

**Minutes:  
Bedfordshire Community Stop Search Scrutiny Panel**

<b>Day and Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023
<b>Time</b>	18:00 – 21:00
<b>Venue</b>	Via Microsoft Teams
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Panel Members:</b> Natasha Clewley (NC), Phil Dickson-Earl (PD), Myrna Loy (ML), Elizabeth Ginns (EG), Lorraine Parkinson (LP), Natasha Loftus (NL), Loveness Bishi (LB)</p> <p><b>Bedfordshire Police:</b> Karanjit Sanghera (KS) Ian Taylor (IT)</p> <p><b>OPCC Office:</b> Simon Powell (SP) Anesu Banda (AB)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	Katie Beaumont (KB), Renee Henry (RH)
<b>Abbreviation</b>	<p><b>DP = Detained person</b> <b>CSP = Community Safety Partnership Area</b></p>

1	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions, apologies:</b> KS welcomed the panel and informed them that PD will be chairing the meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Confidentiality:</b> All have been sent the document.</p>
3	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting with Matters arising and action points:</b>  The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and agreed.  The Actions were discussed and updated.</p>
4	<p><b>Policing context:</b> IT gave an overview of the period of Oct 2022 – Present as the data for that period is being reviewed. Regarding policing context around the serious youth violence from beginning September 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> February.</p> <p><b>IT provided the following data:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 605 incidents of serious youth violence, vast majority almost 50% occurred in Luton, 269 occurred in central and Bedford Borough had 159, which has fluctuated during that period.</li> <li>• The highest period was the month of Sept with 119 incidents, and a decrease between November and December, remained flat through January and picked up in February at 113.</li> <li>• To tackle this, there is a team that deal with serious youth violence and operation sparkler is a tactic to disrupt serious youth violence and to deter young people from being involved with serious youth violence.</li> <li>• 960 hours of patrol time has been completed; the vast majority being spent in Luton with 840 hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operations run in Bedfordshire:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation Bless was an initiative in Bedford town centre during the Christmas period aimed at retail crime.</li> <li>• Operation Cipher – to tackle serious youth violence in Bedford borough.</li> <li>• Operation Eve was a drug related initiative to tackle drug related issues.</li> <li>• Operation Fairmount in the Dallow area of Luton, based on disruption of gang related violence with two rival gangs causing significant issues between themselves, which has escalated violence amongst them.</li> <li>• Operation foresight, in Luton town centre as this was the merging hot stop area for violence in that area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation sparkler, a total of 187 stop searches in that period were completed, vast majority of 166 based in Luton.</li> <li>• As a consequence of the stop searches 1 firearm, 6 weapons, 64 drug seizures, and 12 mobile phones we seized because of the individuals being arrested on the basis of drug possession.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Chairs update, Vice Chair; Reasonable grounds, GOWISLEY &amp; RAG:</b>  NC provided the panel with the update. NC and Deputy Chair RH and OPCC staff have</p>

	<p>had meetings to ensure the Stop and Search meetings are useful, cohesive and to be able to monitor good outcomes. There is a concern that we are not seeing an impact on the figures we see.</p> <p>NC informed the panel that conduct needs to be addressed so everyone on the panel feels able to share their thoughts in a safe space. NC also outlined how the focus of the meetings is to scrutinise and support the police and not to ascertain if someone has committed a crime in the way we may think. It is important to remain respectful though the group may hold different views.</p> <p>It has been discussed that social time as a group will be useful and it is currently being discussed to see how best this can be done.</p> <p>NC asked the panel to reach out to the chair and vice chair if there are any ideas, changes, skills, or concerns.</p>
6	<p><b>Report back from S&amp;S Sub Group:</b></p> <p>KS informed the panel that since the last main meeting there has been 3 sub panels and 11 videos viewed, and 4 have been brought to today's meeting for the panel to see and 7 have been graded. 1 – Amber 6, 1-Amber 4, 5-Green 1-3.</p> <p>The ambers resulted in the officers receiving feedback.</p> <p>NC asked KS how the feedback is delivered to the officers. KS responded to say it is possible for the chair/vice chair to be present during the feedback sessions to track it. KS also has a feedback sheet with comments from the panel and the officer which can be sent to the panel by KS.</p> <p>NC said there is no need to attend those meetings as it may not be fair for the officers, however if it is a more serious situation then the chair/vice chair being present can be measured.</p> <p>IT said the feedback to officers, when something has been graded as red, the officer must be put onto a development plan to formally track their improvements, and some can be passed on to professional standards and can be looked at from a disciplinary point of view. If there is an officer that has repeatedly scored amber, and they have not learned from the feedback this should result in them going onto a personal development plan and if they do not develop through that they would go onto a unsatisfactory performance process.</p>
8	<p><b>BW video 1:</b></p> <p><b>Grounds:</b></p> <p>KS gave the subject's name as XXXX and asked if anyone knows the subject. The subject is male XXXX from Luton. Subject was spoken to by officers at Lennon Court, Luton and stated that he was going to a flat to visit someone. Subject was then observed making a suspected exchange with another male he met there instead of going to a flat. This area has current intelligence around repeated drug dealing.</p>

