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Stop and Search Independent Advisory Group
Wednesday 13 February 2019
18:00 – 20:00 hrs
Conference Hall, Thames Valley Police HQ South,
Kidlington, Oxon

Attendees:

	Chair, SSIAG
ACC Nikki Ross	ACC Local Policing
Sgt Nicki Entwistle	Local Policing, Thames Valley Police , Oxford Brookes University.
	Bracknell, SSIAG
	IAG Wycombe
	S& V IAG
	IAG Observer
Jo Braithwaite	Chief Officer Assistant, Thames Valley Police

Apologies:

	Reading IAG

1. Welcome, Introduction and apologies. Chair

2. Minutes from previous meeting held on 22 November 2018 were reviewed for accuracy and any actions outstanding. Chair

The minutes were reviewed and agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. All actions were reviewed, and updated and closed accordingly and removed from the Action Log. The Action Log is located at the bottom of this document.

3. Organisational Review meeting (ORM) January 2019 – Overview and Power Point Slides presentation. ACC Ross.

- Slide 3: We are seeing 11.6% increase in the number of stop searches completed compared with last year. The majority of LPAs are showing increased usage and this is something we will want to see continue.

Areas of note – Milton Keynes and West Berkshire continue to see the lowest volume of searches for 4 years, with further large declines this year. Of the 3 LPAs seeing increases above 50% so far in 2018/2019, Aylesbury Vale is the only one where volumes of searches remain below the level seen two years ago.

At the ORM meeting, the App versus the paper form was discussed. It was noted that Officers continue to revert to utilising the paper forms with only 9% of searches completed in October 2018 being submitted via the app.

ACC Ross advised we did have a County Drugs Line week of action which was sponsored by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and in one week Thames Valley Police had over 160 stop and searches. We have to do three week of action per year. The week of action is not only around stop and search, it is very much around the safeguarding of children and young people. Due to an embargo on publicity, we had to wait a week before we could provide any communication around the week of action. However, during that week, we did a lot of targeted intelligence led activity. Thames Valley Police already delivers intensification weeks as part of the Force proactive plane. It did have a huge impact on

day to day policing and therefore it is something we could not sustain. JR asked the question what was the volume of young people for safeguarding purposes. **ACTION 01: 13.02.2019 - ACC Ross to provide data from the County Line regarding Children and young people.**

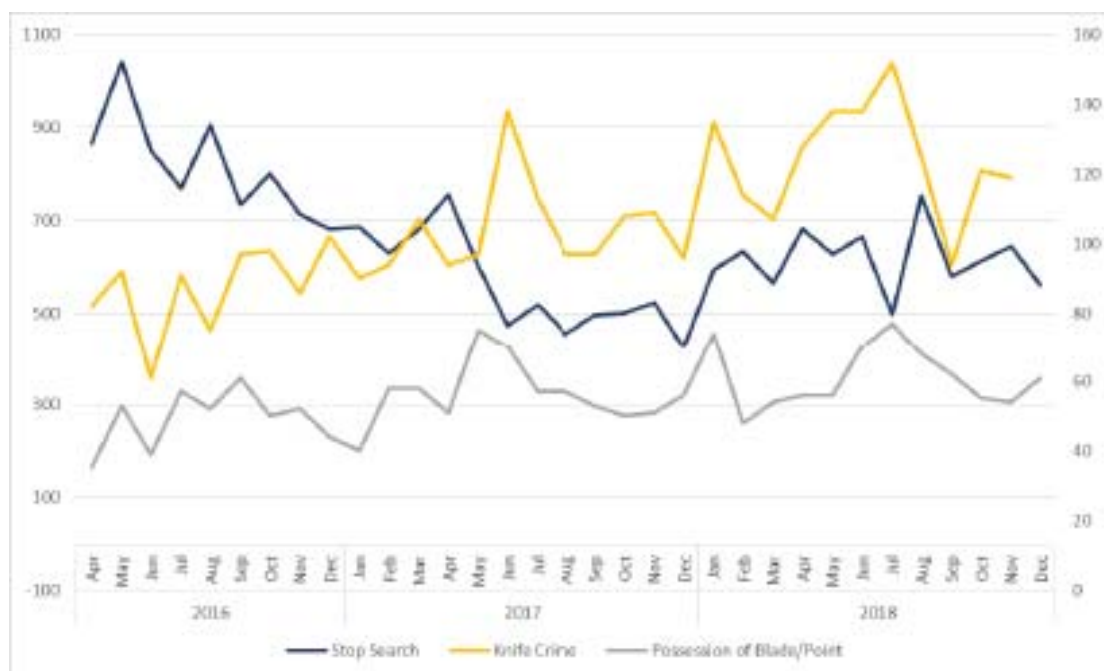
ACC Ross advised Thames Valley Police are moving to android phones, as the current phones are end of life. The Stop and Search app will go onto that new android phone, if it doesn't work as we hope it will, we will look at having a new app. The new android phones are now being piloted and once we are happy they meet our needs, the phones will be rolled out across the Force.

