

**Minutes:
Bedfordshire Community Stop Search Scrutiny Panel**

Day and Date	Wednesday 28 th February 2024
Time	18:00 – 21:00
Venue	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees	<p>Panel Members: Phil Dickson-Earle (PDE), Myrna Loy (ML), Loveness Bishi (LB), Kim Taylor (KT), Marcella Smith (MS), Bev Drummey (BD)</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police: Superintendent Ian Taylor (Supt IT), PC Ommer Khan (PC OK)</p> <p>OPCC Office: Anesu Banda (AB)</p>
Apologies	Samantha Denness (SD)
Abbreviation	<p>DP = Detained person CSP = Community Safety Partnership Area OP = Operation</p>

1	<p>Welcome, Introductions, apologies: PD greeted the panel and informed them how the panel will be conducted.</p>
2	<p>Confidentiality: All have been sent the document.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting with Matters arising and action points: All actions have been taken as complete.</p>
4	<p>Policing context:</p> <p>There was a total of 375 incidents of serious violence within Bedfordshire in the last quarter, which is a slight increase from the previous quarter where there was 373.</p> <p>Supt IT provided an update on incidents that Bedfordshire Police have dealt with over the last quarter including homicides, violent disorders, and stabbings.</p> <p><u>Current operations:</u></p> <p>A digital system automatic number plate recognition, therefore if a vehicle travels through the cameras and it has a marker on it, it will flag and that will prompt police action to deal with it.</p> <p>In Bedford Borough, there has been operation which targeted patrols in Bedford town centre specific to shoplifting within the town centre.</p> <p>An operation has been centred in Bedford town centre involving community police officers, focusing on disrupting drugs and criminality within Bedford Town centre.</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police's response to National Retail Crime Action Plan. There is also a dedicated operation looking at retail crime, which is our standing operational name for conducting safeguarding checks at addresses.</p> <p>IT added, with those operations across Bedford, there were 106 stop searches in total and a positive outcome ratio of 43.25% of those reports.</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire had a proactive community operation in which there has been 4 stop searches linked specifically to that operation, with one of those being a positive outcome and that was related to a drug deal.</p>

One operation had 4 stop searches that related to supply of drugs in Shefford and all 4 persons were arrested.

The community enforcement team do a lot of proactive work and conducted 40 stop searches during this quarter, of which there was a 40% positive outcome ratio and the operations.

Super Complaint

Supt IT informed the panel, the criminal justice alliance submitted a super complaint in 2022. The super complaint was reviewed by the College of Policing, the HMICFRS and the IOPC. It relates to the use of Section 60 nationally.

A super complaint is a complaint where a combination of features of policing in England and Wales by one or more police force's appears to be significantly harming the interests of the public and the super complaint submitted by the Criminal Justice Alliance was due to Section 60 not being utilised correctly as it was causing harm to people and communities.

Supt IT informed the panel a Section 60 stop search is a suspicion less search, therefore if an officer of the rank of Inspector or above can define a geographic area to implement a Section 60, however they must have legitimate reasons to implement this. He added, if you take the strictest interpretation of the legislation officers could search everyone within that geographic area.

When a Section 60 is in place it is important that Bedfordshire Police engage and consult with the Community Scrutiny Panel to advise them of the details of the Section 60 and invite them to scrutinise the use of the power and allows the Force to ensure they effectively brief officers on using the power proportionately and ensure it is necessary.

Supt IT gave the panel the following example:

If the force had intelligence that there was going to be serious violence between two sets of football supporters, in Luton and the intelligence showed the supporters will be carrying knives and other weapons the Force could put a Section 60 in place due to the risk involved.

Supt IT said Bedfordshire is in a good space as Section 60's are not utilised frequently and there have been 2 in the last five years as consideration needs to be given before using the power.

The review of the super complaint has prompted a 172-page document, which will be public and accessible. The document made several recommendations that all forces should be considering and recommendation 1 was that by the 14th of June 2024 all Chief Constable's must ensure their forces review the content of training on Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and the Public Order Act.

Recommendation 3 sits at a national level and advises that by the 14th of June 2024 all Chief Constable's should ensure briefing and debriefing arrangements for the authorisation and use of Section 60 are in line with the police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984 and the authorised professional practise content, meaning where a Section 60 authorisation is given, when the staff is being briefed this must be recorded, which could be as a written briefing, however a formal verbal Section 60 authorisation briefing should be given on audio visual devices such as body worn video.

Recommendation 5 was in relation to how the force effectively communicate with communities and interested parties on the police use of Section 60, therefore it is important that we ensure that we communicate when we're authorising them.

