Minutes:
Bedfordshire Community Stop Search Scrutiny Panel

Day and Date	7th September 2023
Time	18:00 – 20:45
Venue	Via Microsoft Teams
Attendees	**Panel Members:** Myrna Loy (ML), Phil Dickson-Earle (PD), Harley Scott (HS), Marcella Smith (MS), Natasha Loftus (NL), Steve Bond (SB), Beverley Drummey (BD), **Bedfordshire Police:** Ommer Khan (OK), Ian Taylor (IT), Thomas Stean (TS) **OPCC Office:** Anesu Banda (AB), Katie Beaumont (KB)
Apologies	Renee Henry (RH), Samantha Denness (SD), Lorraine Parkinson (LP), Elizabeth Ginns (EG), Mary Perry (MP), Elaine Keen (EK), Francesca Keen (FK), Lauren Cox (LC), Lucia Scozzari (LS), Karen James (KJ), James Turner (JT)
Abbreviation	**DP = Detained person** **CSP = Community Safety Partnership Area** **OP = Operation**

1	**Welcome, Introductions, apologies:** PD greeted the panel and informed them how the panel will be conducted. PD informed the panel that KS is now an acting Inspector and has moved to a different team therefore some of the actions from the previous meeting will be passed onto SB as the new Acting Sergeant.
2	**Confidentiality:** All have been sent the document.
3	**Minutes of last meeting with Matters arising and action points:** All actions have been discussed.
4	**Input from Detective Tom Stean** Temporary DCI for the Boson team. The Boson team is a unit of 20 officers that work to target safeguarding individuals of serious violence and disrupt county lines and victims of exploit. The Boson team have organised crime groups within their area. Between the OCG, county lines and gangs, the Boson team aim to disrupt the gangs and arrest when offences have been committed. The team aim to safeguard those young people who are being exploited by the OCG's and gang members. The safeguarding officer has attended 270+ safeguarding meetings in the last 12 months for the young persons that fall under the Boson team. We are working with partner agencies to safeguard young persons and divert them away from crime. There is a monthly matrix that looks at the intelligence sent to the police by e.g., schools and identifies who is at a high risk. There have been good results, families have been assisted with moving out of the area, and helping young people go to university or college and ensuring the gangs are not in the same classes. The Boson team are currently doing a lot of work to disrupt the county lines, gangs and OCG's. **The Boson team look at the last 6 months' worth of data.** **Definition of a gang:** A gang is usually a group of people that spend time in public places and see themselves or are seen by other people as a noticeable group and engage in criminal activity or violence and may have the following features: 1. Identify with or claim over territory 2. In conflict with other similar gangs

	Within the gang there are 3 elements e.g., a gang member, a potential gang member and at risk periphery members. When gangs are mapped or re-mapped (scoring based on risk) it allows the Boson team to know which gang is causing the most harm. Every time a gang is mapped the team have a meeting with the partner agencies to ensure support is going to every mapped person and look to see what can be done to reduce the risk score down to a point where the gang can be archived. TS informed the panel that 3 years ago they had 18 gangs and now they have 7. Archiving a gang is not easy however through the hard work of the team we can ensure the gang level stays low.
5	**Policing context:** IT informed the panel that between the 17th of May - 9th May there were 324 serious youth violence incidents across the county. 106 in Luton, 108 in Central Beds and 108 in Bedford Borough, which amounts to 33% across each CSP area. In comparison to the data provided in May there has been increase of 14 offences in that period, however we would naturally expect to see a peak during the summer. Looking at the previous reporting 3 months there has been a decrease in Luton and an increase in both Central and Bedford Boroughs. During the same period, there was a total of 33 weapons seized across this time frame. In addition, linked to stop and search there were 40 weapons seized as a result of searches and 309 drug items seized. In terms of stop and search, there was a total of 1259 searches from June – August with a 34% positive outcome ratio, which amounted to 12 arrests and 22% through other police action e.g., summons, warnings, and other methods. 553 searches occurred in Luton and the main drive for the searches relate to operation metal which is an ongoing initiative that is based in Luton town centre, looking at overarching crime reduction in the area and another initiative is Dallow Cares, which is a partnership approach looking at overarching crime reduction and prevention. Bedford was the second significant search area primarily because of Operation Eve, which looks at disrupting drug dealing within the CSP area, and Operation Version which prompted targeted police activity in that area to reduce tension and the likelihood of any further violence. Centrals Beds had 219 searches, and there has been targeted activity looking at county lines within the Biggleswade area. Operation Skyfree targeted nuisance motorcycles and contributed to a few stops and searches. **Robbery Figures:** 99 personal robberies reported across the reporting period. Luton- 38, Central Beds – 19, Bedford Borough – 41 and 1 as an unknown location. **The operational names are generated by the force control room.**

