

**Stop and Search Independent Advisory Group
Thursday 22 November 2018. 18:00 – 20:00hrs
Conference Hall, Thames Valley Police, HQ South,
Kidlington, Oxon.**

Attendees:

	Chair, SSIAG
Ch/Supt Gavin Wong	Head of Local Policing and Resilience , Thames Valley Police
Ch/Insp Helen Roberts	Local Policing, Thames Valley Police
Sgt Nicki Entwistle	Local Policing, Thames Valley Police
	Oxford Brookes University.
	Bracknell, SSIAG
	IAG Wycombe
	Hampshire IAG – IAG Observer
	IAG Observer
Inspector Neil Misselbrook	Slough LPA – Thames Valley Police
Jo Braithwaite	Chief Officer Assistant, Thames Valley Police

Apologies:

ACC Nikki Ross	ACC Local Policing
	S& V IAG
	Reading IAG

1. Welcome, Introduction and apologies.
2. Minutes from previous meeting held on 4 September 2019 were reviewed for accuracy and any actions outstanding.

The minutes were reviewed and agreed as accurate. All actions were reviewed, and updated or closed accordingly. If closed and confirmed as completed, have been removed from the Action Log. The Action Log is located at the bottom of this document.

3. Organisational review meeting November 2018 overview and Power Point Slides presentation.

Ch/Insp Roberts gave an overview of Thames Valley Police stop and search work programme. Key points from the presentation:

- Slide 3: Number of searches from 2015 – 2018. The trend over the last 4 years clearly shows a reduction in the number of searches.
- Slide 4: Knife crime includes a lot of offences and offences where there has been penetration with a weapon. When we do stop and searches, we are more likely to find people who are carrying a knife. The more successful we are with stop and searches the numbers for possession of a blade goes up – however, as shown from the data, stop and search is not impacting on this.
- There is a lot of activity across the force against organised crime group and county drug lines and we are unable to say if this has impacted on the increase.

- Operation Sceptre, National Knife Crime campaign, where we had surrender bins at police stations, but we also carried out sweeps of areas where we felt that knife crime was more prolific.
- Prof Lucy Vickers advised knife crime has a very high profile and is a growing problem, and it is interesting to see that the public perception may be lagging behind.
- Slide 5: Year on year figures and Quarterly figures for all 12 Local Police Areas. Aylesbury LPA was discussed – from October 2017 – September 2018 number of stop searches has dropped by 18% year on year, however in the last quarter they have increased. In comparison, Windsor and Maidenhead has gone up 7% year on year but in the last two quarters they have decreased. On some LPAs the figures are low and this could be down to having prolific officers who are confident in their skills around stop and search and who have moved on from that LPA. Having prolific officers on LPAs does make a difference.
- Each of the Local Police Areas have SPOCs who manage these trends.
- Slide 6: All search reason - positive outcomes. There is no ball park figure of what an acceptable outcome rate is and what is not. 100% as an outcome rate does not necessary mean a success. We do expect LPAs to keep an eye on their rate if they see it is beginning to slide and to share what they are doing well with other LPAs. A positive outcome is not always an arrest it is doing something with the individual - for example safe guarding.
- Slide 7: Disproportionality per LPA. The highlighted areas on the slide are where the individual, who has been searched, has not stated what ethnicity they are. They do not have to state their ethnicity, but this does not help us work out which members of the population we are dealing with. However, every single search we should have an idea of what ethnicity we are searching. The Officer should put their perception of what the individual is. On occasions the individual will state what they say they are and the officer will state something different and sometimes the two do not marry up. For example: Reading. The numbers in self-defined columns are where individuals have said what ethnicity they are.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE		Stop Search Organisational Review								
Stop Searches - Ethnicity April – September 2018										
LPA of Search	Total Searches	Self Defined					Disproportionality			
		White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other	Not Stated	Black	Asian	Mixed
Bracknell Forest & Wokingham	330	228	21	14	16	1	50	5.1	1.0	3.1
Reading	521	241	54	30	38	9	149	2.5 (3.7)*	0.7 (1.1)*	3.0
Slough	435	124	51	123	20	5	112	2.2 (3.0)*	1.2 (1.1)*	2.2
West Berkshire	290	238	14	7	9	3	19	6.2	1.4	2.3
Windsor & Maidenhead	195	111	13	32	10	0	29	8.5	2.8	3.4
Aylesbury Vale	267	127	17	43	13	0	67	6.3	5.6	4.1
Chiltern & South Bucks	173	97	4	31	9	1	31	4.7	3.9	3.6
Milton Keynes	243	117	42	15	9	3	57	4.2	1.3	1.9
Wycombe	415	144	33	77	21	0	140	5.4 (7.5)*	3.8 (5.6)*	4.2
Cherwell & West Oxon	225	151	14	7	9	0	44	9.0	1.7	3.6
Oxford	486	210	83	45	35	6	107	6.6 (10.3)*	1.7 (2.0)*	3.3

