

25th February, 2021



Minutes

Hertfordshire Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel:

Thursday 25th February, 2021

Panel Members Present: Jeffrey Burke (JB), Caroline Malcolm (CM), Mohammed Islam-Ruman (MI-R), Marianne Murphy (MM), Barbara Graham (BG), Afam Onyenakala (AO), Chelsie Osborne (CO), Alexander Allen (AA), Tahlia-Rose Carter (TC)

Hertfordshire OPCC/Constabulary

- Nicki Dean (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Inspector Crime Reduction and Community Safety) (ND)
- Sara Miles (OPCC CJ Policy and Research Manager) (SM)
- CI Craig Flint (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Dacorum (CF)
- CI Alexandra Warwick (Hertfordshire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Three Rivers (AW)

Apologies: Marian Langley, Ben Platt, Robert Lloyd, Bukola Efunshile, Demitrius Nurse, Marian Brusselen, Kristina Dimitrova

The meeting was chaired by JB

1) Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcome to Inspector Nicki Dean. It was noted that Chief Inspector Craig Flint & Chief Inspector Alexandra Warwick will be joining later in the meeting.

It was noted that RB has stepped down from the panel due to changing work commitments. RB has been an active member of the panel for that past 5 years. He passes on all his best to the panel and has said he will miss you all.

RB was the Vice Chair and with JB having stepped in to the role of Chair from Deputy Chair it was agreed that elections need to take place for the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair and Vice Chair. As we are meeting virtually nominations and votes will be asked for outside of the meeting and to be emailed to SM. The Chair will be appointed at the March meeting and the Deputy and Vice Chairs at the following meeting in April. SM will email all panel members to explain to process and action that needs to be taken.

2) Approval of minutes

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

3) 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

The data session took place on Thursday 14th January 2021 with Chris Pratt, Head of Thinking and Analysis.

Slides from the Coercive Powers Board will be shared with the panel and SM is chasing them.

SM has written a paper to identify the discussions that have been had over the past 12-18 months on these topics and this will be shared with the panel after this meeting.

There are some longer term pieces with regards to these topics which are now sitting with the Coercive Powers Board.

Action 9: DCI Perks to identify breakdown for Herts of the percentage of allegations that were upheld where BWV footage was unavailable.

DCI Perks has looked in to this and in the period 1/4/2020 to 31/1/2021 there were 31 allegations which related to 14 cases. None of these allegations were upheld. She also looked at finalised allegations where the stop & search wasn't the primary nature of the complaint but something else such incivility. Again none have been upheld or determined case to answer so the question of body worn has not been explored further.

Action 10: Sara Miles amend feedback form to remove ethnicity – Completed and form recirculated.

4) Review of summary data – January

There were a few items noted by the panel during the meeting:

- Increase in the number of S&S this month compared to January
- Arrest rate and disposal rate gone down – arrest down to below 10%
- Increase in ethnic disparity
- St Albans remain the consistent 'good' performer with a six month average of 30% disposal
- Watford continues to have a high number of BAME stops. Three Rivers & Hertsmere had higher BAME stops this month.
- Stevenage had low positive disposal rate at 12%.

The Chief Inspector for Stevenage provided some context for the stop & searches across the CSP for that month. He noted that in Stevenage during that period they were experiencing a significant increase in overnight vehicle crime. Without any intelligence to go on and with limited lines of enquiry for each offence they carried out additional proactive patrols across the whole district to try

to identify and detain the perpetrators. This activity was supported by all Intervention teams, and the scorpion team worked a week of nights. As a result they arrested two males on suspicion of this theft and vehicle interference, but not directly from stop and search. Since the arrests the problem has gone.

The Chief Inspector also noted that 100 searches in a month is roughly 3 per day, which equates to one per shift so wouldn't say this is excessive.

AA discussed the data available to the panel and offered to include an average line in the data to make it easier to see where there were highs or lows.

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

Group one reviewed 8 records

Confident in 6, not confident in 2.

Discussed whether there were 2 records (one vehicle, one person stop) where there arrest should have happened first rather than the Stop & Search. Discussed with CI Flint and group happy with response.

Group two reviewed 13 records

Confident in 11, not confident in 2.

Group three reviewed 13 records

Confident in 10, not confident in 3.

Overall the panel commented that the records had been of good quality across both CSPs and a good level of detail included. There were a number of best practice examples which were highlighted to the Chief Inspectors.

Total records reviewed	34
Confident	27
Not confident	7
Not sure	0

7) AOB:

25th February, 2021

ND gave an update on the trial in Watford where Echo was being used to get feedback. The trial ran for one month and they got feedback from one member of the public – which was positive feedback. The pilot has been paused and the Chief Inspector is doing training to enhance understanding and will re-launch again in March.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 30th March 2021 14.00 -16.30