	<p>A discussion took place between the panel members.</p> <p><b>Grading: GREEN 2</b></p>
9	<p><b>BW video 2:</b></p> <p><b>Grounds:</b></p> <p>Subject did not provide their name.</p> <p>Officers called to an incident in Kingsway Park whereby several young males in tracksuits hoods and masks were seen going into the park with knives. Subject was a young male who was found in Kingsway Park with his hood up.</p> <p>A discussion took place between the panel members.</p> <p><b>Grading: GREEN 1</b></p>
10	<p><b>BW Video 3:</b></p> <p><b>Grounds:</b></p> <p>Searched male was sitting at the bus shelter on his own. We approached the area to speak to another male in the near vicinity who we had spoken to prior. On arrival to the location to speak with the other male I could immediately smell a strong smell of cannabis. I noted and verbalised this before the search. I was 100% satisfied that it was not the male we initially spoke with as we spoke with him less than a minute prior. The smell was coming from the specific direction where the male was sitting. There was nobody else around and this was outside so the smell must have been recent and couldn't be attributed to anyone else. I approached him and told him I am detaining him for a drug search. I asked him if he had anything on his person he shouldn't have, he responded I had but it is on the floor now which confirmed my belief that he was smoking cannabis. Throughout the search he kept saying he didn't know it was illegal in the UK.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>A discussion took place between the panel members.</p> <p><b>GRADING: AMBER 6</b></p>
11	<p><b>BW Video 4:</b></p> <p>The subject is XXXX from Bedford.</p> <p><b>Grounds:</b></p> <p>Detained person has been seen on Bromham road, Bedford and has spoken to a male outside of a store. The detained person has approached a member of the public and tried to stop him. The MOP appeared to be apprehensive of the detained person. PC XXXX approached the detained person and attempted to engage with them, the detained person ran off from officers leading to a foot chase and jumped over a wall at an</p>

alleyway and hid behind it. The detained person was located and was sweating profusely, and eyes pinpointed. He had one glove on his hand covered in dirt and appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

**Discussion:**

A discussion took place between the panel members.

**GRADING: GREEN 3**

12

**Stop & Search data:**

IT explained that in terms of the volume of searches there were 907 searches in quarter 3 (1<sup>st</sup> oct – 31<sup>st</sup> dec), which is reduction from quarter 1 which was 1100 and quarter 2 was 1066. The vast majority of searches was for the misuse of drugs.

**Number of drugs seized: 211.**

Positive outcome rate is 32% and that is a good news story because  $\frac{3}{4}$  years ago we were at the low 20's therefore a third of our searches have a positive result. National average is 24%. Our arrest ratio was about 5-6% of people that were stopped and searched, and our narrative was that we are arresting those who pose the most harm meaning we should've been arresting more but now we are at 16% so we are moving in the right direction.

**Levels of searches:**

- Standard search is conducted in the public, and we remove outercoat, jacket, and gloves.
- Strip searches take place within a police station.

IT informed the panel that there is no national dataset for strip searches.

November 2022 was a low month for searches compared to the summer months. The data also shows comparisons to the previous 12 months.

IT said that Luton was a heavy area for intensification especially towards the latter part of 2022, which was operation Fairmont in the Dallow area of Luton.

There is a large proportion of not stated ethnicity because the public have the freedom to not provide this which skews the data, but we can still see that there is some disproportionality in the black community.

In regard to age, we always do a deep dive review on the 10-14 age group to gain more insight into the searches and this can be provided to the panel if needed.

The data shows that you are 4.5 times more likely to be stopped if you are from the black community and in central beds the ratio is 8.5, compared to 5.3 in Bedford and 1.6 in Luton. IT added that they look at these numbers internally and if they do not understand why the black community are being searched more than other ethnicities a deep dive review will be conducted.

	<p>In regard to body worn footage, we do get it right 98% but the 2% that it is not captured we do want to know why this has occurred however most of the times it is due to the cameras running out of battery as they have a limited battery life. However, if there are officers that are not capturing footage, they are put onto development plans.</p> <p><b>Weapon searches:</b></p> <p>Luton: 93  Bedford Borough: 44  Central Beds: 31  Out of Force: 3</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b>  No further action: 127  Arrest: 34  Community resolution: 6  Summons: 3</p> <p>Luton and Bedford are the highest when it comes to possession however the vast majority end up in community resolution because it is likely that they found a small amount of cannabis that is for personal use and not enough to supply.</p> <p>PD asked IT that if the statistics are showing a high level of disproportionality will there be a time where we will be given reasons for this. IT answered to say yes, we look at this internally and dip sample the stop and searches to see if we are confident that the searches have been completed to an adequate standard and this will be sent out to the panel.</p>
13	<p><b>PSD referrals and outcomes:</b>  None</p>
14	<p><b>Any Stop and Search Issues in the Community:</b>  None recorded.</p>
15	<p><b>AOB &amp; Date of next meeting to be advised:</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b>  25.05.2023</p>