The disproportionality in Reading would be 2.5, however, of the 149 (highlighted) we have gone through what the officers have said what they were, which has made the disproportionality worse. The disproportionality figures are only taken from people that state what they are. If there a lot of not stated from a particular group of people, we need

to know why – is this due to a lack of faith in the police, it is really important for us to understand this. We are also wary of BME population being hidden in these not stated.

- Slide 8: The age group of those individuals who we search and are not stating their ethnicity are aged between 25 – 59 years of age, of which a high number are BME. At a previous meeting there was a discussion around White – North European and White - South European, basically they are classed as white.

The four LPAs highlighted have agreed to look deeper into self-defined and office defined ethnicity as we cannot see how disproportionate we are unless people tell us their self-defined ethnicity.

Insp Neil Misselbrook advised he has looked at Sloughs reason for not stating; there are three reasons codes which make up the not stated. These are: (i) Not Stated, (ii) Not recorded, or (iii) invalid code. The new App will help with the (ii) not recorded as you have to record ethnicity and age before proceeding with the form. Thames Valley Police officers are asking the individuals to state their ethnicity, and therefore not recording it, it is the individual declining to give that information.

It was noted that people of European ethnicity find it insulting to define their ethnicity and providing any form of data, as this is something they are not asked in their own country, whereas the British are asked to provide information on race, gender, date of birth on a regular basis.

- Slide 9: Stop searches on Children – April – September 2018. As previously advised any searches on children under 10 are normally officer error. All Stop and Search SPOCs review under 18 searches. **ACTION 01. 22.11.2018 - Service Improvement to look at breaking down by ¼ to ¼ on age groups.**

Every child who is searched under 10 years of age, we would expect a safe guarding referral put in place.

Thames Valley Police has an interactive Stop and Search Data Tool where the SPOCs can access any stop and search form which provides all information on any search. The new App will also has an alert around safeguarding.

- Slides 10 - We have struggled to break down the disproportionality of children, around the raw data. We get our data from the population from the 2011 census – this doesn't not include school data. We try and work out if the disproportionality rates for children are higher, lower or similar to adults. The not stated for children are relatively high figures, and if we did know what ethnicity there were, it would make a difference to the disproportionality figure. **ACTION 02. 22.11.2018 – NE / Service Improvement to look at the population figures, and to find out where we got these figures. - e.g. Bracknell and Wokingham showing around 60,000 children, whereas Oxford are only showing 25,000**
- Slide 11: We will be providing additional stop and search training, which will be class room based with the view to increase confidence levels in Officers. We will utilise our top searchers to assist this training. We are moving away from smart phones to android phones where the new app will be put. The new phones are currently being trialled in West Berkshire. The app will automatically capture GPS location and all the data the Home Office require.

- Slide 13: Stop Search Powers Consultation – there was a consultation on how we felt about increasing powers of stop and search for corrosive substances, laser, and drones. From the data available, there are very few occurrences in the Thames Valley area.

