

Custody Scrutiny panel

Date: Wednesday 7th May 2025

Time: 18:00- 20:00

Location: Perry Barr Custody Suite

Panel Members: Mohammed Nadeem, Stassi Chilas, Alison Walker

WMP: Supt Emma Spencer (ES), Andy Edwards (AE) and Chris Doody (CD)

OPCC: Natalie Cox (NC)

Apologies: Dawn Dance, Gary Williams Jane Edgington, Shahida Raza, Joanna Camille-St. Marie, Rebecca Torr, Jacqui Peterkin, Adil Bashir

| | Item Discussed | Actions |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | <p>Welcome and introduction by the NC.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting, update on any actions taken from last meeting.</p> | <p>Dawn sends her apologies for today, Natalie will Chair and note take today's meeting.</p> <p>Action 1 Update to confirm whether it was the consultation process or rationale which informed strip search (SS) decision.</p> <p>The rationale should be complete before sign off, it should clearly set out why the search is required and what options have been taken to mitigate. The sign off is the final check that these have been considered and evidenced. Decision will sit with Chief Inspector or Inspector.</p> <p>SSUOF Commission Panel members that had attended were happy in general and felt could ask questions and were given time to challenge.</p> |



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| | | <p>Data wasn't questioned enough on the day but was directed by questions from the panel.</p> <p>Maybe too much data given. Consider maybe moving Custody earlier on the agenda.</p> <p>Really grateful for attendance by Custody Panel and feedback.</p> |
| 2. | <p>UPDATE: AE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update on new tech being used and update on operating model- Demonstrated live portal to the panel - mean wait times, benefits allow mobilising officers to more effectively manage risks levels, e.g., how many in CCTV cells, overview of how many cells are available.- Force Contact to make decision, working well. Form completed including vulnerabilities and need for Health Care Professionals (HCP) etc- Teams updated in live time on who is coming into custody.- Departure process – much more efficient allows investigations to queue virtually to release, so reduces waiting times in block | <p>Question asked around Pace clock if 24hr is close etc. – this can be prioritised in process to ensure not missed.</p> <p>Questions asked around lack of HCP in some suites such as Stechford and will this process take this into consideration when sending people- update that levels of HCP have picked up, but yes small suits can be impacted and occur gaps.</p> <p>This gap has increased from like 60-95% HCP provision coverage. New process should help avoid by triaging PICS being moved suites due to lack of provision.</p> <p>Question asked around tracking timelines of people waiting in custody –</p> <p>but will be focusing on above before we do look it this in more detail.</p> |



AE update on Data Pack

- Arrest - increase in arrest now stabilizing, child arrest staying stable across the year. Perry Barr has busiest cells
- Strip search data-relatively stable with 4.4% of population in custody being SS. In Apr- lower than national average.
- Reduced levels in disproportionality – 0.55 Asian and 0.92 Black, as last panel saw a slight increase above 1, compared to population of PIC.
- SS outcomes flagged as needed to be checked as looks like it was added incorrectly – will take as an action
- Positive outcomes – don't reflect the grounds or reason to search on outcome as long as process is followed and correct.
- Child SS – 4 strip searches to remove item in April, no incidents of 'No AA present' and no urgency recorded. All SS had an AA present.
- Child SS tracking for CI authorisation showed for



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|------------|--|---------|-------|------------|--|-----|----|--------|--|---|
| | <p>all in April and last 3 months.</p> <p>Use of Force (UoF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slight Drop in UoF forms being submitted – work ongoing to increase this to where it's expected to be. - Body Worn Video (BWV) 76.6% of all UoF incidents. Looking to keep improving on. - 11.9 % of all Custody records result in UoF being used - BWV of UoF on child rates – still expecting to be higher and was challenged by the panel, - Similarly low disproportionality in both. Strip Search and UoF. | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>3.</p> | <p>Dip sample record Strip Search - All dip sampled records were selected at random by Chair at pre-meet with NC, CD</p> <p>5 SS records selected with 2 records with CCTV or BWV, which were recorded to view process of decision making and confirmation of authorization process.</p> <p>Out of the Five records:</p> <p>Search Result: no item found 5/5</p> <p>Do the panel feel the reason for the strip search was necessary and reasonable?</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Answers</td> <td>Count</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Percentage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>92.31%</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Answers | Count | Percentage | | Yes | 12 | 92.31% | | <p>Record 1 – BWV of Authorisation Positive</p> <p>Panel felt strip search was appropriate and justified and clearly detailed and explained</p> <p>Good discussion between Sgts about rationale. The only concern was both arresting officers had different views.</p> <p>Record 2 BWV of Authorisation Positive</p> <p>Panel felt this was a very good example of the process of strip search authorisation, everything was clearly expressed and explained.</p> <p>Took time to listen and give PIC the chance to offer what he had on him.</p> <p>Good use of Wand and AA – Mom clearly understood her purpose and role.</p> |
| Answers | Count | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 12 | | | | | | | | | |
| 92.31% | | | | | | | | | | |



