

Stop and Search Independent Advisory Group Minutes
Official

DATE: Wednesday 17 May 2023
TIME: 18.00 – 20.00 Hrs
LOCATION: MS Teams – link in calendar invite.

Attendees:		Position and Area
	JR	Chair SSIAG & Vice Chair for SIAG (Buckinghamshire)
	CL	Member of SSIAG and SIAG
	MT	Member of SSIAG and SIAG (Oxford IAG)
	CDF	Member of SSIAG and South Buckinghamshire IAG
ACC Dennis Murray	DM	Assistant Chief Constable, Legitimacy and Public Value - NPCC Lead for Women of Colour in Policing
Ch/Supt Sarah Grahame	SG	Ch/Supt Local Policing (Berkshire)
Supt James Hahn	JH	Supt Diversity & Inclusion
DCI John Batty	JBatt	DCI Head of Investigations on PSD
Alison Nicholls	AN	Service Improvement
Insp Richard Nicholls	RN	Insp Staff Officer
Claire Widdison	CW	Head of Strategic Governance Unit
Tim Lowe	TL	Analyst - Strategic Governance and Legitimacy
Andrew Grimley	AG	Head of Change Delivery
Insp Georgia Pickwick	GP	Policing Strategy Unit - S&S Portfolio
A/Ch/Insp Jade Hewitt	JH	VRU / Op Rasure
Karin Williams-Cuss	KWC	Criminal Justice
Pete Lewis	PL	HMICFRS
Jo Braithwaite	JBra	COA to ACC Christian Bunt – Local Policing
Apologies:		
	AK	Member of SSIAG (Milton Keynes)
	NS	Member of IAG (Slough)
	DK	Member of SSIAG (Milton Keynes)
	DT	Member of SSIAG, SIAG (Oxford IAG)

1. Welcome and Introductions - Chair

ACC Dennis Murray has taken on the new role for Legitimacy and Public Value, including Race Action Plan, Violence Against Women and Girls, Scrutiny Groups, Force Review and Force Implementation – all of which will sit under a Trust and Legitimacy Board.

For noting - there is a meeting with the PCCs Office to conduct a review around Force Scrutiny by an Independent person who will engage with all of the Scrutiny Groups to ensure all Groups are fit for purpose and sustainable.

For noting: ACC Bunt will no longer attend these meetings, as it now sits under ACC Murray portfolio.

2. Minutes and Actions from previous meetings

Minutes from the previous meeting, held on 1 February 2023 were reviewed.

Amendments to minutes – CDF was not in attendance at that meeting.

JR thanked Ch/Supt Sarah Grahame for arranging the SSIAG Police Powers training awareness day, which was extended to other SIAG members. The SSIAG training day was held on 22 April, the anniversary of the murder of Stephen Laurence. JR thanks Ch/Supt Graham for her commitment to IAG members all the staff and officers that were involved in making the day successful. Members have requested more interactive days of which also solidified relationships with community member and police officers.

Actions were discussed, closed or carried over on the action list.

3. Input on the intelligence/data used, to inform stop/search activity – Claire

Widdison

We have under taken a lot of analysis on Stop and Search and Use of Force.

One of the key question posed to us was does intelligence influence some of our decision-making. Intelligence is a huge area for us to look at and as such, we have set some strategic objectives and key questions and looked at Aylesbury LPA for a sense of our findings.

Three key questions were:

- Do we disproportionately receive intelligence about certain areas
- Are we receiving intelligence about the area where serious crime is taking place
- What is the key factor in determining patterns of intelligence?

Period of analysis was from October 2021 – March 2022

We highlighted three particular postcodes of interest within Aylesbury and the top two postcodes – this was around the intelligence received of home addresses of people subject to orders like DVPOs along with a car park with ASB issues. One postcode had the second highest deprivation index for that area along with a high percentage of individual from an ethnic minority background. 17.8% of those residents were from an ethnic minority backgrounds compared to 7.7% for the rest of Aylesbury. 26% of those locations were also locations mentioned in intelligence briefings - we have documentation to support officers around patrolling and areas of interest. This means our officers are spending more time in these locations.

It is important to note that serious violence was also concentrated in those three postcodes. We would absolutely expect to see areas of interest, which have particularly high levels of serious violence to feature in our intelligence briefings.

Operations have a huge bearing on the directions that are given to our offices and those briefings – we did have some operations running in those areas during that period and therefore higher top searches on individuals from a black or Asian background.

