Minutes:
Bedfordshire Community Stop Search Scrutiny Panel

Day and Date	Thursday 16th May 2024
Time	18:00 – 21:00
Venue	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees	**Panel Members:** Phil Dickson-Earle (PDE), Arto Dino (AD), Bev Drummey (BD), Simon Cacioppo (SC), Zion Ayetuoma (ZA), Stephen Quirke (SQ) **Bedfordshire Police:** PC Ommer Khan (PC OK), PC Junaid Ashiq (JA) **OPCC Office:** Anesu Banda (AB), Samantha Denness (SD), Police and Crime Commissioner John Tizard (PCC JT) **HMICFRS:** Katie Hockley (KH)
Apologies	Supt Ian Taylor (Supt IT)
Abbreviation	**DP = Detained person** **CSP = Community Safety Partnership Area** **OP = Operation**

1	**Welcome, Introductions, apologies:**
	SD informed the panel the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Tizard will be joining the meeting and asked the panel to introduce themselves.
	PCC JT introduced himself to the panel and thanked them for the hard work they continue to do for the community of Bedfordshire.
2	**Confidentiality:**
	All have been sent the document.
3	**Minutes of last meeting with Matters arising and action points:**
	All actions will be circulated via email.
4	**<u>BW video Part 1:</u>**
	<u>Grounds:</u>
	At approximately 1700 hours on FRIDAY 26th of JANUARY 2024 I was on mobile patrol with PCSO when a call came through the retail radio that 4 males had been seen acting suspiciously on CCTV in the stairwell of a car park and the CCTV controller stated that these males appeared to be passing things to each other and may have been using or dealing drugs. The CCTV operator identified one of the males, who is well known in Bedford as a drug dealer/user. We made our way there arriving shortly afterwards and saw 4 males in the stairwell, 2 IC1 males and two IC3 males. One of the IC1 males walked off up the stairwell, despite being told by myself not too, which further aroused my suspicions, but I could not follow as I was still with the other 3 men. One of the IC3 males then asked if he could leave but I told him couldn't as all 3 of them were detained for a S.23 MDA search.
	Authority: S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
	Initiation Reason: Intelligence
	<u>Feedback:</u>
	1. The subjects were known to the police but there was no need for handcuffs initially as they were not going to run anywhere.
	2. The officer's language was 'disgusting' and used the f word on a few occasions. He said ' I don't care' when the subject was speaking to him.
	3. GOWISLEY completed but not well and said the subject can have a copy but didn't explain how to obtain it etc.
	4. Search took a long time to be completed.

	5. Aggressive demeanour and unprofessional **BW Video Part 2 Feedback:** 1. 2 different behaviours from the same officer. **GRADING:** Amber 6
5	**BW video 2:** **Grounds:** Officers have attended a public house in Dunstable where they have spoken to a male who works as a bouncer for the location. The male stated words to the effect of "WE HAVE REMOVED A MALE FROM THE LOCATION AND HE HAS TOLD US HE HAS A LOAD OF DRUGS ON HIM". Officers then asked for a description which was an IC3 male, wearing a black hat, black coat, and dressed in all black clothing. The bouncer also mentioned the male wearing a black mask and stated the male had walked down an alleyway next to the pub. Officers walked down this alleyway next to the location and found a male matching the exact description provided. **Authority:** S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 **Initiation Reason:** Member of Public Led **Feedback:** 1. The officer was quite calm and professional even in tactical communications and when provoked by subject. 2. GOWISLEY covered properly. 3. Extremely professional and showed good policing. **GRADING:** Green 1
6	**BW Video 3:** **Grounds:** Officers attended Luton with ARV officers to a report of a stabbing whereby the victim had been stabbed in the neck and armpit and the suspect was still on scene trying to kick the door down. ARV officers arrived and entered the address removing two individuals who were present when the stabbing happened. Due to the mention of the suspect still being on scene, not having a named offender and knife being used with both individuals in the address at the time, both occupants searched.

Authority: S.1 PACE 1984

Initiation Reason: Incident related

Feedback:

1. GOWISLEY not performed on both subjects

2. The search was not organised

3. Did not release first subject's handcuffs once done

4. Female officer showed respect for the subject's whilst performing the search

5. Appeared to not have enough officers on scene

6. Subject searched on the edge of pavement, and she was not stable so could have stumbled

7. Didn't have names of the subjects that were searched.

GRADING:

Green 2

7	**BW Video 4**
	Grounds:
	Police have responded to an incident called in by a farmer. This farmer found an individual who had been rummaging through his farmhouse and was unsure if anything hand been taken. The farmer also passed a description of this individual which was: an IC3 male, red jacket, blue rucksack, and black trousers. On the way to this incident officers noticed an individual who matched this description exactly. Officers approached and spoke to him, and he admitted to coming from the farmhouse. Due to this I detained the individual under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.
	Authority: S.1 PACE 1984
	Initiation Reason: Incident related
	Feedback:
	1. Communication from both officers was calm and did not escalate the situation.
	2. Ensure the BWV is positioned well so there is a good view of what is happening.
	3. The officer's realised the subject was autistic and managed to keep him calm.
	4. GOWISLEY given very clearly.

5. Respectful officers - great example of good policing.

GRADING:

Green 1

8	**Data Panel Feedback:**

Key Findings

- 949 stop and search recorded in Q3 23-24 14.5% less than the previous quarter.
- 15% of total Stop and Search resulted in arrest.
- No Further Action was taken in 63% of Stop and Search.
- Drugs - Possession (43%) and Drugs – Possession with Intention to Supply (PWITS) (28%) are the most common reasons for stop searches.
- Most stop searches were conducted in the 25-34 age group (227 searches).
- There was an increase in police action taken rate in Central Beds and Luton.
- In central beds, it increased by 3.4% and 10% in Luton.
- Conversely, there was a decrease in Police action taken rate in Bedford borough by 3.4%
- There was a significant reduction in cases due to stolen property, a reduction of 50%. The same for drugs, which were reduced by 17.3. Also, cases due to offensive weapons decreased by 15.6%.
- On the other hand, there was an increase in cases due to firearms and going equipped.
- Firearm increased by 100% (from 1 to 2) and going equipped increased by 20.7%
- All ethnic groups (White, Asian, Black) witnessed a decrease in Stop and Search cases except the Arabian community which went the opposite direction with an increase of 25%.
- From the ethnic group with a decreasing rate, Asians witnessed the highest push with a 32.8% decrease against this quarter last year.
- While white and black members of the community experienced 7.6 and 10.9% decreases respectively.
- The usual trigger group is age 25–49. This age group accounts for 45.8% of the total stop & search.
- The age group 25–34 has the highest number of stops with 227 Stop and Searches, followed closely by the age group 35–49 with 208 cases.
- Group 16–19 is the 3rd with 184 cases.

Recommendation:

After careful analysis of the data and comparison with the previous quarter, it was discovered that the fundamental findings remain unchanged.

This includes:

- Black members of the community.
- The 25–49 age group.
- Luton.

	Given the above, I recommend that we maintain the status quo in video selection criteria and focus.
9	**Any Stop and Search Issues in the Community:** None
10	**AOB & Date of next meeting to be advised:** TBC