

Stop and Search IAG Meeting

Minutes

DATE Wednesday 1 December 2021

TIME: 18:00 – 20:00 hrs

LOCATION: MS Teams Only

Attendees:		Position and Area
	JR	Chair S&SIAG and Vice Chair for SIAG (Wycombe)
	CB	ACC Local Policing
	SG	Ch/Supt Local Policing
	GR	Force Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Programme Lead
	JH	Force Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Programme Lead
	CW	Strategic Governance Unit
	RF	Supt JOU Operations.
	JM	FIB – Thames Valley Police – Drugs Strategy
	CY	VRU Co-ordinator
	MT	Member of SIAG and SSIAG (Oxford)
	CL	Member of SSIAG and SIAG (Oxford)
	DT	Member of SSIAG, SIAG, and Oxford IAG
	CDF	Member of SSIAG and Wycombe IAG
	KM	Staff Officer to ACC Christian Bunt TVP
	JoB	COA ACC Christian Bunt TVP
Apologies:		
	NP	People Directorate - Diversity and Inclusion for TVP
	EB	GR provided an update.
	DS	Head of Service Improvement.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome, introductions and apologies noted.

For noting: SG one of the new Ch/Supt for Local Policing and will be taking an overview on Stop and Search and Use of Force.

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GR retiring and this month and Supt JH will be taking over and leading on the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Programme Work.

Use of Force is going to sit within Local Policing – it currently sits within the Legitimacy Board and at the next SSIAG Meeting, we will start to bring the data for Use of Force to this meeting. At the next meeting the Use of Force

2. Review of minutes and actions from the last meeting - Chair

The minutes from 14 July 2021 were signed off as a true and accurate copy of the meeting. The actions were reviewed, and closed if completed.

3. Structure – Use of Force / Terms of Reference / S&S Policy / Recruitment / AGM – JR .

Already covered in discussions.

4. Force Stop and Search Performance Data.

Previously circulated in September – SSIAG members are fully aware of the disproportionality within the LPAs and the top two reasons for searches were drugs and stolen property. The two LPAs, which stood out the most, were High Wycombe and Aylesbury and this will be reviewed in the Legitimacy Board.

ACC: Going forward we will look at providing narrative around the performance data as this data is reviewed at the Stop Search Strategic Meeting, which will now be chaired by SG. .

JR: Due to the pandemic, the data we receive has changed – the details we had prior to the pandemic gave us the narrative to understand what is going on in each LPA.

Action 01: 01.12.2021.

CW: Regarding the data, self-defined, and officer perceived – Strategic Governance are doing some work to understand this better. In some LPAs self-defined is much higher than officer perceived. This work will go to the next Legitimacy Board to look at what consistent data we use and how we interpret that data.

DT: Many of the stop searches are for drug related crimes – should this group have a conversation around the policing of this?

JM: Drugs Strategy – we are currently looking at what determines a police officer to do a stop search on an individual and whether it is related to our specific intelligence tasking's and whether we are disproportionately searching individuals from a Black, Asian and minority background and whether there is justification for the search.

In the Prevent part of the Drugs Strategy, there is a section around promoting the ethnical powers of stop and search – all this work is still in the early stages.

GR: Some LPAs, for example Slough, where ethnicity is not stated, and has the least disproportionality, is often due to the background population – the majority of the population in Slough is non-white. **Action 02: 01.12.2021.**

For noting, the Pronto App will help with accurate data-collection.

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5. Body Worn Video (BWV) – GR .

GR provided a presentation to the Group on the importance of BWV as a legitimacy and operational efficiency tool.

GR provided a demonstration of the Body Worn Video Review for Stop and Search – once the review has been undertaken, an automated email is sent to the officer who completed the form as well as a pre-determined line managers based on the outcome of the search.

GR advised Thames Valley Police next steps will be around developing tools for Use of Force, Hate Crime, Vehicle Stops and Project Vigilant.

Questions relating to the presentation:-

CL: What is the connection when the GOWISELY procedure is not done correctly and not legal, does this tally with the HMICFRS S&S Audit whereby there were 12% searches where the grounds were not reasonable.

GR: For a search to be lawful the officer undertaking the search has to go through the GOWISELY elements – we have a legal requirement to inform the individual whom we are searching with the grounds of why they are being searched. If we do not inform, the search is unlawful.

The HMICFRS Inspections looked at the grounds of GOWISELY and they established out of the 200 they inspected, 188 were fine, and 12 were not to their satisfaction.

