Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

Minutes of the Community Scrutiny Stop and Search Panel meeting, 26th March 2015

Present: Amie Birkhamshaw, Jeffrey Burke, Stuart Nagler, Muna Sabbagh, Rosie Alphonse, Curtis Sage-Passant, Sam Hale and Dec Supt. Peter Fulham

Apologies: Sara Bedford, Brenda Griffiths, Tina Faraji and Jagtar Singh Dhindsa

1). Discussion of Terms of Reference

In relation to Point 2 on the Terms of Reference, the panel discussed how they could 'improve public confidence' and how this could be measured.

Action 1: Panel agreed interim feedback and actions to be raised through Detective Superintendent Peter Fulham in the first instance and then six monthly or an Annual Report to the Commissioner's Community Safety Board.

In line with HMIC's recommendations, information about the Stop and Search Panel and the outcome of discussions will be recorded on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

Point 2.1

- First line to read 'will consist of approximately 10 members who come'….
- Second line to read 'Membership of the panel will be reviewed annually to ensure'….
- Suggested that a brief description should be included of each panel member beside their name i.e., Retired judge resident of Flamstead

Point 2.2

- First line to read 'A Chair of the group will be a member of the panel'….
- Discussion over footnote number 3 'The Panel may wish to'….. as to whether this should be in text of TOR or left as footnote. It was agreed that it should be included in the text.

Action 2: Chair Jeffrey Burke to revise the Terms of Reference in accordance with the above comments.

2). Dip Sampling Feedback Form

The panel discussed revisions to the Feedback Form to help capture and collate discussion around the Stop Searches and the decisions made by the panel. It was suggested that three additional columns should be added to capture: the type/power of stop search made e.g. for Drugs /Acquisitive Crime; the 'time' at which the Stop and Search took place; and the 'location' of the search.

It was agreed that an update would need to be given to non-attendees of discussions/actions which would be summarised at the start of the next panel meeting in May.

Action 3: Amie Birkhamshaw to revise the dip sampling Feedback Form with additional columns.

3). Format/ structure for undertaking dip sampling and allocation of cases

The panel discussed various options for being able to review a larger number of cases at each panel meeting. One option was for the group to split into pairs in order to carrying out dip sampling on a larger number of cases.

Action: It was agreed that Amie Birkhamshaw would review how best each pair could review the data whether through printed sheets or on laptops.

The group discussed how they would split the dip sampling between pairs and whether they would be allocated different types of stop searches (Drugs/Acquisitive Crime).

It was agreed that the group would allow time at the end of each meeting to discuss the cases where it was not possible to reach a consensus.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11th May, 10:00- 12:00

At Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Training & Development Centre