

Stop search scrutiny group

Tues 16th October 2012

Birmingham Central Police Station

Present: Ashley Dhanoa (AD), Giorgi Pertaia (GP) Charmaine Burton (CB) Aisha Iqbal(AI) Haroon Rashid (HR) Martin Brown (MB) Richard Moore (RM) Danny Long (DL), Ifty Ahmed(IA)

Apologies: Daniel Grant (DG), Avril Grant (AG), Awil Hussein (AH), Daher Ahmed (DA) Abdullah Adow(AA), Kennley Bailey

	Topics	Action
1.	Apologies received from above.	
2.	<p>Items Discussed</p> <p>Introductions and welcome and IA provided an update for actions from previous meeting:</p> <p>1/ Still awaiting an update regarding how the Met are reviewing their stop and search procedures. Supt Danny Long will get an update for the next meeting</p> <p>2/ Freedom of information requests are replied to within 20 days</p> <p>3/ PC Martin Brown to share information around emerging patterns during this meeting.</p>	<p>An update will be provided of the work going on in the MET</p>
3	<p>Introduction from Superintendent Danny Long including experience in the professional standards (complaints) department and overview of his expectations of the group, provided insight of the complaints procedure. An explanation was given of the “service recovery” system which allowed a speedier and more effective resolution for some complaints. AI received confirmation that service recovery issues are not recorded as complaints and this was important as it may not show emerging trends.</p> <p>CB commented on how intrusive stop search was not only for the person being searched but also to onlookers. RM confirmed that officers don’t always realise how intrusive searching is. They are taught the legislation around what and how to do it but sometimes the emotional impact on how it feels is missed by officers. AI commented on three concerns which young people comment on:</p> <p>1/ How officers approach the group. 2/ The explanation of why officers are there and what they intend to do. 3/ The discrimination and disproportionate nature of stop and search amongst BME communities.</p> <p>GP stated there are approx half a million Eastern European people in the West-Midlands. Unfortunately no real way of capturing this. They are an emerging community but an invisible community as they are shown as “white other”. He stated the communities are mistrusting of the Police as they perceive them as a tool of the ruling elite to enforce dictator’s rule back home in their own countries. Communication between the communities and the Police in this country needs to improve and he felt his group could contribute to this and the partnership working needs to improve.</p>	<p>Danny Long to link in with Georgi Pertaia regarding specific concerns raised around Eastern European community</p>

4	<p>IA gave an overview of what the group has achieved during the last three months. The highlights are we have listened to concerns around section 60 searches and none have been authorised for the last 4 months. RM explained this change of approach to section 60 started some 12 months ago but it was reassuring to the group that the different style of approach has been adopted. Supervisor and front line officer training is taking place around stop and search and the expected standards required from officers. Local Policing figures are provided to the group to provide constituency context. We were looking at more effective ways of getting a positive message out to our communities and an Iphone application has been designed. A web based chat to discuss stop and search was being introduced including capturing live feedback on our neighbourhood websites.</p>	<p>Update required regarding promotion opportunities</p>
5	<p>Acting Police Sergeant Martin Brown gave a presentation of the local picture around stop and search and identified the following key points:</p> <p>The local examination of stop and search is essential as the true picture is masked by national population statistics. West-Midlands has a younger population compared to the National average .</p> <p>Age is a key issue within analysis of stop search.</p> <p>Resident data provides a useful means of assessing disproportionate practice but “street availability” and “officer availability” will play a part. The 2011 census data is required to update our analysis.</p>	
6	<p>Meeting summarised by Supt Danny Long and each member was asked what direction they now wanted the group to take and report back before the next meeting so we could discuss the way forward. All agreed we knew what the issues were and we now needed to look at proposals for solving these concerns.</p> <p>Discussions took place around alternative venue. CB suggested obtaining sponsorship from City centre business’s to provide venue and refreshments. DL said he would pursue this avenue and report back</p> <p>20:30 meeting concluded.</p>	<p>Proposals required from each member as to what solutions are needed to improve trust and confidence around stop and search which including the Police also bringing suggestions</p>
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting Tues 27/11/12 1800-2000 Birmingham Central Police station Tues 15/01/13 1800-2000 Birmingham Central Police station</p>	