The report from the Body Worn Video Review is sent to the officer who undertook the stop and search and to their Sgt – the Sgt will review the video with the individual and explain / educate the officer why the grounds for his search was not sufficient – it is more around learning and not blaming.

SG: The HMICFRS Audit is under taken by 3 Independent Senior Officers. HMIC did write a report on Stop Search and Use of Force that summarises the issues we are discussing. **Action 03. 01.12.2021**

6. Stop and Search Complaints – Case Study/ PSD Questions.

PSD Questions – the answers from PSD were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no further questions raised.

Case Study update - the Case study that was written by GW was circulated to the Group prior to the meeting.

GR: Key points from the study:

- BWVs – we know that the officers were not using their BWV's and we acknowledge that if the BWVs had been turned on we would have been in a better position to be able to understand exactly what had happened. This has permeated communications to all staff on the use of using BWV for every stop and search, from the ACC Local Policing. .
- Targeting and the use of handcuffs – this has also been included with the Comms stating that you will not handcuff any individual unless there are grounds to do so

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- Age of individual – when the officers established the age of the individual, they should have contacted his family – we acknowledge that the officers did not complete a child protection form.
- Force wide learning process has been taken from this case study.

Questions:

- DT – What is the culture around handcuffing individuals?
- GR – Police Officers can use handcuffs when there is the fear of violence, harm or escape. We have also been working with our Specialist Safety Trainers to ensure Officers are trained on what the grounds are for the use of handcuffs, and if they do use handcuffs, they are able to provide a rationale why they were used. **Action 04. 01.12.2021**
- ACC: The directional video to all operational officers in the force was a direct result of a complaint made by a SSIAG member of his son's experience of a stop and search.
- JR: From the Case Study we know that the complaint was resolved as lawful, however, there were several policy breaches – how are TVP responding?
ACC: There is a difference between what the legal grounds of doing a stop search and the legality of the search versus what was policy breaches for TVP. At the time of the search, 'you must wear and use your BWV' as part of our policy – the officers were not in breach of the policy as it was at the time.
- JR: when a complaint is made, it is dealt with in house (LPA) – this could be viewed as a conflict of interest as the complaint has been locally resolved.
- GR: Now that we have BWV he does not matter who investigates the complaint as everything is captured on BWV – Officers who do not use their BWV will be in breach of the policy. By keeping some of the investigations local we are able to feedback learning. Serious complaints/misconducts will go through PSD up to the IOPC.
- CL: Pleased to see there has been some legal directive from the ACC Local Policing however, there are still incidents of GOWISELY that are not adhered to – but we do acknowledge the good work which is being done.
- MT – thanked everyone for highlighting and raising the profile of the case study, and for being open on what happened. The perception of many young black children thing the police are racists – and searching of young black children reinforces those perceptions. Some of the points raised in the case study were very valid – for example being in a drug hotspot area is not reasonable grounds for a stop and search which raises the question around unconscious bias on certain communities. Going forward this needs to be looked at and addressed by Thames Valley Police especially for the new officers just going through their training. When the Police do not get it right, there is a huge impact on young people. MT offered his services to TVP for learning / training new officers. **Action 05: 01.12.2021**

7. Thames Valley VRU Update - CY

- Grip Funding - The Home Office requested we identify hotspot areas for patrols to reduce incidents of serious violence and knife crime.
- The Home Office agreed that Thames Valley could run a randomised control trial (patrol) around 45 hotspots where we are utilising Force Roamers (Roads

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Policing / Armed Response Vehicles / Dogs / Mounted Section) and put into problems areas

- The Force Roamers have completed 1,000 patrols that equates to 200 hours of additional police activity in those hot spot areas. Putting the people into the right place at the right time has been a success. By the end of the financial year our ability to task the Force Roamers to hotspots will be adopted into other measures and local priorities.
- All the problems that the LPAs face should be subject to an OSAR – a measure of managing problems and how to deal with those problems. Through OSAR 30 operations have been run. There is a reduction in the operations we are doing, however, we are finding with the use of the dashboard, and the focused patrolling in the hotspots, we are having a better impact and better results.
- Enforcement is not the only option to combat the problem of serious violence and knife crime.
- CY provided the details around two operations, which saw drugs and knives taken off the streets.
- The national knife crime initiative – Op Sceptre – Thames Valley Police focused more on engagement, education and prevention. 350 knives were recovered along with test purchase operations, visits to school and communities.
- The number of Stop Searches will be reduced but there will be more focused patrols.

8. HMICFRS Audit / Commission on Race & Ethnic Disparities Report / Runnymede Trust Report

Agenda items 8 / 9 / 10 are all reports have been circulated - as there are no issues or concerns.