4. S& S Complaints – Insp Neil Misselbrook.

Insp Misselbrook advised he was the Investigating Officer in Slough for a complaint which occurred on 6 January 2018, and which was locally resolved. Insp Misselbrook took the group through the investigation. The outcome was learning for the officer involved, who recognised he had breached PACE.

His grounds were founded, however, he failed to ensure that as he requested more than J,O,G this should have taken place at a police station or private premises, a police van is not sufficient.

A Body Worn Video was shown taken at the time outlining the circumstances of the search.

2018	10/01/2018	Searches were conducted by an officer on two young relatives of the complainant. It is alleged that when the searches were conducted they were carried out unlawfully in that they involved exposure of intimate parts of the body and were conducted in public view and without an appropriate adult being present.	Local Resolution – by Division	Not Stated	Breach of Code A	Slough
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5. 3 x Body Worn Video (BWV) – Review.

One Body Worn Video was reviewed from Windsor and Maidenhead, search for offensive weapon. **ACTION 03: 22.11.2018 – For future meetings, we will only look at 2 x BWV. SPOCs to supply print out of the written grounds around the search off the APP or from paper form, so the group can see the whole process.**

6. Police and Public Consultation Forum (PPCF) London – 02.11.2018. JR

I attended the NPCC Public Consultation Forum at BTP HQ in London along with Ch Insp Helen Roberts, and SSIAG Member.

The day was led by DCC Adrian Hanstock with three presenters to give the attendees three perspectives. These were Katrina Ffrench the CEO of Stopwatch, Professor Michael Skinner from the London School of Economics, and Nick Budden from HMIC.

Katrina Ffrench -CEO of Stopwatch

- Katrina shared her opinions of the role of Stop & Search IAG's.
- Groups must be reflective
- Broad diversity in membership
- Share information within communities
- Engage with young people and their experiences

- Training to include to history of why SIAG's

were formed

- Professor Michael Skinner from the

London School of Economics

Professor Skinner shared recent data, 'The Colour of Justice' that has been produced jointly with the Release drug charity and the Int'l drug policy unit at the LSE.

- Drug use last year in Black and Asian minority found a concentration of cannabis.
- 40% increase of drug searches
- A reduction of SS in White groups but an increase in disproportionality of Black and Asian Minority groups.
- Black people being arrested and convicted for cannabis were being criminalised than their white counterpart.

The questions presented from the report were how police teams were tasked and managed in terms of consistency and standardisation. Also, whether unconscious bias with young officers existed.

In conclusion - Black people and their communities were over policed and under protected. Since the Stephen Lawrence enquiry black people were 3 times more likely to be stopped and searched and today it is 8 times more likely.

Nick Budden – HMIC

Data recorded from HMIC presented that in 2012 not all reasonable grounds were recorded by forces. This was followed up in 2015, in which HMIC were disappointed with forces for not improving. In 2017, there was an improvement in the stop and search monitoring. However, the motivation of officers found 50% were self-generated and not intelligence led or by 3rd party reports.

In conclusion – Further research and analysis is required to understand where the disparities are and to be published. The S &S element will remain in the IPA (Integrated Peel Assessments). The IPA will look at find rates of possession V's Supply & Motivation. For 2019/2020 S &S will take a deep dive into a thematic review with the following;

- How the force understands S & S powers fairly and respectfully.
- How well the force records, monitors and understand the data and information to improve the way it uses S &S powers.
- How the force uses external scrutiny and challenge to improve the way it uses S & S powers.

JR

Please find below the link to 'Learning the Lessons' – a publication by the College of Policing, HMIC and the Home Office. The link refers to issue 33 which focuses on stop and search.

https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/Learningthelessons/3/3/LearningtheLessons_Issue33_November2018.pdf

7. Stop and Search Work Programme – JR

A question has been received from SM on the Stop and Search Work Programme. Ch/Insp Roberts advised that ACC Ross had responded to that question.

Below is the response provided by ACC Ross previously circulated to the 2 chairs of the SSIAG and the SIAG regarding the issues raised by Steve Masters raised as item 7 on 22/11/18.