Recommendation 8 relates to the Chief Constable ensuring their force is working in partnership with community scrutiny panels to review panel membership and vetting arrangements to remove any unnecessary barriers to recruiting panel members. The vetting arrangements were removed and now members are only required to sign the confidentiality agreement which will also aid the promotion of the recruitment of culturally diverse members.

5 **BW video 1:**

Grounds:

Information that persons had been involved in a hit and run and that a male had exited the vehicle with a machete and struck someone. Persons located a short distance away and from the Luton vicinity with no explanation why in Leighton Buzzard so detain for Stop Search.

S1 PACE 1984

Feedback:

1. Did not hear GOWISLEY completed.
2. Appeared they wanted to switch the stop reason from machete to drugs - If you stop someone for a particular reason officers should not look in places the item would not be in.

3. Why count the subject's money when looking for a machete?
4. Officers were polite and courteous and thorough in their job.
5. Concerned about the lack of description the officers had before going into the stop.
6. Handcuffs removed immediately after the search was completed.
7. Subject being out of area is not a reason to be stopped by the police.

GRADING:

Green 3

6 BW video 2:

Grounds:

Matched description of being seen in this area a short time ago dealing drugs.

Feedback:

1. They said she fits the description, but it is not clear what this is as the description is too brief.
2. Officers were polite to the subject.
3. The officers did not search the coat on the floor.
4. Officers need to be more observant before performing searches in an area.
6. Length of time handcuffs on was too long - 19mins. (Many officers were around therefore it was not necessary.)

GRADING:

Red 7

7 BW Video 3:

Grounds:

Subject is a known drug user and there is intel to suggest that he is also dealing drugs. This location is a block of flats that is known for drug use. Subject male was found in a flat yesterday with drug paraphernalia. Whilst talking to officers the male ran off in the direction of the heights. Officers gave chase and found the subject male on stairwell of floor 8. Subject male was detained and searched.

Feedback:

1. The handcuffs were on for too long
2. GOWISLEY was conducted
3. They said 'drug user' then 'drug dealer'.
4. They stopped him from being in a particular area/building which is a hotspot however this isn't a good reason.
5. Subject has been stopped numerous times, is this racial profiling or a valid reason
6. Officers had not detained the subject when he ran away, so he didn't do anything wrong regarding that.

GRADING:

Red 7

8 BW Video 4

Grounds:

The subjects were seen leaving a car park upon sighting a marked police vehicle. There was drug paraphernalia present inside the entrance of the car park where the subjects had come from. The location has current intelligence for being used for drugs misuse to it being a secluded area away from the public view. The subjects are both known drug users in the town centre. Due to the circumstances and intelligence this prompted the subject's search.

Feedback:

1. Bodyworn not activated early enough
2. No duty of care regarding the subject having stitches and subject was clearly in pain.
3. GOWISLEY not heard, not convinced with the grounds as previous was mentioned.
4. Handcuffs remained on after search was completed, whilst search was performed on the other subject.

GRADING:

Amber 6

9 Data Panel Feedback:

Key Findings

- A total of 1046 was carried in the last quarter which was a 14.9% increase from the previous quarter.
- Luton Borough was at the top of the list with 492 stops which is an increase of 14.4% since the previous quarter, followed by Bedford Borough 348 stops, 11.49% increase from the previous quarter, whilst Central Beds had 150 stops with an increase of 22%.
- Unknown and out of force stops accounted for 23 cases.
- Drugs (41%), Drugs Possession with Intent to Supply (PWITS) (30%), going equipped (13%), and offensive weapons (13) are the top 4 reasons for stops in this quarter.
- 15% of the stops led to arrests, 62% NFA, 22% resulted in other police action.
- Ages 35-49 accounted for the highest number of stops at 25%, followed by the 25-34 age group at 23.4%. Those aged 20-24 accounted for 19.3% whilst children and teenagers aged 10-19 accounted for 19% of all total stops.
- The disproportionality of stop and search was evident in the black community with the ratio in Bedford being 3.4 which is thrice that of any other ethnic group.

Investigative questions

- How many persons in a particular ethnic group and other communities in Bedford are stopped e.g. how many are white and how many are black?
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) breakdown by reason and ethnicity. Each CSP should be broken down to find out why those individuals were stopped as this is not captured by the data.
- Is there a relationship between officers and the ethnic group they stop?
- What time of the day are most stops carried out?

Area of focus

- Analyse more videos from the black community in Bedford, especially around the town centre.
- Thorough analysis of Luton Borough stops.
- Cases including teenage stop searches.
- Under 10's.

10 Any Stop and Search Issues in the Community:
None

11 AOB & Date of next meeting to be advised:
Next meeting is 16th of May 2024