Stop and Search Scrutiny panel

Location: Gavin Charlton Suite, Coventry Central Police Station, CV1 2JX

Date and Time: 03 April 2023 at 17.00hrs

In Attendance: Diane Tolley, Mary Burns, Dipak Panchal, Ali Dulah, Sgt Robert Mackay WMP, Natalie Cox OPCC, Peter Sturgeon WMP, B S Dhami, D Jones, P Mulcahy, Lynette Coulston, George Marsh, Amber Taroni, A Alleyne, Tony Swann Co-chair, G Vohra Co-chair, Andre Russell, Priya Gondalia, Asim Mumtaz, Robert Bronikowski,

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and introduction Minutes of the last meeting, update on any actions taken from last meeting	
2.	UPDATE on stop and search data from Police Sergeant 95 Rob conducted the presentation. Data from 1st January 2023 to 1st March 2023 from Coventry NPU (this doesn't include response officer's data). For the next qtr the figures may look a little higher as the new data set will include response officers i.e. those police officers on the front line.	Out of 1100 records there were 34% positive outcomes (ie. Where something was found relating to the search). A search may be that where a knife is being searched for, but drugs may be found. This doesn't make the search illegal, but administratively incorrect. 97% is the required standard. As a supervisor you need to look at the stop and search record. The standard as to the reason why the search happened (GOWISELY is the acronym used to provide information and determine the grounds). If any of these pieces are missing, or not explained fully that will mean that it doesn't meet the required standard. For example, if search is done for theft instead of drugs. When a supervisor signs off a stop search, the supervisor should have a discussion where the body worn camera is not used. 82 people are the repeat subjects of a search. Body worn video usage is force policy for stop and search. If it is not used, then there needs to be discussion as to why this hasn't

		Out of 1100 records, there were 143 arrests (12%) and 14 knives recovered. **Ethnic breakdown** The writing in the presentation cannot be easily seen by the attendees. GV joint chair asked if the information could please be shared before the meeting so that the panel can more properly digest the information and the data contained therein, with questions raised at the meeting. PS95 apologised as he has been off ill. How many blacks, get stopped against whites and Asians. If you're Asian you're 1.1 times more likely to be searched. 1.5 times more likely for Blacks. GV asked why because West Mid Force data is so different, if Asians are 1.8 times and black 2.8 times. PS95 said it may be because police are targeting areas more populated by Asian populated areas, but doesn't know. GV asked why Asians for example might be 1.8 times more likely across the force, but in Coventry 1.1 times more likely in Coventry. Why are we doing much much better compared to the force? PS95: This may be something for the force level scrutiny boards. It may also be because of the system has not been reset, and a different result may be produced if the data were run again. GV: For the next time, if there are any distorted figures, we need to be told about why the distortion has taken place, rather than taking the data at face value. It is disappointing that we meet every 3 months, but more robust information and detailed analysis is not available. This is not a reflection on PS95, but better information would be helpful. If things are better in Coventry, then we need to be able to see this clearly and then practices can be replicated. We cannot rely on myths. PS95: given time, we could pull more information than you think. The chairs suggest to meet up with PS95 to decide what sort of data would be more useful. There were 6 selections of stop and search by Tony and Dipak.

		3 selected for stop and search: Taser and incapacity spray have videos. Discussed and updated on performance data including outcome rates, disproportionality data and total number of searches.
3.	Dip sample of stop and search	Video#1: grounds: acting suspiciously, high crime area and avoidance of the police at 5.45pm. The detainee is heard saying, 'she's looking back and we need to split". When looking at these we need to be looking at Grounds, objects, Warrant card etc (GOWISELY). So we need to look at the video and look at the record to check whether or not the video is a true record of the search. A record number should be given at every stop and search. We are also looking at attitudes and dialogues. Did the officer explain the SS fairly and appropriately? **Feedback/ concerns:** Its not ideal when the camera is not on the officer that is doing the search. It was strange that the officer with the camera had to remind the searching officer the section under which the search was being conducted. The grounds were being given as he was being searched, rather than before. Every area is a high crime area. This is insufficient and not a standalone reason for a search. Panel said: I'm struggling to find the grounds on this one. Can't see who the officer was that completed the form. Final search video #4 (sscv jp 92963591): Search outside University library. Nothing found. Misuse of drugs act. Object is to find drugs. The video footage does not match the information detailed in the search form. The records do not match. The grounds is a legal requirement and this is not made out. A reason as 'high crime' is not sufficient for a search. There was nothing found, and the smell of cannabis alone is not enough. There needs to be more.
4.	Dip sample of Use of Force records	Video #2 (2833 15 March 23): use of force.

		Where use of force is considered, we need to consider whether the use of force was fair and proportionate, aftercare, and de-escalation of tension. Look at what is presented, because putting on a camera is not mandatory because of the situation. **Feedback/ concern** Question: The taser was used on a petrol forecourt, is this safe and okay. What is force policy? The officer getting out of the car did not say taser. There was no warning, and he followed her force. Was taser the right option and was it fair and reasonable (given the location and circumstances)? Another use of force video #3: We should have seen aftercare. The officer's use of foul language is not acceptable and escalated the problem. The officer with the camera is not facing the incident, so the camera is not picking up whats going on. The assailant resisting. What state was the guy in after the spray? There's no aftercare for the person sprayed.
5.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	Clearer statistics and data, with the request for the information to be provided in advance of the meeting so that panel members can properly digest the data and bring questions to the stop and search meeting.
6.	Any notes, questions, requests for the next Bi annual Stop and Search commission	As above.
7.	Date and location of next panel	Next stop and search, it will be on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 5 pm, Gavin Carlton room Coventry Central Police Station, CV1 2JX