Minutes:
Bedfordshire Community Stop Search Scrutiny Panel

Day and Date	25th May 2023
Time	18:00 – 21:00
Venue	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees	**Panel Members:** Myrna Loy (ML), Phil Dickson-Earle (PD), Stephen Quirke (SQ), Simon Cacioppo (SC), Kim Taylor (KT), Harley Scott (HS), Lucia Scozzari (LS) **Bedfordshire Police:** Ommer Khan (OK), Ian Taylor (IT) **OPCC Office:** Anesu Banda
Apologies	Katie Beaumont (KB), Renee Henry (RH)
Abbreviation	**DP = Detained person** **CSP = Community Safety Partnership Area**

1	**Welcome, Introductions, apologies:** PD informed the panel that he has been appointed as the new scrutiny panel chair and greeted the panel.
2	**Confidentiality:** All have been sent the document.
3	**Minutes of last meeting with Matters arising and action points:** All actions have been completed.
4	**Policing context:** IT outlined that during quarter 4 there were 310 serious youth violence incidents, 138 in Luton, 84 in Bedford Borough, 78 in Central Beds and 10 without a defined location in compared to 280 in Quarter 3 which shows an escalating level of violence within the county and stop and search is used as a tactic to combat this. **Targeted operations:** 1. Op conductor – has been ongoing in central beds looking at drug supply by county line operations which has contributed to a number of stop and searches. 2. Operation foresight – ongoing operation in Luton town centre to tackle antisocial behaviour in the town centre. 3. Operation planter – operation specific to the galaxy centre in Luton due to increasing levels of hostility and violence within that specific geographic location. *Demographic data for targeted gangs:* • 111 mapped gang nominals within the county currently, largest proportion is in Luton, central beds then Bedford borough has the smallest cohort. *Ethnicity breakdown shows:* • White background: 36% • Asian background: 35% • Black background: 22% • Other: 7% *County lines:* • 50 nominals within Bedfordshire mapped to county lines currently. Community Safety Partnership (CSP): means the local government area (Luton, Bedford and Central Beds) each work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area. *Demographic breakdown for county lines:* • White background: 24% • Asian background: 40% • Black background: 28% • Other: 8% ML asked if there was a reason why the % for Asians is higher than those from a black background. IT responded to say from looking at the chart around 50% of the gangs

	operating in Luton are defined as an Asian background and if you look at the demographic and census data for Luton this is consistent with the population data, there is a larger south-east Asian population in Luton. PD asked how a gang is defined. IT informed the panel that there is a multiagency gang panel that meet and there are criteria e.g., intelligence and most of the gangs are overt in the sense that they declare that they are gangs e.g., with specific gang names however I will go away and gain more insight into the science behind it. **Action:** IT to speak to Detective Insp Tom Stean can attend the next meeting to provide the panel with an update of what he does and how they define what a gang is and membership of a gang.
5	**Chairs update, Vice Chair; Reasonable grounds, GOWISLEY & RAG:** • PD informed the panel that he has been elected as the new scrutiny panel chair. • PD has a meet and greet with the Police and Crime Commissioner and to gain insight into the role of the scrutiny panel chair. • PD informed the panel that he thinks a WhatsApp group will be beneficial for quick communication especially for when section 60's come through. **Action:** AB to contact the scrutiny panel for their personal mobile numbers and set up the WhatsApp group chat.
6	**Report back from S&S Sub Group:** N/A
7	**Learning from previous Stop and Search Meeting (within minutes) what action has the force taken.** N/A
8	**BW video 1:** S.60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 **Grounds**: This male was in and around the area where a stabbing had taken place. The male searched is linked to the male who was stabbed in Luton town centre. The male was walking with a limp which looked like he had a large, bladed article or offensive weapon down his trousers. **Discussion:** A discussion took place between the panel members.

	Grading: Green 3 **Action:** OK to inform the officer that the GOWISLEY was missed.
9	**BW video 2:** **Grounds:** Officers attended to the DP as he was intoxicated and acting a nuisance at his father's address. DP appeared to be intoxicated and aggressive and kept talking about cocaine. DP was foaming at mouth and reddening near his nasal cavity. Believed the DP may have been under the influence of drugs and searched for drugs. **Authority**: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 **Discussion:** A discussion took place between the panel members. **Grading: Green 3** **Action:** OK to feedback to the police officer regarding his aggressive language.
10	**BW Video 3:** The subject was seen by officers in the company of others being approached by known drug dealers and acting suspiciously. Intelligence suggests that the subject and others have previously been involved in the supple of controlled drugs. The subject was searched but nothing was found on him. **Authority:** S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 **Discussion:** A discussion took place between the panel members. **Grading: Green 1** **Feedback:** When the officers write 'intelligence' on their reports they should put additional context in order for the panel to gain more insight when viewing videos and grading.

