



## DUDLEY LOCAL POLICING UNIT

### **STOP & SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING**

MINUTES OF MEETING  
HELD AT 1830 AT BRIERLEY HILL POLICE STATION  
ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014.

#### **PRESENT**

Chief Inspector Nick ROWE  
Sergeant David WHORDLEY  
T/PS Ryan GARDENER – Norton & Amblecote NHT  
PC Ross EVANS – Dudley Police LPT  
PC Paul DAVIS – Young persons officer  
PCSO Jamie FISHER – Amblecote NHT  
Judy FOSTER – A/PCC  
Cllr Mohammed HANIF – DMBC  
Rosina OTTEWELL – DMBC (Community Cohesion manager)  
Dominic TIPPING – DMBC Youth Services  
Chelsea HABIB – Juniper  
Ryan MILLARD – Juniper  
Emma ROBINSON – Juniper  
Charlotte GOUGH – Juniper  
Michaela WILLIAMS – Juniper  
Karla ASTON – Juniper  
Heather SMITH – King Edwards College  
Rosie MILLAN – Kings Edwards College  
Josh GREGG – King Edwards College  
Eloise Emily FARMER – King Edwards College  
Joe LYNESS – King Edwards College  
Abbie OUIEL – King Edwards College  
Megan JEWKES – King Edwards College  
Megan HORTON – King Edwards College  
Alexander KENDALL  
Shadmeera JOHNSON

#### **MINUTES**

1. Meeting opened by chair CI ROWE with introduction and explanation of reasons for Stop & Search scrutiny panel and meeting agenda.
2. Apologies

Kenneth RODNEY – Centre for Equality & Diversity  
Graham COLBOURNE – PCC  
Reg SARGEANT – PCC  
Steve WALTHO – Councillor  
PC Darren BARNES – Dudley Police LPT

3. T/PS GARDENER explains Stop & Search powers and procedure including:

- The law regarding police stop & search powers
- The difference between encounters and stop & search
- Requirements needed of a police officer before and after a stop & search
- Reasonable grounds
- Objectives of stop & search
- Checking process of stop & search forms

4. CI ROWE talks about Dudley LPU stop & search data, he explains the figures including detail about arrest rates after stop & search and race proportionality of people searched. CI ROWE comments that a new system will soon be in place to compile better recording of data.

**Question** – Will individual officers be questioned about their stop & searches?

**Answer**(CI ROWE) – In the future better data will be available to see more detail of individual officers stop & searches.

4a. Judy FOSTER (Councillor and A/PCC) introduces herself and CI ROWE explains the role of the Police Crime Commissioner and it was discussed about the possibility of inviting youth crime commissioners to future stop & search meetings.

4b. Questions continue regarding stop & search data

**Question** – Will future data record under age stops?

**Answer** (CI ROWE) – It currently does but in the future there will be a better system to avoid bad hand writing by officers affecting figures, Dudley police currently stop around 150 people per month.

**Question** – What happens if a police officer stops somebody for no reason?

**Answer**(CI ROWE) – Advice and training will be given and future systems will make sure all stop & searches are fully recorded.

**Question** – If nothing is found on a stop & search will you still get a form?

**Answer** (CI ROWE) – Yes, Dudley police are looking to improve positive outcomes after a stop & search to 20%, currently 10%.

**Question** – How do you know who to stop & search?

**Answer** (CI ROWE) – By looking at data at our tasking meeting we identify hotspot locations or officers having reasonable grounds.

CI ROWE explained that he has conducted dip tests of stop & search forms and believes police officers need to explain grounds for their searches in more detail.

**Question** – If police find something during a search are they arrested?

**Answer** (CI ROWE) – They may be arrested, street bailed, cannabis cautioned or FPN issued.

**Question** (A/PCC Judy FOSTER) – Data doesn't show results of actions other than arrest.

**Answer** (CI ROWE) – Future data will have more detail.

**4c.** T/PS GARDENER explains a completed stop & search form on power point presentation.

**5.** Completed stop & search forms are given to panel members in wallets for viewing and they are asked to discuss if they believe the reason given by the police officer was acceptable to conduct a stop & search.

