



Minutes:
Bedfordshire Community Stop Search Scrutiny Panel

Day and Date	25 th August 2022
Time	18:00 – 20:00
Venue	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees	<p>Panel Members: Natasha Clewley (NC), Loveness Bishi (LB), Phil Dickson-Earle (PD), Karen James (KJ) and Myrna Loy (ML), Howard McCalla (HM), Marcella Taylor-Smith (MT)</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police: Karanjit Sanghera (KS), Ommer Khan (OK), Sean Aimson (SA), James Clatworthy (JC) and Ian Taylor (IT)</p> <p>OPCC Office: Katie Beaumont (KB)</p>
Apologies	Hina Shafi, Tajamal, Aisha Sana, Hayley Miller, Kelly Sholagade, James Turner, Lauren Cox
Abbreviation	DP = Detained person

1	<p>Welcome, Introductions, apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and informed them that the Vice Chair would not be in attendance. The Chair informed all that the Vice Chair Hina Shafi will be stepping down from September 2022 due to other commitments. We want to thank HS for her work over her time on the panel and wish her well in her future. All attendees of the meeting introduced themselves and explained their function/role within the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Confidentiality:</p> <p>All have been sent the document.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting with Matters arising and action points:</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and agreed.</p> <p>PD asked if the minutes are going to be shared with the Panel. KS stated that he can send them out to all or alternatively they will be made available on the Bedfordshire Police website. KB confirmed that they are also attached to the invite which was sent to all.</p>

	<p>The Actions were discussed and updated in the table below.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Policing context:</p> <p>IT updated all that we've had a rising case of serious violence particularly within the Luton area which has led to some target activity within Luton including visible reassurance and patrols. However sometimes as a net result of that, you do see an increase in stop and search.</p> <p>We have had a look at the possession with intent to supply data from April 2022 which the panel will see from the Quarter 1 data that the disproportionality rates seemed slightly high. We had an operation which run through a 5 week period and covered the whole of April in to the beginning of May. This focussed on activity of 2 mapped gangs within Luton. The individuals from these gangs are primarily those from an Asian background which explains the rise in disproportionality within that area as we could directly link the stop and searches to this operation.</p> <p>IT explained that on a national level, we have a presentation that IT will give later on which is around section 60 of the Criminal Justice of Public Order Act. There are some changes which have been brought in, in relation to the Police's application in May 2014 as a result of the best use of stop and search scheme. The current Home Secretary has effectively discontinued those. IT will explain later what these changes mean and will seek the panels views and input.</p> <p>IT also updated all on a national level about the Child Q case in the Metropolitan Police area. This has caused us to do some national and local thinking in relation to strip search of young people. The Chiefs Council is assessing whether we move to a legislative change where there would need to be a Senior Officers authority to complete a strip search. The two ranks that this could be pitched at are either an Inspector or Superintendent. IT will keep all updated as this progresses.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Chairs Introduction:</p> <p>As per above update within section 1.</p> <p>Deputy Chair Update:</p> <p>As per above update within section 1.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Report back from S&S Sub Group:</p> <p>NC updated that we haven't got many reports back from both Subgroups at this time. NC stated to all that we are currently completing a recruitment drive for panel members and that we have currently received 18 applications from those who are interested in joining the panel. This will hopefully mean that these meetings will be a lot more effective, and we will have a lot more to feedback.</p> <p>KS stated that for all of our regular members who will be used to the monthly Subgroups, this is what NC is referring to and that Sub Panels have not been going ahead over the last couple of months. We are starting to get things back on track and we should be able to get more Sub Panels within the diary. If any members are available, please do attend</p>

