

Birmingham South Stop and Search (S&S) and Use of Force (UoF) Scrutiny Panel

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Date and Time: Monday 4 November 2024 at 1600

In Attendance: Stassi Chilas (SC) (Interim-chair), Lisa Hill (LH), Natalie Cox (NC) (PCC's Office), Insp Matt Shaw (MS)

Apologies: Insp Claire Jones (CJ)

| | Item Discussed | Actions |
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| 1. | Welcome and introduction | <p>SC opened the meeting and welcomed panel members.</p> <p>SC explained that as Nick Reynolds had stood down as Chair he would act as Interim Chair until a new permanent Chair was appointed. He was happy to take nominations from anyone keen to take on the role.</p> |
| 2. | Update on Nick Reynolds and Tribute | <p>SC had spoken to Nick that day. He was downbeat and not in good health.</p> <p>Nick had had no further contact with WMP since he stepped down and had not received an apology. He was disappointed that, after 15 years, his relationship with WMP ended suddenly with no real recognition of the time, effort and commitment he had put in to the role. SC was keen to acknowledge that at the meeting.</p> <p>Nick felt that if anyone was unhappy with what he was doing or how he was doing it that they should have spoken to him and given him a chance to respond. He said he would actually have welcomed any challenges and the opportunity to discuss issues and make changes where appropriate. He said he felt like he had been pushed out.</p> <p>SC said that, while it had been Nick's decision to step down, it was a pity that he was not able to retire with dignity and some acknowledgement of his contribution.</p> <p>For the last 15 years Nick had been a cornerstone of scrutiny panels and IAGs across Birmingham. He had been instrumental in driving forward scrutiny groups for Stop & Search and Use of Force across Birmingham.</p> <p>While many officers and members came and went, Nick was a constant; he provided essential continuity.</p> |