The findings did show there is a strong link between the locations that we had on our intelligence briefings where there were concerns raised around incidents of serious violence and ASB.

There is a correlation of over 90% between intelligence and the areas of Serious Violence – and officers were patrolling in those areas because of those briefings. Other intelligence reports we were receiving were around drugs, one of the prisons near Aylesbury and general policing issues.

The disproportionality that we were seeing was directly linked to the intelligence briefings that we were putting out to our officers because of the high level of serious violence, but also those areas did directly correlate to areas in that Aylesbury postcode which did have a higher representation of individuals from an ethnic minority background.

In summary, a good piece of work to start a deep dive into intelligence and the impact that intelligence may have disproportionately on different groups from our community. We will start to do this across other LPA's – where there may be different factors influencing some of those other LPA's.

Questions from the Group:

CL- We have to be able to explain disproportionality. How much information is an IAG going to be able to scrutinise the data/intelligence that you have in terms of it then going towards explaining disproportionality and how will you develop this going forward. ?

SG: Prior to this meeting, we hold an internal meeting with all LPAs, using the same data pack this Group is provided with, where we expect the Commanders to give a clear detailed explanation on the disproportionality.

Initial thoughts, going forward we will summarize in written form and share alongside the data pack the context of the data.

ACC DM: - this is good practice to dip sample check and health checking of our intelligence system and collecting data for disproportionality

Action 02: 17 05 2023 – TVP to provide data pack with narrative which can be shared with public

MT: It was mentioned that you discovered that areas of high deprivation had high areas of ethnic minorities, high crime rates and high police deployment due to these factors.

CW: Confirmed as correct.

MT: How are these issues being addressed, as it is not just a police issue?

JR: The Violence Reduction Unit have looked at this and are addressing through the whole system approach with partners.

JH: The new model of the Legitimacy Board under ACC Murray should look at getting into a more systematic approach on how we look at the intelligence products and disproportionality

4. Performance Data: Stop & Search Use of Force – sent prior to meeting.

SG: Use of Force data - trying to move this forward to be more legitimacy focused on disproportionality

Section 163: the power to stop vehicles and to obtain details where stopped. As part of the Race Action Plan there is a commitment that all Forces will start to record this data. It has been an HMIC recommendation for quite a few years. Thames Valley Police went live with this on 5 April 2023. It is being recorded on the same electronic system we use for Stop and Search – Pronto System. All Officers who stop a vehicle now has to record the reason for the stop, the ethnicity of the driver and the outcome of the stop. The first month of data received shows really good compliance - we have had 2062 recorded stops in the first month – as yet we have not analysed that data, but a dashboard is being created and ACC Murray will lead on the scrutiny on the data . The National Team are also collating that data from across the country.

We are looking a pulling the data together by the end of May.

ACC Murray – this is some really good work – and will advise any issues we need to address.

TL who will be collating the data pack advised on his approach on how he is looking to analyse the data as it will be slightly different from previously. He will be transparent in the way the data is analysed and there will be scrutiny around the decisions he makes when putting the pack together.

TL is currently working on a separate document that will go alongside what he is doing and will explain a little bit about what he does when he works with the data, and key decisions he made

The pack is now produced using a software called Power BI and allows the process to be effectively automated. .

TL has also added an information page to the stop and search packs and in future, it can be used to pull out some high level metrics from the rest of the pack.

JH: There is a reduction in the disproportionality race than last figures for the black community, however we do need to be careful before drawing false positives but it is a reflection of the work we are doing at a local scrutiny level.

Insp Simon Lincoln from Aylesbury is starting a Forum – The Review, Reflect and Reform Forum to share learning from different scrutiny processes across the Force.

Points from the data pack pages:

- CL: Pages 9 & 10 – items found weapons and drugs. Is there any way of recording some sort of positive outcome to account for the large column of nothing found
ACC Murray: - This can be linked on niche - and we will have to do as a local arrangement rather than regional. However, it does not show all the positive outcomes on a large group stopping.
- CL: Pronto - is there anyway, officers can input onto Pronto – did not find what I was looking for, but record the context of the stop.
SG: This is something we can look and link Pronto with Niche - but we will need to have agreement from all Regional Forces before any changes are made.
- JR: Slide 7 where it states other disparity by LPA – what is other disparity?

TL: Disparity for the ethnic Group that classifies the ethnic group as other. Other is a classification – either Arab or any other.