	<p>these Sub Panels if possible as they help with the regular review of stop and searches on a monthly basis.</p>
7	<p>Report back from Use of Force Sub Group:</p> <p>As per above update within section 6.</p>
8	<p>Vice Chair; Reasonable grounds, GOWISLEY & RAG:</p> <p>PD asked if NC could share the GOWISELY and RAG documents within the chat. KB shared with all.</p> <p>NC advised that the panel are going to be watching 3 videos. Today we are going to change the process slightly and watch the video. Before any discussion, we will submit our votes and we can then discuss and ask questions afterwards. This is to review how aligned we are when it comes to voting.</p> <p>KS explained how the voting works to all panel members and that a link to a poll had been shared with all within the chat bar. This is only for members of the panel and not for any Police Officers or members of staff. The poll will include all videos and the voting will be as per the RAG rating from Green 1 all the way up to Red 9. KS will go through the grounds of the stop and search, will play the video and then the panel will be asked to vote. Once all votes are in, the panel can then discuss, and KS will then provide the result afterwards.</p> <p>PD asked NC to clarify whether we vote immediately without discussion and then will discuss. NC stated that this is correct and that what she wants to look at is voting based on our initial judgement and then the discussion can be captured on the feedback form. The vote does not change but it will help us look at ways we can develop in case we are missing things. It is an experiment, and it is a good way to gage where we are with voting. If it doesn't work, next time we can go back to the original way.</p>
9	<p>BW video 1:</p> <p>The subject of this search is a male from Luton. All advised they do not know this person. The grounds recorded by the officer is that the officer received intelligence that a drug line was dealing in the Crawley Green Cemetery at that moment. The drug line utilises drug users to deal the drugs and users will congregate in large groups for the dealer. They were dealing large numbers all at once. Officers have attended and have seen subject in the bushes at the rear of the cemetery as if they were trying to remain out of sight of people and was with a number of other drug users. There is also intelligence on the subject suggesting he is involved in the supply of drugs for this particular drug line. This raised further suspicions that the subject was here to purchase or supply drugs and he was detained and searched under section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act.</p> <p>Green 1 – 3 votes Amber 4 – 1 vote</p> <p>Discussion:</p>

NC asked a question about where the officer was talking about IC4 and IC3 and stated that this confused her, so asked what this meant and why it was communicated in this situation. KS stated that the officer was trying to explain to the subject what he meant by it and that IC4 means of Asian ethnicity and IC3 which is of Black ethnicity. NC stated that it felt like it was an assumption that the subject would know what the officer meant.

PD stated that the body worn video (BWV) was turned on late, which is a usual comment. This was fed back to KS where PD asked if officers could switch their cameras on before they engage. This will be raised within the feedback form. PD feels that further context would be gained by having the camera switched on earlier.

ML asked why there was a different procedure for the two people, for the guy behind he was being handcuffed and his trousers were down but with the one we saw at the front, it was really straight forward, done professionally and very well done. Why is there a difference and why was the search protocol different? KS stated he would not be able to give a clear answer as only the officer would be able to do so, however from what he assumes is that he may have felt with the information provided that there was a threat and therefore used handcuffs.

All panel agreed that the grounds was reasonable and acceptable. PD asked what the outcome was. KS confirmed that it was no further action.

Discussion was held regarding intelligence and when it should be used to stop and search. IT confirmed that it should be based on relevance and recency. Is it relevant to the individual and is the intelligence recent?

NC stated that she would like to know the timeframe of intelligence and will note this on the feedback form. ML stated it would be useful for it to be recorded on which date the intelligence was received on. IT stated that this could be done as long as it was not going to compromise anybody. It may be better to give a more blanket timeframe for example within the last month.

IT clarified what a drug line is and stated that it is similar to county lines. A drug line is a mobile phone that people are phoning on.

10 **BW video 2:**

The subject of the stop and search has decided to not give their details, so if the panel recognise the individual please declare and leave the meeting. The panel advised that they did not know this person. Officer has attended a report of 14 males looking for a fight at a house with weapons in their possession and knives have been seen. The males have left prior to police arrival. Whilst officers have been waiting near the address in case they have come back, 3 males have then come back. Family have identified them as having knives. All 3 make off and we manage to detain 1 of them for a section 1 PACE search based on information provided by multiple members of the public.

PD asked IT how quickly they release the handcuffs? IT said as soon as officers have searched the individual and they are assured that the subject does not have a knife on them, the handcuffs should come off.

Green 1 – 2 votes
Green 3 – 1 vote

Amber 4 – 1 vote

Discussion:

The panel agreed that the grounds were reasonable.

ML asked the question about the notebook seen in the video and whether this needed to be searched. KS clarified that this was the officer's notebook and that all officers carry a pocket notebook. PD stated that he thinks if the camera had been switched on a little earlier, we could of seen the pursuit of the individual. A little more context would be a lot more helpful with the camera being turned on earlier. ML stated that she thinks the part about the intelligence is so important in this kind of situation.

