelligence for the search.

Summary:

Total records reviewed	38
Confident	32
Not confident	6
Unsure	0

7) AOB:

The terms of reference for the group was discussed and that it should be noted that meetings will take place virtually in exceptional circumstances.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 27th August, 10am – 12.30pm