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| 3. | Online vs In Person | <p>SC asked if members were happy to hold the panel meetings online or if they would prefer them to be in person. There were only a few members present but LH said she would like to be able to get together with other panel members.</p> <p>MS said he respected volunteers time and commitment and saw no reason why face to face meetings couldn't return to Bournville Lane Police Station.</p> <p>NC highlighted that scrutiny panels and IAGs we separate entities and operated separately and independently of each other.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Structure and Governance | <p>NC said that a new S&S/UoF information pack had been approved and would be rolled out in the near future together with training for panel members. Terms of Reference for panel chairs had also been circulated.</p> <p>Birmingham LPA was about to be divided into 3 operational districts: BW, BE and City Centre. However, the 4 current Birmingham scrutiny panels (BW, BS, BN and BE) were working well and would continue in that format.</p> <p>NC would advise when the next S&S Commission was due to take place.</p> <p>In the past, panel members had expressed their frustration at the lack of continuity from officers who would change roles frequently. SC said the panel should accept this as par for the course adding that the non-police members of the group would provide the necessary continuity.</p> <p>SC acknowledged the time and effort required to prepare reports and BWV footage for each panel and thanked MS and CJ for their work on top of their day-to-day duties.</p> <p>SC thanked NC for all her work behind the scenes, which would be fundamental as the panel moves forward.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Scrutiny of UoF Records | <p>MS gave a brief overview of recent UoF figures and BWV compliance for the WMP Force overall and Birmingham South (BS) for the period 1 Aug 24 – 30 Sep 24, summarised as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td></td><td><u>WMP</u></td><td><u>BS</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>UoF Forms</td><td>[]</td><td>731</td></tr> <tr> <td>BWV Compliant</td><td>92.1%</td><td>97%</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Disproportionality for BS.</u></p> <p>Asian 0.4 Black 1.0</p> | | <u>WMP</u> | <u>BS</u> | UoF Forms | [] | 731 | BWV Compliant | 92.1% | 97% |
| | <u>WMP</u> | <u>BS</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| UoF Forms | [] | 731 | | | | | | | | | |
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| | <p><u>Taser Tactics for BS.</u> Total 26 (12 drawn, 1 aimed, 11 red dot, 2 fired)</p> <p>No significant learning points.</p> <p>MS offered BWV footage from 6 incidents involving UoF, from which the following 3 were selected by individual panel members for scrutiny:</p> <p><u>UoF Incident #4. Log 3948 on 24 Sep 24.</u></p> <p>Officers were called to an incident involving an adult male brandishing a piece of wood. In what was a chaotic situation, the officers remained calm and focussed and the subject was taken to the ground and was non-compliantly handcuffed.</p> <p>Shortly afterwards, the subject claimed he was having a seizure. The officers checked his breathing and called an ambulance. He was taken to hospital but the paramedic team later reported that the seizure had not been genuine.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny panel decision:</u> The panel was satisfied that the UoF had been justified and proportionate.</p> <p><u>UoF Incident #5. Log 3948 on 24 Sep 24.</u></p> <p>At the same incident as above, in the ongoing chaotic situation, a mature woman was screaming and kicking. She was taken to the ground and non-compliantly handcuffed. A female officer who was assertive and in control of the situation also carefully helped the woman into the police car, although it was not clear why the handcuffs were taken off at this point.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny panel decision:</u> The panel was satisfied that the UoF had been justified and proportionate.</p> <p><u>UoF Incident #2. Log 2293 on 1 Aug 24.</u></p> <p>This incident took place on a bus. The female victim's father gave an account of a sexual assault to officers. A female officer appeared to recognise the subject, who was understood to have mental health issues and a drug and/or alcohol dependency. The subject was also wearing a medical boot on one leg, which may have been fractured. Two officers approached the subject and calmly tried patiently to convince him, for an extended period, to get off the bus. The officers remained calm despite the subject being abusive. He was eventually non-compliantly handcuffed and safely taken off the bus.</p> |
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| | | <u>Scrutiny panel decision:</u> While the panel was satisfied that the UoF had been justified, members commented that the officers lacked confidence and missed several opportunities to handcuff the subject and get him off the bus. The officers were clearly inexperienced, possibly student officers. |
| 6. | Scrutiny of S&S Records | <p>On behalf of CJ, MS gave a summary of stop and search activity in Birmingham South (BS) for Aug & Sep 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 265 eSearch records- 27.9% resulted in a positive outcome- 96.2% met the required standard- 84.2% were live records, and- 97.0% were recorded on body-worn video (BWV).- 8 were repeat subjects.- There had been no S60 searches in BS during this period. <p><u>Powers used</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 46.8% S23 Misuse of Drugs Act- 52.1% S1 PACE- 0% S60 CJPO Act 1994- 1.1% other powers inc Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 <p><u>Disproportionality</u> Asian: 1.9 Black: 3.7</p> <p>MS offered 6 e-Search records and their associated BWV footage, from which the following 2 were selected by panel members for scrutiny:</p> <p>Record ID: SSBW-GQ-269703955 on 29 Sep 24 Live/Retropective: Retrospective (due to arrest) Ethnicity/Sex: White male Powers Used: S1 PACE Outcome: Arrested – unrelated offence Details: ~6 officers attended a DV incident and told that the subject was thought to have taken a knife from the kitchen. Subject was found wearing a t-shirt and shorts and no shoes. He was agitated but officers were calm and reassuring resulting in him being handcuffed compliantly for the search. The searching officer gave a good GOWISELY explanation.</p> <p>Panel Decision: OK, the stop and search was carried out well.</p> <p>Follow Up: None</p> |



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| | | <p>Record ID: SSBW-7T-269502163 on 28 Sep 24 Live/Retrospective: Retrospective (due to arrest) Ethnicity/Sex: White male Powers Used: S1 PACE Outcome: Arrested – result of S&S Details: Officers called to 3 males seen removing tools from a vehicle. Subject matching the description was found hiding in bushes. He was uncooperative and disrespectful but female officer remained in control and gave a good GOWISELY explanation.</p> <p>Panel Decision: OK, a positive stop and search.</p> <p>Follow Up: None.</p> |
| 7. | Action noted from discussions for update at next panel | None |
| 8. | Any notes, questions, requests for the next Bi annual Stop and Search commission | None raised |
| 9. | Date and location of next panel meetings | Monday 27 January 2025 at 1600 online. Monday 10 March 2025 Monday 19 May 2025 Monday 7 July 2025 In person meetings would be advised in advance. |