

Stop & Search Reference Group (SSRG) Minutes

Wednesday 30th March at 16:00 – 18:00 (via Teams)

Chair: Franstine Jones (FJ)

Minute Taker: Sharon Lee (SL)

Number in attendance: 19

Item	Discussion	Comments	Action by whom & when
Welcome	Introductions & chair welcomed all.		
Introduction of the purpose of the meeting by Phaniel Mutumburi (PM)	<p>The group has been running since 2009 on the back of research undertaken in 2008 to investigate the causes of disproportionality against people from minority ethnic backgrounds, particularly black people as visible minorities.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting is to bring together members of the community and the police to discuss firstly, why is this happening and secondly, to look at what needs to be done to bring that parity or proportionality in the way that Suffolk Police use stop and search. As a group, we are here to support the police to do their work well, we are not against the use of stop & search. We however would like to see that when it is used, it is used proportionately, fairly and applied correctly across all communities. The reason why we do this is that we have noticed the wrongful use of Stop & Search has negative consequences for communities and the police. From a police perspective they lose valuable intelligence from disgruntled communities who feel they have been unfairly targeted by the police. Sometimes when we talk to officers, the lack of realisation of the impact of this powerful police tool and the impact it has on communities and not realising the impact and lived experiences on different communities. What tends to happen when Stop & Search is used particularly when used incorrectly and there has been no arrest and a NFA result, some feel there is no impact, and nothing has happened. There is however a lot of impact</p>		

	<p>that does happen and what we are trying to bring to these meetings are those lived experiences in terms of those people sharing their experiences of why Stop & Search needs to be applied correctly and how it impacts on those different communities. This is an open public forum for communities share their experiences and for the police to give us their perspective on why they do the things they do. We have an information sharing agreement with the police, we receive the Stop & Search forms prior to this meeting that the team will analyse and identify ones we have concerns about. We will ask questions of the police particularly on the grounds for the search. We will also share some very good forms analysed so that everyone at the meeting can see what a good stop and search look like.</p>		
Review of Forms:			
265309	<p>Stop & Search under the Misuse of Drugs Act – Area the two individuals seen plus they walked away when they saw the police.</p> <p>19.45 is recorded for the stop on 19th November 01:41 is recorded for the search on 20th November Why is the time of the search so different from the time the person was stopped? The stop was carried out at 19:45 pm in an ordinarily busy street in Ipswich. The grounds described the subject as not doing much but standing there. What made the officer suspicious of this person? Someone walking away from the police doesn't always show they have done something wrong.</p>	<p>Police have not had a response from the officer on this form. Police believe the timings reported are an input administrative error. Police will give us a response later.</p> <p>FJ - People do live in these crime hotspot areas, therefore police feel there is detail missing on the grounds on this form, but they will come back to us on that one. PM – What is on that form does not show reasonable grounds for that stop & search, this is not evidenced, or intelligence led</p>	<p>Police to respond to this - before the next meeting</p>
265697	<p>Stop & Search under the Misuse of Drugs Act – Area, individual had no reasonable explanation why he was in the area.</p> <p>The grounds for this search are not clear, what were the grounds and were all elements of GOWISELY covered?</p>	<p>Officer gave more details to explain the reasoning for the stop & search. Police need to give clarity in their recordings for their stop & search. FJ – asked what the outcome was, was the vehicle seized? Outcome of search for FJ. Individual arrested for unrelated matter; vehicle was seized. SL – Grounds muddled, what was the stop & search for, it talks of no tax/mot then it goes on to talk about stolen vehicle, seeking clarity. Police will feedback to</p>	<p>Police to follow-up with officer</p>

		officer involved about records capture the different legislation enacted.	
265303	<p>Stop & Search under the Misuse of Drugs Act – Drug driving.</p> <p>An example of a good stop & search. Good observation of antecedents giving clear grounds for the stop & search, with a well written summary.</p>	<p>Feedback for arresting officer.</p> <p>PM – Forms like these will hopefully be used in training to show new and other officers that it is possible to put on the face of the forms that reasonable grounds for which the stop & search has been conducted.</p>	Feedback to officer
265248	<p>Stop & Search under the Misuse of Drugs Act – Vehicle stopped, intelligence marker for past drug use.</p> <p>Details for this stop & search appears to be limited. How old was the intel marker? Did the BW show information to further warrant the stop & search?</p>	<p>County lines – intelligence linked to subject. Person and vehicle were searched. PM - Intelligence drug use and supply, the form does not mention any drug supply. How long does intelligence stay on the system? They shouldn't use old intelligence. There is no fixed term on how long police use information from. We might need to go away and think about our terminology and what officers are referring to when they use the term 'drug use, drug supply.' The new refresher package for personal safety training is centred around stop and search. It reinforces the fact what 'recent intelligence' should be.</p> <p>FJ – asked for the outcome. NFA.</p>	SM – Discuss Terminology with his team.
M37098120211201091105	<p>Stop & Search under the Misuse of Drugs Act – Individual walking, stopped as a person of interest.</p> <p>The grounds for this search are not very clear. What made him a 'male of interest', what does that mean what was he doing that made him of interest, was he acting suspiciously, if so, how? was GOWISELY used?</p>	<p>Subject was recognised by the officer. More details given in the response. Requests for more information within the grounds.</p>	More learning for officers on recording the grounds for the stop & search.
M37183320211021184254	<p>Stop & Search under the Misuse of Drugs Act – Individual in area with no explanation why he was in the area – police intelligence.</p>	<p>This form was not completed by the searching officer. It was a female who</p>	

