

## **DRAFT**

### Solihull Stop & Search Scrutiny Panel

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Location: Solihull Police Station

Present: Mr Baker, Mr Page, Mr Sumner and Insp. Sarling. Apologies for absence from Mr Husain.

The panel met independently of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG), for the first time, as the IAG had failed to convene on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Insp. Sarling apologized for the failure to notify the panel members of that IAG meeting being canceled.

Insp. Sarling explained in detail the new electronic system in place since August 2014, which incorporates a number of features to accurately record stop & search (S&S), the reasons given, the outcome and supervisory oversight. There is a mapping facility – which can show police designated and Home Office designated 'priority areas'.

Officers contact one of the three force contact centres by phone, provide the details and the operator asks questions from a drop-down menu for the reasons and outcome. There was a legacy issue with this, as Solihull had tested a previous system which was cumbersome and currently 15-20% of S&S are entered retrospectively (compared to 5-10% elsewhere IN WMP). It was expected this number would reduce as officers gained confidence and the contact centres responded effectively to calls.

S&S by non-Solihull officers was now immediately available for use and review. The officers own supervision remained responsible for oversight.

In August 76 S&S were conducted and in September 81. Mapping shows that the S&S were mainly in the 'priority areas': Chelmsley Wood, Lyndon / Olton and Solihull Town Centre.

A third of S&S had a police designated 'positive outcome' and Insp. Sarling stressed there was **no history locally of complaints arising from the use of S&S.**

Over the two months just under 15% of those subject to a S&S were arrested.

Note the new system had an anomaly recording S.1 PACE and Going Equipped separately when they were the same in effect.

Half of all S&S are for drugs, which led to a discussion over the different perceptions of all S&S between those stopped and members of the public who noticed. One member noted that very few Solihull S&S are for weapons (2-3 per month), which appeared contrary to the public expectation in Birmingham. Insp. Sarling explained the local context was quite different. Yes there was violence in public spaces, there was little intelligence to make it a priority for S&S.

The number of BME people subject to S&S was explained, with Solihull using as a baseline the 2011 Census data. This did not allow for the movement around the borough, notably visits for further education and from the adjacent areas of east Birmingham. It is now possible to review whether an officer uses their powers only with BME people for example and identify when several people are stopped at one time, e.g. four BME in a vehicle.

This issue would be reviewed again when a full three months data was available.

The Panel would suggest a separate mapping display is used for BME S&S, with an explanation, when the quarterly data is made available on the PCC's website, as this remains an issue in focus locally and with the Home Secretary (*Link to her conference speech, which she opened talking about S&S:*

<http://press.conservatives.com/post/98799073410/theresa-may-speech-to-conservative-party-conference> ).

There was a discussion about the Home Secretary's 'Best Use of Stop & Search' announcement on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, which WMP had agreed to follow. See: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/346922/Best\\_Use\\_of\\_Stop\\_and\\_Search\\_Scheme\\_v3.0\\_v2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/346922/Best_Use_of_Stop_and_Search_Scheme_v3.0_v2.pdf)

Two of the four points were discussed: data recording - the new system does this. As for the public observing the use of S&S, locally this appeared impractical given the number of S&S.

The format of the new system did not enable Insp. Sarling to show the panel individual, anonymous S&S; this would be rectified for the next meeting.

There was a PCC 'summit' on S&S and the role of panels; details would be forwarded to members. Identified as 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014, at 1745hrs @ Tally Ho.

It was anticipated that S&S would be reviewed locally again, at a reformed IAG with a meeting in November 2014. The panel members would be happy to join the IAG.