The world has changed a lot since I took over in 2015 and the previous regime was indeed operating under a different set of priorities – we were doing way too many stops and searches and had a pretty poor outcome rate for some time – around 15% for some. I will find the stats but it will be quite time consuming and we have already answered the question. Since I took over the priorities have still been focused on the Best Use of Stop and Search – always the front page of the pack – around fairness and proportionality.

At my first meeting and onwards it was noted that the reductions in stop and search were a good thing as the outcome rates were increasing. I probably still have some of those packs and if I get any time will dig them out. My focus in the early meetings was on disproportionality, outcome rates and at that time a conversation around whether we were doing too many drug searches. My view – it is still an offence so why wouldn't we be – but nationally the rhetoric was that it shouldn't be a priority so we were reviewing it. Success was such that the searches went below what I consider to be good. Hence the debate then started about stemming the tide of the reductions and doing something to address the issues. At the same time the outcome rates were still higher than previously although as you know it has dropped slightly over this quarter, hence the questions at the ORM.

We do go round in circles in policing because we often have to – to allay political pressure, to ensure our staff are doing the right thing and also to respond to crime. Since that time knife crime has increased by almost 30% in TVP and county line dealers means that drug searches are not only valid but necessary. Hence I stopped discussing the large number of drug searches as each LPA was able to articulate why drug searches were important.

TVP can only problem solve what is in front of them to some degree. Stop and search as a tactic was frowned upon universally some 8 years ago for some time and so we had to manage our response against that. The direction of travel went too far and we need to address that. My predecessor, for all of the right reasons had different success measures than I do. Right now I want to increase the number of searches (whilst maintaining a strong ethos of fairness, proportionality and lawfulness) and obviously increase the outcome rate. The latter is not an exact science when the offending has changed to large groups of youths with only one carrying drugs and a knife for the purposes of dealing and little likelihood of locating that without searching all of them. The searches are intelligence led as you heard last week but this is a tricky area.

The HMIC are really happy with the amount of rigour shown in TVP around SS and I believe we are incredibly transparent. We are not successful on my measure of success but this is obviously a different measure to previously. The 'point' as he puts it of discussing it is so that we can reality check what we are doing and share with you our concerns and difficulties – in other words do you agree with my measures, do you agree we need to search more people (with caveats), do you agree with the training, do you agree that drug searches are valid and knife searches must rise etc etc.

8. AOB

- College of Policing Code of Ethics – this was circulated.
- DT – asked where Journalist get their ‘stories’ from re an article in the Guardian weekly on 16 November 2018. Ch/Insp Roberts advised this came from Trevor Philips. The article has since been shared with the SSIAG members.

9. Date of next meeting: 13 February 2019.

ACTIONS

<p>Action 14/08/18</p>	<p>1: Provide figures of deployable numbers of trained stop & search officers per LPA v's total searches for today v's 2 years ago. SM to re-issue to CM.</p> <p>Updated. 22.11.2018 HR advised the number of Stop and Searches are reducing, this could be down to the number of officers reducing. Our resourcing team are currently looking at the figures. Carried over.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>Action 04/09/18</p>	<p>2: Out of the 102 searches defined by ethnicity “not stated” how many were under 18?</p> <p>Updated. 22.11.2018 Service Improvement to provide figures. No figures available to view this evening. Carried over.</p>	<p>NE</p>
<p>Action 01 22.11.2018</p>	<p>Stop Searches – Child. April – September 2018 Service Improvement to break down by ¼ to ¼ on age groups.</p>	<p>Service Improvement</p>
<p>Action 02 22.11.2018</p>	<p>Population of Children: NE / Service Improvement to look at the population figures, and where we got those figures. -- e.g. Bracknell and Wokingham showing around 60,000 children, whereas Oxford are only showing 25,000</p>	<p>NE / Service Improvement</p>
<p>Action 03 22.11.2018</p>	<p>Body Worn Video – For future meetings, we will only look at 2 x BWV. SPOCs to supply print out of the written grounds around the search off the APP or from paper form, so the group can see the whole process.</p>	<p>SPOCs</p>