6	**BW video 1:**
	Grounds: Detained person has been seen on CCTV and believed to have engaged in a drug deal in Cobden Square and was then seen on CCTV counting cash. The detained person was detained by XXXX following trying to walk away from him on Roff Avenue. The DP had approx. £60 in the side of his jacket that was visible. **Discussion:** A discussion took place between the panel members. **Actions:** • OK to feedback to the officer that although the panel graded the video G2 they would like to understand why handcuffs were used when the subject was compliant and there were enough officers present. **Grading:** Green 2
7	**BW video 2:** **Grounds:** Male made off on an off-road bike when seeing officers in the area, subject was then seen to discard a helmet in a bush. It was suspected that the subject and the male who made off on the bike may be involved or have articles in connection with going equipped, theft or burglary. **Discussion:** A discussion took place between the panel members. **Grading:** Green 2
8	**BW Video 3:** **Grounds:** Male was seen within the St Georges Square area of Luton/ he has a balaclava on and didn't want to engage with officers. The male refused to take off his balaclava. This location is also a known location for drug dealing and drug taking. Due to the fact that the male was not engaging with police fully and in a known area for drug dealing and taking, the male was detained under S23 MDA to establish if he had any controlled drugs on or within his persons.

Discussion:

A discussion took place between the panel members.

Actions:
1. Deep dive into this officer's stops and searches during the sub panels.
2. Panel voted R8.

Grading:

Red 8 – PSD

| 9 | **Stop & Search data:** |

- 1259 stop searches, the bulk of those were for drugs.
- The arrest rate has stabilised around the 12% mark.

Levels of searches:
Standard stop search – 96%
Removed outer clothing 0%
Exposed intimate body parts – 3%

- There is an upward trend in positive outcomes which have increased by 3.5% when compared against the same reporting period last year. Positive outcomes are at 34% for this period.
- There has been 18% increase in searches during this period, there was an increase in Bedford with Op Eve and Op Version contributing factors, and a decrease in Luton during this period compared to previous years data.

Demographics:
During this period officer defined ethnicity was recorded as follows;

White – 701, **Asian** – 235, **Black** – 233, **Other** – 26, **Unknown** – 64.

The Black communities stop and search ratio is now 2.8 times more likely to be searched when compared against white ethnic background, which is the lowest it has been for some time.

Age demographics:
The force looks at all searches conducted on ages 15 and below to ensure there were reasonable grounds, safeguarding was considered, and the child was treated fairly.

Drugs:
Members of the black community are close to being at 5x more likely to be stopped and searched for drugs. IT would like to understand why the officers searched the person e.g., is it intelligence lead, information from the public who have seen something or self-initiated grounds, which allows us to understand whether there is unconscious bias. Where disproportionality is seen in the data, this prompts a closer review of searches to ensure they are fair and effective. The purpose of understanding this, is to ensure transparency with the public.

	The data pack has been distributed to the panel due to time constraints.
10	**Any Stop and Search Issues in the Community:** None
11	**AOB & Date of next meeting to be advised:** Next meeting is Thursday 30th November 2023.