11. TVP Drugs Strategy – Strategic Guide for Drug Importation, Supply and Use (Pursue – Prevent – Protect – Prepare). Circulated prior to meeting.

Action 06: 01.12.2021

12. AOB

- JR: FPN – is it possible, through this forum, for TVP to provide data on disproportionality during the Covid lockdown
GR: This is part of one of the strands within the Legitimacy Board – update from the Legitimacy Board brought to this Group. **Action 07: 01.12.2021**
- RF - Integration of Use of Force into this meeting – will this be a standing agenda item. JR - this should be a standard agenda item and we should be looking at the intersectionality on Use of Force and Stop Search and tied up data between the two areas would be useful.
- RF: Use of Force does not directly link to Stop and Search – the use of handcuffs does link **Action 08: 01.12.2021**

JR thanked Supt GR for all his hard work and support to this Stop and Search Forum and wished him well in his retirement.

13. Date of meetings for 2022.

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19.01.2022	18.00 - 20.00
18.05.2022	18.00 - 20.00
28.09.2022	18.00 - 20.00
16.11.2022	18.00 - 20.00

ACTION LIST: OPEN AND CLOSED:

DATE / ACTION NO	ACTION	OWNER AND STATUS
July 2021		
Action 01 14.07.2021	<p>Action generated from Action 06: 14.04.2021 – Behavioural Science. CY to double check the VRU funding – if no funding, ACC Bunt to look at funding through Local Policing budget,</p> <p>Updated 01.12.2021 Super Spotters: CY has spoken to Supt. Wong and the training is still being evaluated – it is currently with Ch/Insp Gassan Shaladan of High Wycombe LPA.</p> <p>It will take some time to complete the training and monitor its impact on our search performance and there will be cost implications rolling it out force wide.</p> <p>This will be handed over to Ch/Supt Grahame Carried over.</p>	Carried over SG
Action 07 14.07.2021	<p>TW to check with Motorola if it is able to drill down and identify officers who put “not stated” for ethnicity.</p> <p>Updated 01.12.2021 Pronto – CW from Strategic Governance has been doing some work around ethnicity/disparity. Bring back to next meeting as an agenda item.</p>	Carried over CW
Action 08 14.07.2021	<p>CL requested this Group to be included in any development around prompts for use of BWV – a hit / wish list of what we want officers to do.</p> <p>Updated 01.12.2021 Carried over to next meeting</p>	Carried over
Action 09 14.07.2021	<p>Pronto: Bring back for a review at this meeting (3-6 months) – and advise of any planned improvements</p> <p>Updated 01.12.2021 Carried over to next meeting</p>	Carried over TW (Pronto)
Action 13 14.07.2021	Serious Violence Dashboard.	Carried over LPM

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	LPM to provide an update / review of the Dashboard to the Group in 6 months' time Updated 01.12.2021 Carried over to next meeting.	
Action 14 14.07.2021	ACC Bunt and JR will meet and discuss membership JR - Actively looking to recruit new members from communities affected by stop & search. Updated: 01.12.2021 ACC Bunt and JR did meet to discuss membership of this Group. However, as we are expanding this meeting to include Use of Force, TVP will help with membership through the Community Scrutiny Panels/VRU/IAG's. JH to progress.	Carried over JH
December 2021		
Action 01 01.12.2021	The Stop Search Strategic Group to look at the data we can provide to this group and what narrative can support the data	New SG
Action 02 01.12.2021	JR to forward to JM the data re self-defined and not self-defined.	New JR
Action 03 01.12.2021	SG to forward HMICFRS report around Stop Search and Use of Force. Closed – Paper circulated to group following meeting.	Closed
Action 04 01.12.2021	KM to circulate ACC Bunts video that was sent to all officers and staff that provided a lawful direction on how we do business around Stop and Search/ BWV/GOWISELY and handcuffs.	New KM
Action 05 01.12.2021	SG is now the strategic lead for Stop and Search – one recommendations is that officers are given unconscious bias training – will discuss with JH what this could look like for TVP	New SG / JH
Action 06 01.12.2021	Drugs Strategy – Members to provide JR with feedback, within the week, who will collate and forward to KM and then onto the Legitimacy Board.	New All members
Action 07 01.12.2021	FPN – data of disproportionality during Covid lockdown. This is one of the strands covered in the Legitimacy Board - update required at next meeting.	New CW
Action 08 01.12.2021	Use of Force – going forward to be a standing agenda item. RF & SG to meet and, based on good practice, will bring to next meeting.	New RF / SG