

SURREY POLICE STOPWATCH MEETING

Minutes from Meeting held

4 April 2018

Mt Browne



Chair – Supt Clive Davies (CD)

Attendees: Joy Chant (JC), Sophie Stubbs (SS), Carla Gasson (CG), Michael Hodder (MH), Damon Wilson (DM), Mark Bishop (MB), David Munro (DM), Aamir Akhlaque (AA), Sim Sian (SSi), Michael Hall (MHa), Sam Meyer (SM), Folo Olokose (FO).

In attendance – Annette Byford – note taker.

Apologies and Absences

Mark Bridge, Hira Rab, Steve Howe, Terri Adderley (TA), Alan Sproston.

1. Introductions

CD facilitated introductions.

2. Apologies

CD noted apologies received.

3. Minutes of last meeting – Actions

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting held on 29 November 2017.

The Action Log was reviewed.

4. Performance Report and Discussion – Sophie Stubbs

The Stopwatch report covering data to the end of February 2018 was reviewed and discussed. It was noted there was a 22.17% increase in searches for the period ending February 2018 compared with the period ending February 2017, with more searches being conducted on Surrey residents (a 40.68% increase) and fewer searches being conducted on non-residents (a 6.2% decrease). Graphs in the report show trends in the number of searches for different ethnic groups based on borough population data. It was noted that the census on which the population numbers are based is now a number of years old.

It was noted:

- The disproportionality rate has decreased from 2.8% to 2.4% over the last 12 months. The rate has decreased month on month for searches on BME groups.
- The number of burglaries is high in Elmbridge which focuses search activity.

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- The hot spots for searches are Guildford, Staines, Redhill, Thorpe Park and Woking.
- 571 arrests were made as a result of stop and search. The increase in adult arrests may be attributed to changes in the Bail Act.
- The greatest change over the last year has been the reduction in searches of black people.
- The NFA rate has dropped, especially for non-residents. This may be attributed to Operation Viking dissuading travelling criminals entering the county.
- Intelligence for Operation Viking is very good and is targeting the right people on the East. DM thought another explanation could be that officers are refraining from searching black people and searching more non-black people.

It was agreed the impact of Operation Viking should be further explored.

Action 4/18 (1): MH to review Operation Viking activities and its impact on stop and search in East Surrey – to present at next Stopwatch as specific agenda item.

It was noted there has been an increase in searches involving offensive weapons and it was questioned if this is because when offensive weapons are mentioned it ramps up our response.

There is some proactivity around knife crime.

AA suggested we should specify what type of weapon is the cause of a stop and search as this may link into other lines of enquiry and clarify where the weapon came from. This is not possible on the current forms but will be considered for future form updates.

JC advised modifications have been made to the training programme. This will be trialled on probationers and the old product will be used on another group to see which group of probationers retain the most. The new training programme will take one hour.

(a) Disproportionality and BME searches

Overall, disproportionality has reduced.

MH noted an explanation for the increase in the number of searches (especially on white people) is due to proactive cars operating in division and activities under Operation Viking. MH agreed to look at specifics as per action above.

MB noted that in the North figures are influenced by proactive elements and activity in the Thorpe Park area, where a number of people from outside Surrey attend.

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It was noted Mole Valley has the lowest number of BME residents in the county which is why, despite there being only 20 searches on black people in the last year, its disproportionality rate is highest.

(b) Stops on young people

It is not the norm to see children under the age of 10 searched and the outcome of such searches is likely to be an NFA/community resolution.

DM noted the NFA rate is generally higher for under 18s, which may infer that we are targeting under 18s.

CD noted searches on young people are less productive than adults which raises the question of whether they are appropriate.

MH noted there are a high volume of missing children in the East (due to the high volume of care homes) who can be searched when returned to their home for safeguarding purposes, the result of which is likely to be a NFA, which may account for the higher level of NFAs. For safety reasons these searches are appropriate

Action 4/18 (2): TA, MH and MB to review the under-13s searched on their divisions from the document for appropriateness and to see whether safeguarding was completed and report back to CD outside the meeting.

Action 4/18 (3): DW to progress communications for divisions for young people who are searched regarding safeguarding.

(c) People stopped multiple times, and officers searched the most

All divisions need to ensure they are happy with the rationale for when people are stopped more than once on an ongoing basis and divisional representatives to check on officers using the stop and search power to make sure it is appropriate.

(d) Drug searches – patterns and appropriateness

It was noted a lot of searches are based on smelling cannabis which is not appropriate.

Drugs warnings have increased from 9% to 13.4% month on month for the period under review. The proportion of drugs searches is high and further work is needed to understand if these are focused on local priorities.

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Action 4/18 (5): SS to complete a map for self-initiated drug searches.

(e) Officer trends (divisional representatives)

The officer trends section of the Stop Watch report raised some questions with varying positive outcome rates.

Action 4/18 (6): TA, MH and MB to review the searches shown in the document of their officers using the power the most to check this is in line with local priorities with appropriate grounds – to report back to CD outside the meeting.

5. Review of Stop & Search forms

100 randomly selected Stop and Search forms were reviewed, 34 of which were deemed as not appropriate. Feedback will be provided to the officers concerned.

6. Any other business

SM requested that the best use of Stop and Search 2.0 be on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting – 4 July 2018