ACC Ross advised another date has been confirmed for the next County Line week of action, and once we have had all three, an evaluation will be undertaken and it will be taken to the Strategic Independent Advisory Group.

The question was asked around Safeguarding, and whether the other services supporting safeguarding were informed about the week of action. ACC Ross advised Thames Valley Police can refer into a number of victim focused services depending on the exploitation involved with young people. For example, if we search any under 18 years of age, we should be doing a safeguarding referral in any case. On the app, the Officer doing the Stop and Search cannot go any further in the process until this part of the app is completed.

- Slide 4: Knife Crime. The bottom line (grey) is possession of blade/point found during the Stop and Search which should go in line with the third line (Blue) which is the stop and search. The second line (yellow) is the use of a knife, which includes a whole range of offences – violent, sexual or robbery offence where bladed, pointed or sharp item was used in the commission of crime.

For example, August/September 2018 showed that Thames Valley Police activity was taking knives off the street, which increased the number of possession offences but decreased the amount of offences caused by knives.



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An offence is the possession of a blade / point where the blade is over 3 inches. A locking knife is illegal no matter how long the blade is.

The graph above does not include the County Line Drugs week of action.

- Slide 6 - All Search Reasons – Positive outcomes. Voluntary Attendance is not considered a positive outcome within returns to Home Office or Police UK. In Thames Valley custody suites we encourage voluntary attendance for interviews. From our data, Wycombe is a high user of voluntary attendance, but their outcome rate is only 18.8%. ACC Ross requested our analysts to add the voluntary attendance to the positive outcome rate and showed the data going back up. Therefore, we have put the voluntary attendance figures back in to make the figures look more sensible and we will work with the Home Office as to why these figures are not included.
- Slide 7 – Stop Searches – Ethnicity. April – December 2018.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE		Stop Search Organisational Review								
Stop Searches - Ethnicity April – December 2018										
LPA of Search	Total Searches	Self Defined						Disproportionality		
		White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other	Not Stated	Black	Asian	Mixed
Bracknell Forest & Wokingham	490	325	36	22	24	3	80	6.2 (9.9)	1.1 (1.6)	3.2
Reading	787	346	78	60	53	10	240	2.5 (4.0)	1.0 (1.4)	2.9
Slough	610	169	70	163	25	7	176	2.2 (2.9)	1.1 (1.2)	2.0
West Berkshire	460	380	24	11	14	3	28	6.7 (9.2)	1.3 (1.4)	2.2
Windsor & Maidenhead	302	176	17	46	16	0	47	7.0 (8.8)	2.5 (3.1)	3.4
Aylesbury Vale	424	204	28	78	20	2	92	6.4 (10.8)	6.3 (9.0)	4.0
Chiltern & South Bucks	310	166	6	53	14	6	65	4.1 (10.8)	3.9 (4.0)	3.3
Milton Keynes	466	244	70	25	14	3	110	3.3 (5.8)	1.0 (1.6)	1.4
Wycombe	600	211	44	126	30	1	188	4.9 (6.4)	4.2 (5.6)	4.1
Cherwell & West Oxon	323	214	21	15	14	1	58	9.5 (15.9)	2.5 (3.5)	4.0
Oxford	698	307	116	63	47	7	158	6.3 (9.5)	1.6 (2.1)	3.0
South & Vale	193	148	12	10	8	1	14	9.9 (13.2)	3.9 (3.6)	3.9
Thames Valley	5,663	2,890	522	672	279	44	1,256	5.0 (7.8)	2.3 (3.0)	3.3
Disproportionality aims:								3.2	1.5	

