



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Stop and Search Scrutiny panel

Location: Stetchford Police Station

Date and Time: 17th March 2022

In Attendance: (Alex French (AF) Chair) Simon Graham (WMP Inspector SG), Natalie Cox (NC), Tina Bickley (TB), Janet, Umar, Alina (Police Cadets), Summer Rivers (SR)

Apologies: Delroy Madden, Mr Ali, Mohammed Sharif



	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and introduction Minutes of the last meeting, update on any actions taken from last meeting	<p>The following actions have been taken against the points raised at the last meeting on the 20th January 2022.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why when force is being used are less incidents being recorded on Body Worn Footage? Update; The figure for BE NPU compliance is usually around 86% irrespective of the number of UoF incidents. Jan 21 – Jan 22 = 86.9%.. Aug 21 – Jan 22 = 86%. In the same dates BE was always higher then force data of around 80%. Ideally all Use of Force will be captured on BWV, however due to the nature of incidents of this type, coupled with the fact many staff until earlier this year did not have BWV it is highly unlikely a 100% rate is possible.2. How do you gain reassurance that Officers are not resulting to the use for force quicker when a black person is involved due to unconscious or even conscious bias? What actions do the force undertake to reassure themselves that all people are treated equally? Update; this was discussed during the last panel but the methods of scrutiny we employ are the safeguard to identify practice and any bias shown by officers.3. Action a Praise & Reward for the officer PC 5349 (Stop & Search record 2). Update; Completed4. How can you ensure that eSearch records are signed off within an appropriate timeframe? Update; There is no set time that records should be signed off within, however on BE NPU we expect them to be reviewed within 5 days. The governance of this is down to local managers to ensure staff stay on top of this task. Data regarding signs offs is also shared across the NPU by me.5. Is there a problem with ensuring that video footage is correctly stored so that it is available if needed for prosecution or becomes unavailable/gets wiped if not needed? Update; Depending on the nature of an incident there is a category under which it should be saved. That category has a direct correlation to the length of time it is retained. The aspect of saving it correctly is controlled by each officer so there will be on occasion an error.6. Where are the ethnicity descriptors drawn from? Update; I have spoken to the Superintendent who is Force Silver lead. He states the terms are broad descriptors rather than an exact match to ethnic background and will be drawn from nationally recognized and used categories7. Continue to send the data presentation out at least a week before the panel meeting. Update; this is now happening.