**5a.** Stop & search form panel response:

**Form 1** – Reason for stop & search – Smell of cannabis.

Panels comments

- This is an acceptable ground for a stop & search
- It depends on the strength of the smell
- How do you know the smell is coming from the right person
- Would you then search their house? Answer by CI ROWE, Police could use other powers if needed to search houses

**Form 2** – Reason for stop & search – Occupants of a vehicle looking into cars.

Panels comments

- How do officers know they were looking into cars
- Needs further explanation like if they had a good reason to be in the area
- Where did the information come from

**Form 3** – Reason for stop & search – Strong smell of cannabis on person

Panels comments

- Cannabis is illegal so yes reasonable grounds to conduct a stop & search

**Form 4** – Reason for stop & search – Stopped outside factory that had been burgled and walked away.

Panels comments

- More detail needed, did they match a description?
- Yes they should be searched because they walked away
- They may have walked away because they don't like being stopped or they may have felt intimidated

**Form 5** – Reason for stop & search – Called to location, youths drinking/damaging

Panels comments

- What does it mean by youths
- Who got them the alcohol
- Yes fair to stop & search
- Do you always trust the information given by the public who phone the police
- Could the officers have put a log number on form

**Form 6** – Reason for stop & search – Known nominal thought to be stealing

Panels comments

- Not much to go by
- If suspected by shop staff then they must of done something

**Form 7** – Reason for stop & search – Two males seen talking and acting sus, exchanging items in a tasking area

Panels comments

- Happy with reason for stop & search
- More detail than just sus

**Form 8** – Reason for stop & search – Person has attempted to put items in to bag/shoplifting

Panels comments

- Common, fair stop

**Form 9** – Reason for stop & search – Male disposed of item on seeing police

Panels comments

- More detail of what was thrown away if possible.

**Form 10** – Reason for stop & search – Detained by security after damage to machine at eat central

Panels comments

- Yes seems acceptable
- It has the same stop time as search time

5b. Police officer Ross Evans from the LPT introduces himself and gives an explanation of the property recording system Immobilise.

5c. CI ROWE asks the panel as a whole if they are happy with the stop & search forms and if they believed stop & search was needed to which the panel replied:

- Looking at the forms was useful
- Most forms need more detail
- Yes if used appropriately
- It makes people safe

CI ROWE explains that a Police officer will always speak to a person first to gain further detail and to see if they can offer an explanation before a search is conducted.

CI ROWE stated that in the future Police may routinely wear body cameras and that police must lead by example, he then explaining that any member of the public that is subject to a stop & search is free to record the stop and there are many examples of this on youtube.

6. Force and national development in stop & search

CI ROWE made the following comments

- Training has been given to all officers to upgrade knowledge
- Supervisor training given on stop & search
- Advice given to officers including positive and negative feedback

**Question** – Would you stop & search a person with lots of money on them?

**Answer(PC EVANS)** – I would ask questions to why they have money on them first, PC EVANS then gave an example of a stop & search he conducted that had a positive outcome.

7. Forthcoming procedure for recording stop & search

CI ROWE made the following comments

- There will be a new recording process on the Dudley LPU from May 2014.
- Home security to review stop & search powers
- In the future there will a website for the public to view stop & searches in a specific area.

8. –

9. –

**10.** Any questions

**Question** - Does training involve knowledge about race?

**Answer**(CI ROWE) – Yes with special inputs.

**Question** – Are there any plans to educate the public about stop & search

**Answer**(CI ROWE) – Yes at force level.

**Question** – Should cannabis be legalised?

**Answer**(CI ROWE) – Cannabis is currently a class B drug.

**Question** – Are there more alcohol or drug offences?

**Answer**(CI ROWE) – More alcohol related offences.

**Question**(CI ROWE) – Would anybody be interested in chairing the next meeting?

**Answer** – Alexander KENDALL to chair the next meeting

**11.** Next meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 1830 hours