- Slide 12 - not stated by LPA

TL: On previous packs, the page has been explained as not stated by the individual. In this new pack focuses on whether the individual themselves states their ethnicity - this has been kept separate. On page 3 at the bottom, it shows you a trend over time of people stating their ethnicity or not.

JR: Many of our community members are refusing to state their ethnicity – what is the relationship with police office why individuals are not complying with that question?

TL: The way it is presented now, gives you the option to ask those qualitative questions

ACC DM: We could assume that individuals are not stating their ethnicity therefore we need to be assured that some officers are not just ticking that box because they never asked the question - this can be assessed through the BWV checks

- CDF –Repeat individuals.

TL: Previously the slide was visualised in a different way- it has now been moved into Power BI we couldn't visualise the slides in the same way therefore we have tried to provide a visualisation based on something that the previous Analyst had said – people being stopped more than once were changing their ethnicity every time they were stopped . What the two tables show is the same individual and how they have been classified each time by the officer and how the individual define their ethnicity themselves.

Going forward - there will be a narrative for this.

- JH – under ACC Murray we could review those individuals who have been searched a few times in the same way as we reviewed our top 20 most searched.

- JR- Under 18s ethnicity by LPA and S60 – is this something TL can provide

TL will look at finding a way on how to visualise that – but currently not given S60 data

Action 03: 17.05.2023

- Use of Force Pack - TL: There are all sorts of inconsistencies that has been found in the data therefore TL has made the decision to take the data out and analysing it separately.

Action 04: 17.05.2023

5. Complaints Data– Stop and Search. Ch/Insp John Batty – circulated prior to meeting

Update on previous case from BWV review where issue was highlighted by this Group on a Stop and Search and investigated by an Inspector on Area. . Following PSD investigation highlighted, it was not adequate and that there were some issues with the stop and search

The complainant still does not want to make a complaint. PSD dealt with this as a conduct issue and not as a complaint and will not feature in the figures provided.

Ch/Supt Kent has already explained her rationale on her decision-making around this to JR - she determined that it sat at the level of misconduct for one officer – this has gone to a misconduct meeting and the Chair of the meeting has given the officer a written warning. The second officer has received some reflective practice. The outcome in conclusion of the conduct issue and SSIAG BWV review, has now been concluded.

Reference 1 - relates to a S&S in the High Wycombe area. That's a Special Procedures complaint – it has been assessed as misconduct and papers have been served on the officer and completed a formal investigation. Misconduct meeting due to take place on 16 June and will update at next SSIAG

Reference 2 - relates to an off duty officer who had been drinking and involved himself in stopping and searching a group of youths. This was filmed, and one of the youths, Mother

made the complaint. Determined this sits at the level of misconduct and this misconduct meeting is on 15 June and will update at the next meeting.

The live and outstanding complaints have been chased with the investigators for updates. The one that is not completely satisfactory is the oldest one, Reference 3. This has now been escalated to the LPA Commander but still awaiting on report.

Stop and Search complaints remain low. Stop and Search complaints for 2022 numbered 36 – two of these are not relating to S&S

We do take these complaints seriously but criminal matters do have to take priority at times. SG thanked the SSIAG for providing feedback and scrutiny on the complaint case as it enabled us to totally change our process as a Police Force as now all S&S complaints sit within PSD.

CL: Reference 4 – dissatisfied with manner of S&S on her sons aged 12 and 13. – can this group view the BWV.

JBatty - Armed Officers have done the Stop and Search - PSD have the investigation. We should let the investigation take place and then we can advise any feedback on the outcome.

MT: If someone is arrested, are they formally searched?

JBatty – S&S is a power that the Police have to search people (for weapons / drugs etc.) without arresting them. When someone is arrested, the Police then have the power to search that person after arrest.

JR stated not comfortable with the wording service acceptable.

JBatty – this word comes from Police Regulations - its legislation that says how we deal with the police complaints.

6. BWV – Supt James Hahn

At the last session we looked at 3 BWV

- 1. Roads Policing stop and handcuffs were put on a young black person. The Stop Search was satisfactory.
- 2. Communications skills were not perfect
- 3 – Good grounds for S&S – Officer was confident and good example of a stop and search.

Feedback will be provided to Officers.

JR: There are a number of BWV reviews / scrutiny panels on each LPA with local community giving their feedback.

