

## Birmingham North Stop and Search/Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

**Location:** Sutton Police Station

**Date and Time:** 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 6pm

**In Attendance:** Linda Hines (Community Member and Chair LH), Natalie Cox (PCC Office NC), Simon Graham (WMP Inspector SG), Lydia Furnell (Community Member LF), Andy Woodroffe (Community Member AW).

**Apologies:** Khalid Mahmood (Community Member), Kate Foley (Community Member).

**Absent:** Ram Bhattacharjee (Community Member), Muhammed Sultan (Community Member)

It was noted that Sharon Welch (Community Member) has resigned.

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and introduction Minutes of the last meeting, update on any actions taken from last meeting	<p>Minutes from the last meeting were discussed by attendees.</p> <p><b>Action 1:</b> RG Asked for ethnic breakdown of positive stop and search. <b>This data is included in the presentation Inspector Graham will give</b></p> <p><b>Action 2:</b> ZC-136201 PC SF search of AC on 1<sup>st</sup> June 21 - the officer in this incident did not have his body worn camera switched on. Report stated that the BWC was on. <b>The officer has stated he doesn't recall not recording the incident. He did submit an intelligence log that is within the system. I have notified his Sgt/Insp as he has not recorded incidents previously</b></p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> AF-136690 PC SA search of RB 10<sup>th</sup> June 21 - SG reporting back next meeting. Panel agreed that officers handled the situation well. <b>This case related to a male stopped and searched at the roadside after a report of a male threatening others with a knife. No knife was found but he was arrested for threats he reportedly made. After he was interviewed he was released without charge.</b></p>



2.	UPDATE on stop and search data from Inspector Graham	<p>Discussed and updated on performance data for July/August including outcome rates, disproportionality data and total number of searches.</p> <p><b>Action for future meetings: SG to provide details of any repeat searches undertaken of the same individuals on more than two occasions.</b></p>
3.	<p>Dip sample of stop and search</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 3B-139097 PC MP search of JB on 17<sup>th</sup> July at 1825</li><li>2. 7U-138849 PC VP search of NB on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 1934</li><li>3. 9Y-140010 PC JS search of HT on 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 1759</li><li>4. LJ-138990 PC MD search of CE on 15<sup>th</sup> July at 2009</li></ol>	<p>SG stated that the 30sec delay in audio starting when videoing was being looked as to both video and audio starting to record from the start.</p> <p><b>Search record 3 chosen by LF</b></p> <p>This incident related to a report that a male dressed in a puffer jacket and dark tracksuit bottoms was in possession of a large knife. When officers attended, this person was detained and searched. Nothing was found on him.</p> <p><b>Comments from panel:</b></p> <p>The officer had stated on the Stop and Search Record that no date of birth had been given, but the video clearly showed that it had. The record had been signed off by the officers supervisor as "Meeting the Standard", but the panel felt that it didn't as there was a mistake on the form. The officer began to engage with the youths quite aggressively, including swearing and name calling, which we felt inflamed the situation. Once separated from the others, the officer dealt with the suspect very professionally. On returning to the main group, the officer once again started using inflammatory language and both sides became agitated. The panel felt that the situation wouldn't have escalated if the officer had been calmer in the first instance.</p> <p><b>Action: SG to pass on comments to the officers supervisor.</b></p> <p><b>Search record no 2 chosen by AW</b></p> <p>This was a report from a member of the public that a male was in possession of a firearm. Description and location was also given. Officers attended and this person matched the description and was in the</p>



		<p>location described by the caller. He was detained and searched. No items were found and no further action was taken.</p> <p><b>Comments from the panel:</b> Officers acted in the correct manner. No further comments.</p>
4.	<p>Dip sample of Use of Force (UoF) records</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. PC EM log 269/17<sup>th</sup> August</li><li>2. PC RH log 761/20<sup>th</sup> August</li><li>3. PC JC log 1529/24<sup>th</sup> August</li><li>4. PC AJ log 2513/8<sup>th</sup> August</li></ol>	<p><b>UoF record no 3 chosen by LH</b> This incident was dealt with by armed officers. A male who was wanted for serious offences was located at an address. Due to the risk he posed to officers a Taser was deployed to bring the male under control for the safety of all concerned.</p> <p><b>Comments from the panel:</b> Reasonable force used due to the possible danger to local residents and officers.</p> <p><b>UoF record no 1 chosen by LH</b> This incident was called to Police by the Ambulance service. A male was threatening to self-harm and the Ambulance would not attend unless Police were there in attendance. Upon entering the address, the male refused to obey instructions and a Taser was drawn and the male was red dotted, but it was not fired. He was safely detained and was later arrested for an outstanding criminal allegation against him.</p> <p><b>Comments from the panel:</b> Lydia Furnell stated that having watched the video where both the ambulance and police were involved, I felt that it highlighted some important points. It was clear that different approaches, facilitated different outcomes. The police officer's approach was very forceful and the tone of voice was loud and abrupt. The officer took this approach as soon as she entered the room and the young man was very hostile towards the officers because of this. The paramedic's however, were calm and their tone was soft. This had a positive outcome on the gentleman, as he calmed down straight away and spoke calmly to the paramedics. The officer then continued to</p>



		<p>argue with the gentleman making him angry again. I understand that there was a mark on the individuals name for violence towards officers (spitting), but there were also marks on his file to inform officers that he has several learning disabilities. This should surely change the way that someone is approached.</p> <p>The incident has highlighted to me that West Midlands Police would, and should benefit from some sort of Autism Awareness Training, so that officers can be made aware of the sensory needs and triggers that someone with a learning disability may have. This could lead to potentially hostile situations being defused a lot quicker so that assistance can be given as and when needed with a better understanding from both sides.</p> <p>I am happy to have a discussion with someone from WMP if they would like more information or feel that the training is appropriate.</p> <p>I have worked with people with learning disabilities for nearly 10 years and I have a degree in health and social care. This is an issue I am very passionate about and I hope that there will be a positive outcome for all.</p>
5.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	<p><b>ACTION: Action for future meetings: SG to provide details of any repeat searches undertaken of the same individuals on more than two occasions.</b></p> <p><b>Stop &amp; Search record no3</b> Action: SG to pass on comments to the officers supervisor.</p> <p><b>Use of Force record no1</b> Action: SG to ensure that Lydia Furnell is contacted to discuss.</p>
6.	Date and location of next panel	4th November 6pm Sutton Police Station