11	**BW Video 4:**
	Grounds:
	One of the subjects was seen to enter a block of flats that recent intelligence suggests drug dealing is occurring at. Local officers are aware of persons living at the block who are regularly using crack cocaine and having it delivered to them. The male in question was at the location for no longer than a few minutes after being buzzed in and then left in company with the other subjects through the rear of the block. The suspicion was that a drug deal had taken place inside the block of flat.
	Discussion:
	A discussion took place between the panel members.
	Grading: Green 1
12	**Stop & Search data:**
	Feedback from previous actions Q3:
	1. 20 stop searches relating those aged 10-14 in Q3. A deep dive review has been done on all of those searches to ensure that they have been conducted fairly, which was confirmed.
	2. 65% - contact from the community making reporting.
	3. 5% CCTV reporting
	4. 30% generating the stop searches themselves.
	The vast majority of the searches were section 23 misuse of drug searches, and the outcome ratio was 40% positive outcome and 60% no further action.
	• 2 stops had multiple individuals searched.
	24 searches on members of the black community, on the basis that it looks disproportionate in terms of statistics.
	• 21% came from calls members of the public.
	• 13% CCTV reporting
	• 67% generate by the officers but linked to intelligence.
	• 79% drug related searches
	• 50% positive outcome
	• 50% no further action
	• 3 group stops in total.
	Searches for weapons:
	The black community members ratio was at 6.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched. Causal factors were investigated and whether the searches were appropriate which amounted to 16 searches that amounted to this proportionality

figure.

- 12% - Intelligence via the ANPR system (markers on vehicles).
- 25% - CCTV reporting
- 50% - The public contacting the police.
- 13% - Officer generated.
- Outcomes were low at 23% positive outcome ratio.
- 2 group searches – 1st related to 2 persons being in possession of machetes which resulted in the subjects being arrested which equates to positive outcome. The 2nd group was 4 stop searches linked together due to a report of 9 persons being in possession of a machete and a knife, however this was a negative result.

Drug searches for possession with intent to supply for those from a mixed and black ethnic background because their proportionality rates were 8.1 and 7.2:

63 total searches matching the criteria.

Reporting methods:
- 3% - ANPR system
- 11% - CCTV
- 13% - Public
- 73% - generated by officers – intelligence.
- Outcome ratio of 35% positive
- 65% No further action

Q4 data:

- 1096 searches in Q4 (1st January – 31st March) with 32% positive outcome result.
- Standard searches e.g., nothing more the removal of an outer coat was 4% (4 stops)
- Exposed intimate body parts (strip search) e.g., removing clothing to be searched was at 4%.
- For juvenile strip searches there has to be a consultation and authority through an inspector due to learning from the child q case. The searches should be audio recorded.
- IT has informed KS that he would like the scrutiny panel to review and scrutinise the strip search audios.
- Reduction in overall numbers for stop and search, it has reduced to 1096 during this period compared to the same period last year which was 1249 searches.

Age demographics:

- 24 searches on the 10 – 14 age group, therefore a deep dive will be done.

Self-defined ethnicity:

- Black community – 3.7 times more likely to be searched.
- White community – 1.0 times more likely to be searched.
- Asian community – 2.4 times more likely to be searched.
- Mixed community – 1.8 times more likely to be searched.
- Other – 3.5

BWF activation:

Bedfordshire police has high compliance due to the feedback given by the panel.

Possession searches:

- 3.7 times more likely if you're from the black community.
- The positive outcome rate is 36% with 176 drugs being seized / 477 searches.

Bedfordshire police have just over 1400 police officers which is the highest they have had. There is a high number of new recruits joining between July and October who will be going into the student hub and will be having an introduction to operational policing and they will be going out with a more experienced officer as their tutor.

13	**PSD referrals and outcomes:** N/A
14	**Any Stop and Search Issues in the Community:** None recorded.
15	**AOB & Date of next meeting to be advised:** 7th September 2023