| | <p>No 1 7.69%</p> <p>Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why a strip search was authorised?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>11</td> <td>84.62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>1</td> <td>7.69%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unsure</td> <td></td> <td>1 7.69%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Overall scrutiny panel feedback:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Positive</td> <td>9</td> <td>69.23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neutral</td> <td>4</td> <td>30.77%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Answers | Count | Percentage | Yes | 11 | 84.62% | No | 1 | 7.69% | Unsure | | 1 7.69% | Answers | Count | Percentage | Positive | 9 | 69.23% | Neutral | 4 | 30.77% | <p>Good tone and time taken to explain process, stayed calm and kept PIC calm.</p> <p>Record 3 - Positive Panel felt grounds and narrative gave reasonable justification for strip search. Questions over the arrest type as were listed incorrectly, but with correct arrest, Panel agreed was justified.</p> <p>Record 4- Positive Panel felt strip search was justified based on narrative and grounds written. Panel felt safeguarding was in place when needed and strip was to protect the PIC from potential self-harm,</p> <p>Record 5 - Neutral Panel were split on this due to low numbers, meaning that outcome was neutral. Panel felt rationale was justified due to offence arrested for, but lacked the evidence that all avenues were explored to mitigate strip search such as Wands and Arch.</p> |
|----------|--|------------|-------|------------|-----|----|--------|----|---|-------|--|--|------------|---------|-------|------------|----------|---|--------|---------|---|--------|--|
| Answers | Count | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 11 | 84.62% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 4 | <p>Dip sample of Use of Force records All Dip sampled records were selected at random by Chair at pre-meeting with NC, CD</p> <p>5 Records selected. Records 1 & 2 selected for BWV. 4 records looked at.</p> <p>BWV RECORDS: From observing the BWV, do you feel the Use of Force was necessary and proportionate?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>3</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>3</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Answers | Count | Percentage | Yes | 3 | 50% | No | 3 | 50% | <p>Record 1 BWV – Negative Panel stressed the lack of control and de-escalation in this incident. Video started as officer was taking PIC to desk. The record states that this was due to PIC was trying run off at desk.</p> <p>The Panel felt that the levels of force used were triggered by the arresting officer, who did not de-escalate, but used force instead by pushing the child against the booking in desk, whose reaction then exacerbated the situation, leading to UoF being needed.</p> <p>Record 2 - Positive PIC would not listen to officers and had to be pushed back into cell which did not work.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Answers | Count | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 3 | 50% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No | 3 | 50% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



| <p>After watching the BWV, do you feel the rationale given on the paper record clearly justifies why that Use of Force was used</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>2</td> <td>33.33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>2</td> <td>33.33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not sure</td> <td>2</td> <td>33.33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Answers | Count | Percentage | Yes | 2 | 33.33% | No | 2 | 33.33% | Not sure | 2 | 33.33% | <p>UoF was necessary, reasonable and proportionate. Panel felt officers could not have let PIC walk out in first place, so that there wasn't a need to push them back, which could have prevented UoF. Slightly lacked empathy to why the YP had acted the way that they did but overall felt justified.</p> <p>Record 3 - Neutral MIXED This was a mixed response. Panel felt the required information is in the officer's narrative, but it is almost hidden in a wordy description, so not clear.</p> <p>The action taken was to stop the PIC from hurting herself until interview, but the aftercare should have been better, as the PIC had actively self-harmed.</p> |
|---|---------|------------|------------|----------|---|--------|----------|-------|------------|----------|---|--------|---|
| Answers | Count | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 2 | 33.33% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No | 2 | 33.33% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not sure | 2 | 33.33% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>What is your overall feedback after watching the BWV?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Negative</td> <td>3</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Positive</td> <td>2</td> <td>33.33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neutral</td> <td>1</td> <td>16.67%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Answers | Count | Percentage | Negative | 3 | 50% | Positive | 2 | 33.33% | Neutral | 1 | 16.67% | <p>Record 4 – Positive Officer's narrative is clear and gives sound justification for the UoF and positive thought around aftercare showed. Panel pointed out <i>why was mother at cell door</i> and stressed this may have contributed to some of the issues and influenced the PIC to act in the way that he did.</p> |
| Answers | Count | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Negative | 3 | 50% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 2 | 33.33% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neutral | 1 | 16.67% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Use of Force Records</p> <p>Do you feel the Use of Force was necessary and proportionate?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>6</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why that Use of Force was used?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>5</td> <td>83.33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Answers | Count | Percentage | Yes | 6 | 100% | Answers | Count | Percentage | Yes | 5 | 83.33% | |
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| Yes | 5 | 83.33% | | | | | | | | | | | |



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| 4. | <p>Action noted from discussions for update at next panel</p> | <p>Action 1:</p> <p>Feedback around what is being put in place to address low UoF completion forms? Incomplete forms may mean that data will be missing to inform future learning.</p> <p>Action 2:</p> <p>Feedback on why BWV use is lower for children and what force are doing to address this</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | <p>Date and location of next panel</p> | <p>Next panel to be held: Wednesday 9th July 2025 at Perry Barr Custody Suite.</p> <p>Please arrive on time - tea and coffee will be served at 5:45pm to allow us to start promptly.</p> <p>Perry Barr Custody Suite Holford Drive Birmingham B42 2TU</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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