The blue brackets on the slide under disproportionality, relates to a piece of work we picked up from the last meeting in terms of the large numbers of not stated. This is when the person being searched refuses to say what their ethnicity is, and it is left to the officer to define it. Our analysts have unpicked the not stated and put them against what the officer said and what this looks like in terms of disproportionality. For example – the first figure, in black, is what the disproportionality actually is based on our statistics. The blue bracketed figures are what they would be if all of those not stated had actually stated. The white figures are not included in disproportionality. This does make white North European and White South European very difficult to balance.

Thames Valley Police do have concerns as to why so many people are not stating. It could be cultural, or lack of engagement with specific communities. These statistics are based on resident population and not street population. Our disproportionality aims, from the EHRC (Equality of Human Rights Commission), are 3.2 with Black and 1.5 with Asian. Our figures are a little higher than our aims and so there is some work we need to do around this. All of our Local Police Areas have a corporate memory where events or

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operations are recorded for their area, this helps to explain some of the blips we have with high disproportionality during the period of these events/operations.

All LPAs have Independent Advisory Groups and Stop and Search and disproportionality should be discussed. JR advised at the last ORM there was an action for the LPAs with the highest disproportionality to ensure this was discussed at their local IAGs and the minutes from that meeting should reflect this. These minutes are posted onto Thames Valley Police website. **ACTION 02: 13.02.2019 – JR will look at the local IAG minutes around stop and search and bring to this meeting for a discussion.**

It was noted that every local IAG has Stop and Search on their agenda, but it is not covered at every meeting, only if there is something specific to discuss.

The question was asked regarding the not stated figures, and did Thames Valley Police know why people are not stating their ethnicity? ACC Ross advised, one of the reason is that people just do not want to provide that information, and there are a different set of ethnicity codes for the stop and search form, which is Home Office driven, than you do for ethnicity codes for other areas of business. IC3 is the code for black ethnicity in most areas of police business – this code is not recognised on the stop and search form, and will go through as not stated, if this is not picked up at the time of inputting the form onto our systems. If it is a community issue, the Stop and Search SPOC (single point of contact) will go back to their community. Members of the Local IAGs can also assist police officers with engagement within their community. **ACTION 03: 13.02.2019 – Definition required for White North European and White South European.**

ACTION 04: 13.02.2019 – NE to look at the Stop and Search Form Miss 100C and advise ethnicity codes.

- Slide 10 - Stop Searches – Children. April - December 2019.

		Self Defined Ethnicity						Population				Disproportionality		
		White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other	Not Stated	White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Black	Asian	Mixed
		Bracknell & Wokingham	109	9	4	13	0	17	51,819	1,234	5,053	3,038	3.5	0.4
Reading	51	12	8	18	3	45	21,145	2,830	5,823	3,340	1.8	0.6	2.2	
Slough	38	21	21	6	2	36	12,958	4,477	16,834	2,537	1.6	0.4	0.8	
West Berkshire	91	5	4	3	0	2	31,668	302	894	1,356	5.8	1.6	0.8	
Windsor & Maidenhead	50	7	11	9	0	14	25,477	467	3,819	1,744	7.6	1.5	2.6	
Aylesbury Vale	55	5	12	6	1	16	33,629	725	3,372	2,270	4.2	2.2	1.6	
Chiltern & South Bucks	48	2	11	5	0	16	30,113	302	3,502	2,368	4.2	2.0	1.3	
Milton Keynes	46	8	6	4	2	17	43,881	6,581	6,510	4,971	1.2	0.9	0.8	
Wycombe	33	8	20	10	0	21	27,975	1,426	7,158	2,616	4.8	2.4	3.2	
Cherwell & West Oxon	67	0	3	5	0	16	48,817	617	2,151	2,037	0.0	1.0	1.8	
Oxford	66	22	5	19	2	42	17,675	1,898	4,421	2,805	3.1	0.3	1.8	
South & Vale	30	1	2	5	0	2	51,289	516	1,173	1,845	3.3	2.9	4.6	
Thames Valley	684	100	107	103	10	244	396,446	21,375	60,710	30,927	2.7	1.0	1.9	