ML asked how do the Police screen intelligence that is received? IT stated that intelligence is graded by the Police. On this occasion, it has not had the opportunity to go through the grading process. This is information as opposed to intelligence. Officers have most probably misused the word intelligence. If we did not react to this information and the individual did have a knife of them and went to stab somebody, those officers would then face heavy criticism. NC confirmed that she added on the form to ensure that the correct terminology is used.

NC highlighted the importance of stop and search with sensitive areas such as wearing a head covering, although could not see this within the video. If somebody is wearing a head covering for religious reasons, this is highly sensitive, and the subject should be given a heads up that this area is about to be searched.

NC asked that when a subject refuses to give their personal information, does the GOWISELY form change? KS stated no. IT stated that what the officer should do in those circumstances is that due to them refusing to give their email address, state that they are still entitled to a copy of the form and can visit your local police station to request a physical copy.

ML explained her rationale behind voting Amber 4 due to the swearing, the pocketbook, which was clarified and the lateness of turning the camera on.

The panel agreed the final vote as Amber 4.

11

BW Video 3:

The panel agreed that from Video 3, they will resume with the discussion before voting.

The subject has refused to give his details during this stop and search. The panel advised that they did not know this person. The grounds are that intelligence was received from security staff that the subject was believed to be in possession of a firearm which had been placed in his front waistband. CCTV had reviewed and there appeared to be a heavy item in the front of his trousers/bottom of his hoodie.

Discussion:

NC stated she feels that they handled it very well but she doesn't think that the grounds were clear enough and that we do not know who they were looking for. ML stated how

can they have a large bundle within their waistband and in the bottom of your hoodie?
They are two separate and opposing directions.

KS confirmed that there was no further action, the male walked away. PD stated that at least the camera went on before the stop and search started and before the male was approached. PD felt that without the notes giving the description of the male, they could have stopped anybody. In this case, the notes are incomplete. NC stated that we cannot pass the reasonable grounds test as the notes are not clear enough.

HM stated he is listening from a radio perspective as he is dialled in via his phone. He stated it does sound like it could be anyone and the description was not clear. Would the description have to say the ethnic background of the person? NC stated that the more information that they have would help. ML added the point that if they are searching someone in public, they should find the opportunity to take that person away and do it somewhere more discretely.

Amber 5 – 2 votes
Amber 4 – 1 vote
Green 2 – 1 vote

IT provided context stating that he agrees the grounds are not written up brilliantly. KS stated this was in Bedford Town Centre. Bedford Town Centre security staff have a radio link which links up to the CCTV. IT believes that the door staff have said about the subject. CCTV operations review the CCTV, and the police would not have seen it. CCTV have then called it directly into the Force Control Room and they have then provided the context.

Following GOWISELY and based on the description of the grounds of stop and search, the panel decided that the final vote is Amber 4.

12 **Digital around the use of biometric scanning devices (fingerprint scanning)**

JC and SA presented their slides to the panel on Mobile (HOB) Home Office Biometric Scanner. SA showed and tested the device to the panel via Teams.

PD asked in the stop and search procedure, when somebody is stopped and searched, they are offered the form. Is there anything like that accompanying this fingerprint process? JC stated that there isn't at the moment however as we are in the process of rolling them out, we have identified that we need to align it with the stop and search process. We have submitted a request to the company and are hoping that within the next couple of months this will be aligned.

JC asked the panel if they would like the biometric scanning device to be included within their meetings within the next quarter. KB stated that NC has had to leave the meeting due to an appointment however will take an action to ask NC how we can move forward.

Action: KB to speak to NC about viewing the biometric scanning device stop and searches. KB will consult with NC and panel members via email and will get back to JC to confirm.

Action: KB will speak to NC about adding a 15 minute section onto the agenda within the next quarter on how the biometric scanning devices have been working.

