

Stop Watch Quarterly Meeting

4th July 2018: 1700hrs-1900hrs

Mason Room HQ

ATTENDEES

- Clive Davies: Chair (CD)
- Alice Fiddler (AF)
- Aamir Akhlaque (AA)
- David Munro (DM)
- Michael Hodder (MH)
- Sam Meyer (SM)
- Sim Sian (SS)
- Sophie Stubbs (SS)
- Terri Adderley (TA)
- Mark Offord (MO)
- Chris Tinney (CT)
- Adam Coombs (AC)

Apologies were given by those not in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS - CHAIR

Completed.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND ACTIONS

Minutes assessed and accurate, and all actions have been cleared.

PERFORMANCE REPORT – SOPHIE STUBBS

SS talked through the performance report.

Residential and Non-Residential Stop and Searches

It was found that there were approximately 799 more stop searches conducted over the last 12 months, in comparison to the previous year. In total this was found to be 17.5% more than the year before.

In total, there has also been a large increase in residential stops, with 800 more being stopped over the last year. However, this has decreased for non-residential by 20%.

MH suggested that there has been an increase on residential stops due to PIYN. This has raised confidence in the officers when carrying out stop and searches and local intelligence has improved. As well as this, non-residential individuals are not usually the ones directly involved in dealing or supplying drugs. These individuals are usually local to the area, often residing there.

TA advised that this is the same for West. Figures are also affected by operations such as one which focuses on the cuckooing of vulnerable adult's properties. MO stated that the figures are also affected by conditions such as staffing. There has also been an ongoing problem for North in regards to the gang-violence occurring in Walton. As there are more OCG's running in North at the moment, there is a large push on proactive tasking.

In terms of the ethnicity breakdown figures in regards to Stop and Searches, there have been a total of over 574 more stops on white individuals as opposed to any other ethnicity; an overall increase of 18.3%.

BME Community Stop and Searches

BME community Stop and Searches have increased slightly within the last 12 months in regards to residential stops. There has been an overall increase of 1.9% since late 2017.

It has been found that the increase in white Stop and Searches per 1000 people has reduced the disproportionality rates.

This is all based on a census released in 2011, CD suggested that this data may now be inaccurate as populations will have changed over the last 7 years.

Mapping

Thorpe Park, Woking and Guildford are all hotspots for drug stops. During October half-term, Thorpe Park hosts an event called Fright Night. proactive operations are put into place in order to deter any concerning activity. The drugs operations act as a deterrent to those who may be looking to get involved. The find rate for searches at Thorpe Park is low.

Action 7/18 (1): MO to review Thorpe Park operation, including stop and search outcome rate, and update next meeting with findings and plans.

Op Popcorn is targeting organised drug dealing and associated violence in Woking.

Action 7/18 (2): TA to report back on the operation's progress and achievements in the next meeting.

Guildford & West Surrey

For Guildford, the no further action (NFA) rate currently stands at 64.4%. Some figures are due to individuals crossing over from Waverley. Higher rates of Stop and Searches occur in Guildford due to the night-time economy. At times such as this, the town draws in many people, and a number of Stop and Searches are conducted due to being called by door staff.

North Surrey

For North Surrey, the results were similar. In summary, searches of Black individuals come out more successful than searches conducted on White individuals, as the find rate is higher. Officers may be potentially doing fewer searches on black individuals with less strong grounds for fear of the accusation of being racist. TA agreed with this, stating that this is the general feeling with most young officers.

East Surrey

East Surrey advised that as of now they are in line with North Surrey with proactive cars. It has been found that the Proactive Car increases confidence in officers' work and will lead to the small number of officers on these cars carrying out more searches than their colleagues. The intention is for them to share their skills and knowledge with newer officers.

Intelligence is relevant in directing officers on searches.

Action 7/18 (3): CD to invite Intelligence to the next Stopwatch to report on trends in the county which officers are tasked on and relate to stop and search, including different ethnicities involved.

Complaints

Complaints in terms of Stop and Search are low. However there are issues with body-worn video (BWV) and conducting the stops. Officers know that they should be recording searches on their BWV.

Action 7/18 (4): AC to review how many searches for which complaints were received had BWV footage available.

Young People Searches

Results show that 40% of young people searches are due to police being called in by a third-party. This therefore means that the searches are not a product of teams being proactive. However, APT must attend these call-ins due to being duty-bound to the public.

A lot of the young people searched also have a vulnerability flag placed against them. Due to their vulnerability (dependent on what that vulnerability is) they have a higher chance of being searched for an offensive weapon due to the flag as often this will relate to self-harm.

The arrest rate for young people is significantly lower than adults.

OPERATION VIKING – MICHAEL HODDER

MH advised that there has been an influx in County Line issues. In order to tackle this issue, there has been an increase in proactive work in order to gain more positive results. There is also a proactive car being used to conduct Stop and Searches.

Through doing so this has produced 32 Stop and Searches, resulting in 4 arrests. There is currently a large issue with cuckooing in regards to vulnerable people. Neighbourhoods are very heavily involved in tackling this issue.

Relating to the above, there is also concern in regards to suspects plugging drugs, due to the fact that they have to remain in custody until they pass the drugs through their system. This is not a quick process and can take up some time and resources.

DIVISIONAL UPDATES

For East Surrey, forms produced show that Dip Checks are currently at 68% in terms of drugs proportion. There is sometimes a lack of grounds presented on the forms which is fed back to the

officers. Individuals filling out these forms need to take the time to relay all accurate information onto them.

TA advised that the primary reason for people being stopped was due to drugs. Only 2 stops were found to be unacceptable with no grounds. There also needs to be a push in terms of using operational names more.

MO stated there have been issues with Special Constables and Stop and Searches, whereby in some incidents they have had no grounds. There have also been issues in terms of Thorpe Park searches and an inconsistency with wording.

All divisions have reviewed searches on young people to ensure these are appropriate and safeguarding put in place. All divisions have also reviewed occasions where the same person has been searched several times, and the officers using the power the most to ensure police activity is appropriate.

TRAINING – CHAIR

A presentation and a video has been created.

Key information will be given on the video, a distraction clip will then play. The distraction clip will consist of an activity designed to take the learner's mind off of the subject. This could consist of other memory techniques such as a writing activity etc.

Following this they will then be taught the information again. The idea is that they will retain the information given to them due to having the distraction to take their minds off of the subject. The remembering of the certain aspect will take place subconsciously. This is to be introduced across Force.

This new method of learning will also be tested at Training School.

BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH SCHEME 2.0

Discussed.

REVIEW OF STOP AND SEARCH FORMS

Forms were reviewed as per agenda, given to SS in order to collate.

Body worn video footage was not viewed at this meeting. DW is arranging this for future meetings. TA said that there is already a BWV viewing meeting for Taser.

Action 7/18 (5): DW and TA to review Taser BWV viewing arrangements to see if this could be extended to cover stop and search viewing. In any case, DW to arrange for example footage to be made available at the next Stopwatch or to the OPCC and IAG members beforehand.