It would be interesting to have feedback from the scrutiny panels on LPAs at this SSIAG

JH: This is a piece of work that Insp Simon Lincoln is looking at and we will bring feedback to this SSIAG over the next quarter or so.

7. Serious Violence Reduction Orders - Karin Williams-Cuss – Presentation circulated to group following the meeting.

In Summary – we have had 25 applications through to date since 19 April 2023 – we have let to have one go live.

The first trial is on the 25 May, so we should find out if we' are successful or not – we have good liaison with CPS. The feedback we have had thus far is that officers are not honing in on the necessity test as much as they possibly could do. CPS have rejected 4 applications to

date. We have asked for some further advice and guidance. We have produced a spreadsheet, which we are working on with the VRU linking in with Op Deter and Op Rasure.

We are ensuring that all of the requisite information in terms of disproportionality etc. is being pulled from Pronto – there is now a specific button for SVRO in relation to stop search and then that will be fed back to the Home Office who in turn will provide quarterly reports for us. So hopefully over the next four months, we should have a document from the Home Office, which we can share with yourselves, which will also show how the other three pilot forces are getting on.

JR: Gender and ethnicity would be good to know regarding the data around SVROs.
KWC – That data should be available July 2023

8. Review of the Serious Violence Dashboard.

CW: We have been doing some development work to make improvements to the dashboard due to data concerns

JH: We have 2 Dashboards - one shows the activity within hotspots, areas of high violence, and shows how many patrols we have done within those areas. We have 67 hotspots across the force and all of the officers have an APP, which directs them to those areas.

The Serious Violence Dashboard allows us to map where that serious violence is across the Force - its shows habitual knife carriers (hot people)

The 2 x Dashboards pulls data from NICHE so it is not an intelligence led dashboard – it allows each LPA to identify who their main hot people are.

The hotspot dashboard shows that we have conducted over 11,500 patrols in our hotspot areas. Thames Valley are the only force in the UK to have this technical ability to deploy our staff to the right place at the right time.

Under Op Rasure - we plan to work around having a partner approach to tackling serious violence and to under the root causes. We will be focusing on early engagement with the community and buy in from the community and all working together to tackle the root causes of violence.

The Serious Violence Dashboard – JH to provide overview at next meeting. **Action 05. 17.05.2023**

9. Update / Consultation / Reports

- **Race Action Plan - MT**

Community engagement early on and building trust is key

DCI Quoc Vo is the Programme Coordinator and has provided feedback on Phase I. It is clear that the ISOB recommend further consultation is required around raising awareness of the plan and engagement.

Also noted that the National Race Action Plan has been delayed

In Phase II, the target was to reach every community to reflect the diversity of Thames Valley – the results highlighted low levels of feedback from the Black Caribbean community

Phase III – which we are now in – has specific recommendations that there needs to be a simplified version with a clear time line of launching so it ties in with Black History Month in October.

JR: TVP Officers are working hard and listening to IAG and ISOB Members - the ownership is also with the community.

- **Youth Voice – CL**

Has 11 students who are studying law or criminology, who would like to be involved with SSIAG and engage with viewings of BWVs. Finer details need to be discussed and agreed.

Pete Lewis from HMICFRS advised he has listened carefully to the meeting and was interested to hear about the training day at Sulhamstead and like the analysis piece especially putting context behind the figures / data

10. AOB

There was not AOB

Date of next meeting 13 September 2023

OPEN ACTION LIST

DATE/ ACTION NO	ACTION	OWNER AND STATUS
May 2023		
Action 01 17.05.2023	New action generated from Action 05 01.12.2021 around training for Leadership / Healthy Culture. SSIAG members to be invited to view Training as part of another training session/day at Sulhamstead	New SG
Action 02 17 05 2023	TVP to provide data pack with narrative around disproportionality that can be shared with public.	New SG / JH/TL
Action 03 17.05,2023	TL to incorporate in the Performance Pack - S60 and Under 18s ethnicity by LPA	New TL
Action 04 17.05.2023	Use of Force Data to be circulated for members only to share comments and views off line- TL will attend BWV session	New TL / SG
Action 05 17.05.2023	JH to provide overview of Serious Violence Dashboard at the next meeting	New Jade H
DECISIONS		
D1 19.01.2022	DECISION; ACC Bunt made the decision that SSIAG member continue to use MS Teams for viewing BWV – all processes and protocols around security are all in place	Endorsed 19.01.202 2