

Stop & Search Reference Group (SSRG) Minutes

Date: 29th November 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 (Northgate High School)

Chair: Franstine Jones (FJ)

Minute Taker: Travis Dickerson (TD)

Presenting: Phaniel Mutumburi (PM), Sharon Lee (SL), Simon Mills (SM)

Attendance:	ISCRE (3)	Police (7)	Public (10)	Students (47)	Total: 67
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Welcome:	All welcomed
Introduction and purpose of the meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SM & PM presented the history and background of the SSRG• Know Your Rights and the law was explained to the group• A demonstration of a Stop & search took place
Previous minutes and former actions	All actions were completed and shared prior to this meeting

Review of Forms	ISCRE Comments	Scrutiny Discussion & Comments	Action by whom & when
<p>Form 1 - 370184/090823/142708</p> <p>Grounds: Subject was identified to police by a witness who observed him acting suspiciously trying to steal in Felixstowe town centre- witness followed subject and pointed him out- on this information he was searched for stolen goods / going equipped</p>	<p>Can we review BWV for this case please.</p> <p>It appears this person was stopped and searched due to a witness saying they were acting suspiciously. Was the witness a MOP or shop staff etc? What were the details observed from the witness to suggest suspicious behaviour? Did the witness always have site of the suspected person? Did the witness see any items being stolen. What suspicious behaviour did the officer witness? Did they have intelligence on the detained person to inform a search? Were the officer's suspicions of this suspect to conduct a search purely based on another person's suspicion/observations of suspicious behaviour that has not been described or detailed? No stolen good were found.</p>	<p>BWV was reviewed by ISCRE prior to the SSRG meeting.</p> <p>SM: Provided more detailed information regarding the suspects' behavior as reported earlier on in the day. A few issues arose from the search.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language that the officers used during the search. - The legal powers to search came after the search started - The grounds were not clearly written. <p>SM: Informed the group that time was spent with the searching officer on improvements that needed to be made.</p>	
<p>Form 2 - 371753/050823/182937</p> <p>Grounds: I was on duty from Stowmarket Police station at 1400hrs doing targetted intelligence led patrols of Combs Ford and Stowmarket. I noticed two young males with known intelligence for drugs. I approached the males and spoke with the males I know to be x x and x x.</p>	<p>Can we view the BWV for this case please.</p> <p>How recent (date) is the intel that the suspect secretes drugs in their underwear, as it is clear this intel is what led to the request for a strip search of this 14-year-old?</p> <p>Why was there use of force, considering the suspect handed over a grinder</p>	<p>BWV reviewed by ISCRE. Was found to be a well conducted search using GOWISEY.</p> <p>In response - the intelligence that the male secretes drugs within his underwear was provided a day before. Authorisation was sought for a strip search. And the use of force was used for transportation.</p>	

<p>Myself and PC 5005 MILLER were tasked to attend the area for interruption patrols following intelligence that x was selling drugs in pikes meadow after midday on the 4th August 2023.</p> <p>See: I saw x and x together, I saw that x had man bag on him, I asked him what he had been doing and he produced a grinder to me voluntarily. I saw both their eyes were red and bloodshot. They said they had been playing football but neither had a ball or any grass stains to suggest this was true.</p> <p>Know: I know x has intelligence for selling drugs approximately 200 meters from where he was stopped. I know x has recent intelligence for secreting drugs in his underwear.</p> <p>Suspect: I suspected that x has drugs on him and that I would locate cannabis in his underwear.</p>	<p>voluntarily, does this not indicate a level of compliance? Reviewing the BWV will help us to understand this.</p>		
<p>Form 3 - 370662/180823/001210</p> <p>Grounds: Have recieved a call from the informant stating that he had seen a group of males ages 15-20 years old. Could not give exact description of the males due to lgihting levels but did state that they were in black and that one of them had what he believed to be a zombie knife. The informamnt described the youths as the local gangsters of Hadleigh and that he had trouble with them beofre. He gave the location of them being at the SPAR on LONG BESSELS road. This have been montiered by Tango Victor CCTV who have found the group matching that description.</p>	<p>What were the grounds for the stop and search? The informant says they could not give descriptions of the suspects due to lighting levels, yet they were able to identify a zombie knife. What was seen/observed by the cctv operator apart from the group playing football? Did the operator witness a zombie knife or any suspicious behaviour? What did the officer see on arrival as being suspicious of the group? Were any of the group known or had recent intel (dates) on them for offensive weapons or</p>	<p>A response to ISCRE questions was provided however this did not answer the questions raised.</p> <p>CC: We will be going back to the officer and supervisor to gain a full response which will be sent though to ISCRE and the chair.</p>	<p>CC: To get a full response and share the information with ISCRE.</p>

<p>The group of youths have then remained in that area and were being monitored on the CCTV where they were playing football until police had arrived.</p>	<p>dangerous instruments? What was the suspicious behaviour that led to the search of this person, or was he searched as a part of the group? How many were in the group, what was the ethnic breakdown of the group, and were all the group searched?</p>		
<p>Form 4 - 370516/010923/031256</p> <p>Grounds:</p> <p>See: male was seen driving at excess speed in Ipswich Town center away from night clubs.</p> <p>Know: PIR Dated 25/08/2023 37/75701/23 suggests that the male was seen driving away from the town centre and has been supplying drugs to people at night time economy locations.</p> <p>On stopping the male a smell of cannabis was present with no other members of the public around.</p> <p>Suspect:</p> <p>Due to the smell of cannabis being present, the male's erratic driving and the recent intelligence dated within a week suggesting the male is supplying drugs in the town centre in the early hours. I suspected he was in possession of a controlled drug.</p>	<p>This person was stopped for a suspected traffic violation. The officers search for drugs is formed by the smell of cannabis and intelligence stated acquired a week ago in relation to supplying drugs. The supervisor states the most recent intel was from 2020 and does not relate to drugs. Could we have clarification and clear grounds as to why this person was searched. Was there a use of force?</p>	<p>. SM: Confirmed that the intelligence was less than three months. <i>reply.</i></p> <p><i>Handcuffs were used in the front stack position to prevent escape and to prevent loss of evidence. Intelligence reference number: 37/75701/23 refers to the stopped male and intelligence suggesting he was dealing in the town centre. This was recent intel as early as a week prior to the stop.</i></p> <p><i>The confusion was that the intelligence was not QA'd prior to the stop.</i></p>	

AOB: 2 Forms not securitised at this meeting - Responses to be shared with ISCRE: To be actioned by SM

Dates for 2024 SSRG Meetings: January 31st, March 27th, May 29th, July 31st, September 25th, November 27th