Source: Stop and Search Management Information System as at 22/01/19

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ACC Ross advised all children under the age of 18, particularly between the ages of 10-15, the SPOCs will check every single form. Our outcome rates are low, this is due to searching a number of young people in one go, as opposed to individual searches.

The population data for Children is really hard to obtain and is based on resident population, but in terms of disproportionality, it is better than adults.

Poor stop searches does have a negative impact on young people. **ACTION 05: 13.02.2019 Not Stated for Children – Service Improvement Team to break down the disproportionality figures as they have done for adults – email to the group prior to the next meeting.**

ACTION 06: 13.02.2019 – Random selected Body Worn Videos – NE to ask SPOCs if they can enclose a copy of the paper form, or a print out of the app form that goes with the footage.

- Slide 11 – Highest number of searches – These are Thames Valley Police Champions. PC Watson is currently the top searcher, but his positive outcomes are low. The Champions are being utilised on their LPAs to help with stop and search training. Thames Valley Police are also rolling out Streetcraft, which is a training package in April 2019 that will include Stop and Search scenarios.
- Slide 12 – JOU Officers conducting Stop Search – our JOU Officers do a high number of searches as they tend to roam across Thames Valley and their figures are included in LPA figures. Their work is more targeted led, and therefore their outcome rate is traditionally higher.

Hampshire do record their stop and searches differently from Thames Valley, and their outcome is higher. **ACTION 07: NE has been tasked at looking what Hampshire do that is different from Thames Valley.**

4. Stop and Search Complaints – This is a standard agenda item. There were no formal complaints to view at this meeting.

JR questioned the Stop and Search complaints at local level and how they are recorded and the volumes resolved. ACC Ross explained all local complaints are recorded and feed into the Professional Standards (PSD) database.

ACC Ross advised Thames Valley Police would like young people as part of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group as well as being part of the Local Independent Advisory Groups

5. 3 x Body Worn Video (BWV)

One BWV was viewed along with a completed stop and search form. Unfortunately, there was no sound with the Video. Cherwell and West Oxon (2), Bracknell, Wycombe (2) and Maidenhead LPAs all submitted BWVs.

At the next meeting, members requested a Stop and Search of an under 18 years to view

6. AOB:

- HMIC – one of the areas for improvement was the publication of our Stop and Search disproportionality data online. Therefore it was agreed disproportionality will be discussed at this meeting, and the Stop and Search redacted minutes will be published on Thames Valley Police website.

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- Membership of this group – JR will review the S&S membership to be reflective of Stop and Search issues / concerns.
- **Date of next meeting:**

DATE / ACTION NO.	ACTION	STATUS
Action 01 13.02.2019	ACC Ross to provide data from the County Line regarding Children and young people. Updated: 14.02.2019 Data sent to JR for circulation CLOSED	CLOSED
Action 02 13.02.2019	JR will look at the local IAG minutes around stop and search and bring to this meeting for a discussion.	New
Action 03: 13.02.2019	Definition required for White North European and White South European	New
Action 04 13.02.2019	NE to look at the Stop and Search Form Miss 100C and advise ethnicity codes.	New
Action 05 13.02.2019	Not Stated for Children – Service Improvement Team to break down the disproportionality figures as they have done for adults – email to the group prior to the next meeting.	New
Action 06 13.02.2019	Random selected Body Worn Video - NE to ask SPOCs if they can enclose a copy of the paper form, or a print out of the app form that supports the footage. Update: Email sent to SPOCs requesting copy of paper form, or app supports the video.	Closed
Action 07 13.02.2019	NE has been tasked at looking what Hampshire do that is different from Thames Valley.	New