	<p>ML asked whether subjects whose fingerprints have been taken, are they removed if there is no further action? JC confirmed that they would not be saved on the system or kept. ML asked about the process on if somebody is arrested and taken into custody. IT stated that part of the custody procedures are fingerprints. If that person is subsequently not convicted or not issued with a caution within custody, then those fingerprints are disposed of. IT stated that the biometric scanning device would show up if somebody is wanted.</p>
12	<p>Stop & Search data:</p> <p>IT shared the Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 presentation with the panel. PD asked did our Chief Constable request or express an interest in having a Section 60? IT stated no and that this has come from the Home Office. IT stated that the panel will be consulted when there is a Section 60 authorisation so that it is open to scrutiny.</p> <p>PD stated that his comment would be that he would be very disappointed if Bedfordshire Police had to use this. ML stated the legislation had been out a long time and is it just the authority that has changed? IT confirmed that the legislation was set in 1994 and it was in 2014 that it was changed. There are 4 main changes which are the authorising officer, the likelihood of serious violence, the initial maximum duration and the maximum extension.</p> <p>IT will share this presentation with KB and NC. IT confirmed that it is not publicly sensitive and that he is happy for the slides to be disseminated. IT is happy for all panel members to draft up some comments and send them over to KB/NC. IT can then take these comments to the Force Exec Team to raise the views of the panel as to whether Bedfordshire Police will go ahead with this or not.</p> <p>IT stated that due to the meeting overrunning, he will provide all panel members with a high level update document and the Stop and Search data will be shared with all.</p> <p>KB advised all that we will be making the meetings slightly longer to allow discussion as per instruction from NC. If IT sends over all information to KB, she can then summarise and send it out to all. If there are any comments, please provide to KB who can then collate and send back to IT.</p>
13	<p>PSD referrals and outcomes: N/A.</p>
14	<p>Any Stop and Search Issues in the Community: N/A.</p>
14	<p>AOB & Date of next meeting to be advised:</p> <p>KS stated to all that he has been asked by PSD to review 2 complaints that have come in. This was meant to be completed today however was not completed due to internet issues. KS confirmed that he will be looking to do this next week and asked the panel if there is anyone available to do this with him. The panel agreed that next Thursday in the day works for them. KS would need at least 3 or 4 panel members for this, and KB will include within the email to all whether any other panel members are available to join. MT asked whether this could be at around 11/11:30 in the morning.</p>

KB updated all that we have completed a recruitment push and we have had 18 applications come forward for people who want to join the panel. KB will be completing some mini interviews and getting to know people over the next 3 weeks. KB is currently setting up the training sessions for them. If any panel members wish to join the training with the new starters, KB will send dates to all so anyone can attend.

PD asked KB where she has been recruiting. KB stated that we have been recruiting via social media and that KS and his team disseminated cards at the river festival, the AfroFest and also via a recruitment video. Posters have also been made to go around to community groups in Bedfordshire. MT said that she can help out with the interviews if required.

The date of the next meeting is 24th November 2022.

Action List from this meeting and last:

1	IM to email the training videos to MN to distribute to Panel members. IM to redistribute the link to the video which he will send to SH to distribute to Panel members.	It was agreed that when we have an in person meeting it would be best to play those videos when we are all together.
2	MN to send out the 'Reasonable Grounds' document to Panel members. HS advised that she will locate this document and sent to Panel members.	Completed.
3	IT will provide information on the Under 5 search that shows 2 have been searched.	KS advised that IT took this away as an action and will provide feedback at the next meeting.
4	IT will ask Analysts to breakdown NFA data by local authority area and by ethnicity.	KS advised this has been added to the latest data pack and has been distributed.
5	HS to send Suspicion Test Document to panel members.	
6	KS to find out how many times the man from Video 4 has been stopped by Police.	
7	Sub-group to be put together that looks into the data in more depth such as hot spot areas.	
8	KS to ask Analysts if they can provide National data which can then be compared to the local data sets.	
9	Suggestion for a map to be included within the data sets to show the areas of the stop and searches and for data to be broken down into genders.	
10	HS suggested for the next sub group panel to be focussed on Bedford Borough in relation to disproportionality ratios by CSP.	
11	KB to speak to NC about viewing the biometric scanning device stop and searches. KB will consult with NC and panel members via email and will get back to JC to confirm.	New Action – 25/08/22
12	KB will speak to NC about adding a 15 minute section onto the agenda within the next quarter on how the biometric scanning devices have been working.	New Action – 25/08/22
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