

# **Solihull Independent Advisory Group**

## **Stop and Search review**

**Date:** 2 June 2014

**Location:** Vanessa Carroll Suite

### **Agenda**

1/ introduction – process / powers

2/ Monthly review – Feb/Mar/Apr + May provisional data, include conversion rate and Disproportionality rate.

3/ Comparison data – Force V Borough

4/ Examine individual forms

5/ Feedback

6/ Future process / improvement plan

### **Notes**

8 members present. Including 2 new members and one member from youth IAG

Reviewed processes and issues previously identified, recap last panel meeting in March.

Discussed data for quarter, encouraging response from panel members regarding increase in proportion of positive disposals including arrests. Panel supported the focus on use of powers and standards of data quality by supervisors and agreed that this has had a very positive effect upon the standard of submissions and would appear to have brought about an appropriate level of focus by officers on how they use their powers.

32 forms examined, main points raised were; conducting searches of groups of people in vehicles due to smell of cannabis, meaning of suspicious – although panel accepts that it is subjective, concerns were raised over lack of detail to explain suspicions on two forms. Agreement that these concerns will be raised with the individual officers.

Discussion regarding introduction of new electronic system, panel members were encouraged that data would be quickly accessible, but were concerned as to whether officers would be prompted to use the correct power by radio operators in the event that an error was evident at the time of recording a stop and search. Reassurance given regarding ethical behaviour of staff, and agreement that Inspector Sarling will feedback on experience of pilot LPUs at next meeting.

Panel member raised the Home Secretary's statement regarding 'unlawful' searches and queried whether WMP rejection rate mirrored this. Explanation given that WMP rejection rate is not

necessarily the same data that Home Secretary would have used to support her views and that WMP data includes administrative errors (failure to complete boxes) and this may not mean a power has been used unlawfully. Reassurance given that any identified searches where supervisors are not satisfied that powers have been properly applied would be tackled directly with officers and where appropriate further training or performance management would be implemented.

Agreement that panel will continue to include IAG and YIAG members as well as general members and that meetings would fall in line with alternate IAG dates. Members agreed to assist in seeking new members and to support activities to publicise the panel within the Borough.

Next meeting dates;

29 September – 6.15pm

26 January – 6.15pm