Minutes of the Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel meeting
11th May 2015

Present: Amie Birkhamshaw, Jeffrey Burke, Stuart Nagler, Muna Sabbagh, Brenda Griffiths, Curtis Sage-Passant, Sam Hale and Dec Supt. Peter Fulham
Apologies: Sara Bedford, Tina Faraji, Jagtar Singh Dhindsa and Rosie Alphonse

1). Welcome and introductions

2). Approval of minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2015 were approved by the panel and will be posted on the Police and Crime Commissioner website.

3). Update non-attendees of discussions/actions

Discussion was held updating non- attendees from previous meeting.

4). Updated Terms of Reference

The terms of reference was reviewed and will continue to be reviewed periodically. Agreement was made to include some additional information each panel member to the Terms of Reference Section 2.1. Panel members present agreed the following information –

- Jeffrey Burke (Chair), Retired Judge, Resident of Flamstead
- Stuart Nagler, Chair of Audit Committee and Magistrate
- Muna Sabbagh, Law Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire
- Brenda Griffiths, Associate Member of College of Policing and Non-executive Director of Herts Community NHS Trust
- Curtis Sage-passant, Law Student, University of Hertfordshire

Action – PCC to email all panel members to confirm additional information required against each panel member name for TOR section 2.1. TOR will be finalised once this information is included and uploaded onto the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

5). Dip Sampling structure

Discussion was held on the different ways of structuring the dip sampling. The panel agreed to work initially in pairs or small groups with a view to review to adapt and vary arrangements dependent on panel members present. Following a question posed at a previous meeting AB asked if groups wanted to consider organising themselves according to type of search, but the panel was content to vary cases in order to give a better picture. It was noted there were approximately 600 entries for March/April 2015. If 10% of these cases were reviewed this would equal 60 cases per meeting to work through.

6). Completion of Dip Sampling

Dip Sampling was completed in two groups, one group of 2 and one of 3. One group worked on samples from those numbered 1 – 300 and the other group worked from samples numbered 300 and over.

7). Feedback and Discussion

The two groups compared findings and raised issues that required further clarification:

1) What happens if more than one person is in the position of suspicion and only one was stopped and searched? SN felt it was not a negative point if only one person was stopped and searched. But the panel felt they needed to know on what basis the decision was made to stop the individual as this is of concern. PF advised that sometimes a person owns up themselves or the group pushes the person forward, however you would expect to see this information in the Stop and Search case information.
2) Would you expect a youth to be stopped in a high profile burglary area when it is dark? Discussion was held over what was acting suspiciously and that the reasons for the suspicion should be noted on the Stop and Search case information.

Both teams agreed that more clarification was required on:

- The initial stop
- What is meant by a 'routine check'
- What an Intel-led stop and search is
- What does True/False means in relation to (i). Property and (ii). Location

AB highlighted the display data sheet circulated to panel members showing stop and search totals for the year. This data was discussed and felt useful. AB pointed out that the ethnicity data is self-identified at time of recording. BG asked if this data would be available monthly and show traffic lights for direction of travel.

Action – AB to provide feedback to Andy McCracken and update the panel on the points above.

8). Feedback for Hertfordshire Constabulary

Discussion was held over giving feedback to the Constabulary and AB advised today's findings would be presented to Supt Andy McCracken, from Crime Reduction & Community Safety at Hertfordshire Constabulary. In addition immediate feedback will be given to the Police representative in attendance at the meeting.

It was questioned whether it was felt best practice to have a Police representative at the Panel Meeting or was there only a requirement for a Police representative to be called upon when needed for operational advice. The point was raised in relation to public perception.

PF commented it was good to have feedback immediately from the panel but it was the panel's decision as to whether a Police representative should be present in the panel meeting or not. Operational advice would be available from PF or another Police representative in the format preferred by the panel.

AB advised that other panel meetings do have Senior Officers present. JB added that if Police representation was agreed it would need to be explained in the annual report for clarity.

9). AOB

AB advised the panel that the tough pads have an app on the desktop showing the Stop and Search form which is used by Officers on duty. PF advised 30/40% of officers now have tough pads and the hand held

devices will be rolled out in the summer with electronic entry in use by the Police Force by April 2016. New Software will also be rolled out for Herts, Cambs and Beds in due course.

Panel requested mouse for use with laptop for future meetings and for heading row on data to be static for easy reference when scrolling down.

AB asked if the panel members thought the completed Stop and Search feedback forms should be posted on the website. The panel agreed for the TOR and minutes to go on the website but not the feedback forms as these are working documents.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 2nd July, 10:00- 12:00 at

Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Training & Development Centre