

Sandwell Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel.

Summary of Meeting...26 June 2014.

Attendance.

Deep Sandhu – chair.
Antonia Montoi
Carol Gault.
Tariq Karim.
Sanjit Dhadwal.
Adam Shaikh.
Samil Ramzan
James Johnson.
Insp Jack Boardman – police.
PC Phil Tedstill – police.

Discussions.

Welcome to the panel for Samil Ramzan and Adam Shaikh, two new youth members who will be valuable additions.

eSearch

Main body of the meeting concentrated on eSearch, the new stop and search recording system for west Midlands Police. Sandwell were fortunate enough to have use of the system first in the West Midlands on the 1st April, so were in a position to evaluate what has gone well and what needs working on. The system includes the facility for police supervisors to audit a record when it is submitted, and each record is marked as satisfactory or not. Feedback can then be supplied to individual officers where necessary.

The panel were able to conduct a dip sample of fourteen records on screen in the conference room (photo on website). Of the fourteen records, the panel rejected two as insufficient in their grounds. What was pleasing is that police supervisors had rejected the same two records, for the same reasons, meaning a consistency and transparency.

Statistics.

The panel moved on to statistics for the last three months. These have been taken from eSearch, hence the panel now have a say in what they would like to see on the document. An area that impressed was the ability to 'map' every stop and search conducted which allows the viewer to see a picture of our policing unit and the activity that has taken place, and this can be drilled right down to a street. From

there each record can be examined to give a picture of what the search was for and ethnicity, which is important for examining disproportionality.

Education.

Adam and Samil asked what provision there is on the West Midlands Police website for young people to engage with stop and search, i.e, to make that part of the website look attractive. The panel agreed to look at other force websites and look for some ideas of good practice and then see if West Midlands could replicate.

Next Steps.

The panel has now been running for some eighteen months, and has achieved a great deal so far, so decisions need to be made regarding where it goes next in terms of the next areas to look at. Deep Sandhu suggested a link up with other force Scrutiny Panels to share good practice and ideas with other LPU's. Panel members will be undertaking patrol with officers from the Local Priority Team at Sandwell to experience stop and search first hand.

Actions.

1. Next meeting set for 25 September 2014.
2. Panel to look at other force websites for youth engagement opportunities.
3. Statistics for Sandwell to concentrate on patrol areas.
4. Panel recruitment.