

Stop and Search and Use of Force External Scrutiny Panel

**Minutes of the second meeting held on
Tuesday 26 February 2019 19.00 hours**

At

Unit 26, Surrey Technology Centre, Occam Road, GU2 7YT

Chair: Anita Ho (AH)

Attendees – Police Staff

Supt Clive Davies, Surrey Police (CD)
Supt Chris Colley, Surrey Police (CC)
Annette Byford, minute taker, Surrey Police (AB)

Attendees – Panel Members

Suzanne Akram (SA)
Mark Cunningham (MC)
Lydia Smith (LS)
Sarah Gosling (SG)

Apologies – Panel Members

Willow Wong
Shysta Manzoor
Katie Lendrum
Hailee Jingree

Apologies – Police Staff

Inspector Chris Tinney, Surrey Police

Absent – Panel Members

Amir Akhlaque
Alex Aspinall

1.	Previous actions and minutes The action log was updated and the minutes approved.	AH
2.	Review of Panel Members It was agreed the county is proportionately represented on the panel, however, more members are needed. Panel members agreed to try to recruit members through the following actions:	AH

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	Meeting No 2/Action 1: CD to task a sergeant with divisions to try to recruit volunteers through neighbourhoods. Meeting No 2/Action 2: SA to seek volunteers from the hate crime panel at SMEF. Meeting No 2/Action 3: MC to approach youth workers and members of a church congregation.	CD SA MC
3.	Review all panels vetting status It was confirmed that vetting is in situ for SA and SG. The status of vetting for other panel members is pending Chris Tinney's return from leave.	AH
4.	Review status of all panels training by police Pending Chris Tinney's return from leave.	AH
5.	Key matters from SO1 Force Stop and Search & Use of Force Report AH advised she found the report had a lot of information. AH questioned if different people should be requested to review different sections of the report. It was noted some panel members may be able to go on attachment with officers which may assist panel members understand the National Decision Making Model process. However, it was noted that during the majority of shifts officers may not have grounds to use stop and search. Stop and Search CD updated that the headlines from the report are: ➤ There has been an 18% increase in the number of Stop and Search from December 2017 to December 2018. ➤ Knife / offensive weapon searches have increased by almost 20% over the last year. Surrey is targeted by non-residents due to its economic strength and transport links. This sometimes results in local vulnerable people doing the work for drug dealers from other areas. ➤ A black person is 8 times more likely to be searched than a white person but that figure has decreased slightly and is less if just looking at residents. 165 dip checks (15 per borough) are conducted every three months to ensure grounds for stopping people are sound. The 'find' rate for searches on black people is higher. ➤ The grounds for Stop and Search is suspecting someone has something covered within the law, e.g. drugs, weapon, etc. ➤ The overall 'find' rate is currently 20% (an increase on previous figures). ➤ The proportion of NFA's (no further action) is reducing. ➤ Over 70% of searches are drugs related. ➤ Some people reportedly carrying an offensive weapon would have it for self-harm.	ALL CD

	An objective of Stop and Search is to prevent people being arrested and then de-arrested (i.e. if nothing is found the person is no longer detained). MC advised he thought an age profile and mode of transport for people who are stopped and searched would be useful. SG suggested the number of hours be recorded against how many stop and search incidents take place. SG was advised all forces are very strict on recording of crimes but there is discretion of whether the crime is investigated. The crime rate is going up and resources have been going down. Significant challenges in Surrey are sexual offences and child exploitation. These cases have high risk and harm, and involve considerable resources. On average a stop and search takes 15 minutes and are subject to Threat/Harm/Risk assessments. Use of Force (UoF) CC updated that UoF recording had increased due to recent communications and briefings to officers that clarified that a form is required for compliant handcuffing, this was not routinely recorded previously. A more user friendly recording process is also now in place that means that the amount of data that is recorded has increased but officers can now complete a simplified form on their mobile phone without needing to return to the station. CC explained that you are statistically more likely to be subject to UoF if you are BME. As a result of this, 60 BME UoF records were randomly selected and have been reviewed against a random sample of records against white subjects over the last 6 months. The review process found that each recorded use of force was justified and proportionate. The data set for the white subjects showed more serious resistance than the BME data. The BME data showed a wider range of resistance and the police response varied in line with the resistance documented. A theme was highlighted across both sets of data in that when tactical communications are not successful and the person resists, officers generally match the level of resistance. This is being addressed via learning and development as officers should consider going 1 level above the level of resistance to gain control of the person as this controls the situation and is safer for the person and the officer.	CC
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	AH asked how the group can justify the police acquiring more resources and was advised if the group think there should be more stop and searches the group could look at how many officers do searches and look at the search ratio compared to other counties. Surrey is statistically similar to some other force areas, which may help the group decide if everything is appropriate in Surrey. Each search on people under 13 years of age is reviewed and the need for safeguarding is assessed. It was confirmed that officers who undertake a large proportion of stop and searches are reviewed to ensure they are using their powers appropriately. It was confirmed that a fairly small number of officers do many searches; it largely depends on which team they are assigned to. SG questioned why 1% of people in the pie chart on page 24 of the report are shown as gender unknown. Meeting No 2/Action 4: CD to ascertain if it is feasible to include the following in the report / answer: ➤ Mode of transport of those who are stopped and searched ➤ Information on how many officers are involved in how many searches, e.g. how many involve 1 officer, how many involve 2 officers, etc ➤ Why 1% of people are recorded as gender unknown in the pie chart on page 24 It was noted that if a four year old is in a car with an adult who is being searched the child will also be searched in case the child is concealing something on behalf of the adult. The spike in the number of stop and searches in October is attributed to activity in Thorpe Park associated with Fright Night/Halloween.	
6.	Identification of individual actions. Carried forward.	AH
7.	AOB	ALL
7.1	Expense form An expense form was received from Suzanne Akram which AB will process.	AB
7.2	Videos shown in meeting BWV footage shown of stop and search and use of force incidents. No concerns raised by the group.	

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	It was confirmed that no-one present recognised the subjects involved.	
8.	Date, time and location of next meeting TBA. Rotating the venue for future meetings is agreed. Reigate Police Station and the Council offices at Esher are possible venues.	AH