	<p>Details for this stop & search is not clear. How recent was the intel? My concerns are raised further by a comment from the supervisor: 'Having reviewed body worn this is switched on after male is initially stopped and handcuffed'.</p> <p>As there is no evidence from the BW it cannot be said if the search & powers were explained and carried out according to GOWISELY, assumptions have been made that it was.</p>	<p>stopped the officer and requested a male officer to carry out the search.</p> <p>There were inaccuracies in the form, but the Officer did not check the form before it was submitted.</p>	
Strip Searches	<p>FJ - Request for data and discussion prompted by the recent story in the media of a child stripped searched at school due to the smell of cannabis. The child was searched by teachers. Nothing was found, they later called the police who strip searched the child. FJ questioned if strip search was for class A drugs. Community talking about it and have reported that in Ipswich they know of children who have been strip searched.</p> <p>FJ wanted to know the data in Suffolk, to include if the children had an appropriate adult with them. From the data that have come forward, FJ says she can see the strip search is disproportionate for black males.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Simon Mills (SM) If a person is brought into custody to be searched, they are booked in as a detainee because they are detained for the search. Under 14 years, they need an appropriate adult present. 15/16 years have they have a choice of an appropriate adult. If the appropriate adult agrees, the child can be searched without the adult. Children with additional needs, SM will need to delve into this further this further but would suggest a risk assessment is undertaken by the custody sergeant that an appropriate adult present. Strip search – Top half of clothing first, then they take off the lower part of clothing their clothing turns around and squat. No part of the persons boy is touched. Intimate searches require a higher authority and usually done at hospital. FJ, are there higher searches included in the data provided?</p> <p>SM Yes, not all strip searches in data are because of stop and search. The data given is for custody searches. Strip searches in Suffolk for the last 15 months to 1st January 2021 because of Stop & Search has been a total of 38.</p>	<p>SM will go away to re-look at data, he will put the data in a readable format for FJ and PM. FJ has requested a meeting with SM and PM to discuss this further. SM to give an update at the next meeting.</p>	<p>SM, FJ & PM to meet to discuss this further before the next meeting. SM to give an</p>

	<p>FJ asked what data has been referred to in the Police and Crime Commissioners Report October 2020 and September 2021 there has been 381 strip searches. SM says that data in that report is incorrect. SM will go away and re-look at the data.</p> <p>SM also mentioned that the policy states, for under 18's strip search should take place in custody. It affords them access to the appropriate support, but this is not mandatory.</p>		update at the next meeting.
Section 60	<p>SM reports 1 section 60 authorised in January 2022, this has been discussed with PM.</p> <p>2 incidents around Norwich Road/Barrack corner, male slashed with a machete, Barrack corner. Proceeding 2 weeks 2 similar incidents.</p> <p>All normal processes followed included contact with PM who responded.</p>	<p>Outcome –</p> <p>4 searches were undertaken under section 60 authority.</p> <p>Located and recovered the involved vehicle and arrested 2 parties. Main suspect on pushbike still outstanding.</p> <p>FJ – What was the ethnicities of the 4 persons searched. This will fit the profile of what they were looking for. This will come up in Jan/Feb data, Michell Plume MP will update FJ.</p>	MP will update FJ on ethnicities.
Stop & Search meetings	<p>General discussion on the need to encourage the community to come along to these meetings. Discussion that when there are serious incidents, people will come along, this then weans off. FJ says she is attending a general meeting tomorrow on Stop & Search, Create not Hate and has some ideas on increases our numbers to attend.</p>	<p>SM would like to have a meeting with FJ, PM, SL to discuss this further and how we can increase the numbers and move this forward. Would like to look at the long-term vision.</p>	Arrange a meeting to discuss further.
Next Meeting	25th May 2022		