2.	UPDATE on stop and search data from Inspector Graham	<p>Stop and Search</p> <p>Across BE although the Positive Outcome Rate has fallen from the preceding two months, however it is still higher than for the force as a whole. Within the Impact Areas there has been an increase in the Positive Outcome Rate. NC asked about the setting of 'targets' or 'expected percentages' for Positive Outcome Rates - would they ever get to 50%? AF expressed concern that expectations that come from a political view point may be driven by the need for re-election rather than improving Stop and Search as a policing tool. Would a language of expectations regarding Positive Outcomes lead to more targeted Stop & Searches whilst missing out on proactive, preventative ones?</p> <p>The percentage of records that meet the required standard has improved which could be evidence of the internal review process instigated by SG having an impact.</p> <p>Across the force and BE as a whole find rates for drugs, knives and firearms have fallen from the preceding two months. The only increase has been seen in the Impact Areas for Fire arms where a significant increase in find rate has been seen.</p> <p>The 'disproportionality ratio' for Asian searches has stayed the same compared to the previous two months however there has been a large increase in the Black Search Ratio which now stands at 3.4 whereas previously it was 1.9. There appears to be a much higher variation in the Black Search Ratio compared to the Asian Search Ratio across the last three data sets. Asian Search Ratio was 3.4 (Sept-Oct), 2.4 (Nov-Dec), 2.4 (Jan-Feb) whereas the Black Search Ratio was 3.7 (Sept-Oct), 1.9 (Nov-Dec), 3.4 (Jan-Feb). Are there any reasons to explain the trend in the Black Search Ratio? How can you be sure that this variance isn't down to prejudicial and discriminatory policing?</p> <p>Use of Force</p> <p>There have been slightly fewer recorded uses of force across BE. The % recorded on Body Worn footage has fallen to 85.9%, which is still higher than for the force as a whole.</p> <p>When ethnicity is considered the use of force ration of Asian to White is 0.7 (previously 0.8) and for Black to White 2.2 (previously 2.5). It was noted once again that the data seems to suggest that if you are black you are more likely to have Force Used Against you that a White or Asian person. How do the Police force robustly monitor and evaluate that use of force against black people?</p>
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<p>3.</p>	<p>Dip sample of stop and search</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SSBE-8P-153687 Search of C by PC 247840 on 2/2/22 2. SSBE-DR-151439 Search of C by PC 24201 on 11/1/22 3. SSBE-KA-150931 Search of M by PC 22267 and 7/1/22 4. SSBE-2B-152855 Search of S by PC 24201 on 25/1/22 5. SSBE-7L-152430 Search of S by PC 235690 on 21/1/22 	<p><u>Record 2 selected by Alina</u></p> <p>The panel felt that the Officer dealt with the situation in a very calm, focused, positive and non threatening manner. The Officer showed care and empathy for the person being searched. Action a Praise and Reward.</p> <p><u>Record 5 selected by Umar</u></p> <p>Although the search was conducted in a calm, professional and non escalatory manner the panel had a number of concerns and questions:</p> <p>Why has the ESearch record not been signed off nearly 3 months after the incident?</p> <p>Why was the subject handcuffed?</p> <p>Why does the contents of the ESearch record not match the Body Worn Footage? If the contents of the ESearch record were correct why would the Officer not seize the car if the subject was under the influence of drugs?</p> <p>Is it morally/ethically right for a subject to have an ESearch record assigned to them that didn't seem to bear witness to what actually happened?</p> <p>NC raised the issue of handcuffing and how Officers determine when it is necessary when carrying out Stop and Searches. It didn't seem like the subject in Record 5 needed to be handcuffed. SG explained that there will be a back story that the officers bring with them which will shape their reading of the situation.</p> <p>The panel requested that handcuffing data for Stop and Searches be included in the data presentation.</p> <p>The Police Cadets left the meeting after Record 5 had been viewed.</p>
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4.	<p>Dip sample of Use of Force records</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Incident 661/16/1/2 2. PC 21064.2. Incident 3919/13/2/22. PC 23507.3. Incident 3325/4/1/2 2. PC 23292.4. Incident 1721/27/2/22. PC 223195. Incident 2055/11/1/22. PC 23598	<p><u>Record 3 chosen by TB</u> Although it was difficult to see when the Pava spray had been discharged the panel felt that the use of force was fair and proportionate. There was some discussion about the officers delayed response in trying to bring the incident to a close by apprehending the subject.</p> <p><u>Record 4 chosen by SR</u> The aftercare received by the subject by two police officers appeared to be caring and well administered. There was some discussion about the appropriateness for the police dog handler and the dog to remain in such close proximity to the subject once he had been detained by two other police officers. It was also noted that the use of force was not actually recorded on any video footage. The officers Body Worn Footage only capture the aftermath of the dog bite not the incident itself.</p>
5.	<p>Action noted from discussions for update at next panel</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Would a language of expectations regarding Positive Outcomes lead to more targeted Stop & Searches whilst missing out on proactive, preventative ones?2. Are there any reasons to explain the trend in the Black Search Ratio over the last six months?3. How can you be sure that this variance isn't down to prejudicial and discriminatory policing?4. How do the Police force robustly monitor and evaluate that use of force against black people?5. With respect to Stop & Search record number 5 Why has the ESearch record not been signed off nearly 3 months after the incident?6. With respect to Stop & Search record number 5 why does the contents of the Search record not match the video evidence?7. Include data for the number of Stop & Searches that involved handcuffs in the data presentation.8. Instigate a Reward and Praise for the officer in Stop & Search record 2.
6.	<p>Date and location of next panel</p>	<p>26th May @ 6pm Stetchford Police Station</p>