

## Minutes from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel

### 1<sup>st</sup> Stop and Search scrutiny session

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Time:** 18:00 – 20:45

**Venue:** Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters, Hinchingsbrooke, Huntingdon

#### **Attendees:**

- Al Gadney, Chair
- Ellis Weinberger, Vice Chair
- Insp Kirsty Hills, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Jack Nkala, Panel member
- Snow Maliavskaja, Panel Member
- Martin McMahon
- Keith Parish, Panel Member
- Mellissa Rees-Howell, Panel Member
- Superintendent Robin Sissons, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Aly Flowers OPCC - Secretary

Apologies: Hannah Southerington, Panel member

#### **1. Welcome, introduction and apologies**

- 1.1 The Chair Al Gadney (AG) welcomed members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel (the “Panel”) to the first scrutiny meeting of Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s (the “Constabulary”) use of their Stop and Search powers.
- 1.2 Panel members introduced themselves, along with Inspector Kirsty Hills (KH) and Superintendent Robin Sissons (RS) from the Constabulary and Aly Flowers (AF) from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
- 1.3 AG provided an update to the Panel members regarding recent Panel business and activities as follows:
  - Some Panel members had volunteered for role players in the police officer practical training on the use of stop and search, with some constructive feedback given to the Constabulary
  - AG and another Panel member (Sam Budu) had represented the Panel at the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH) Professional Standards Department (PSD) Scrutiny Panel, where they felt that they had been given the opportunity to input and had their voice heard.
  - AG and KH had provided input to the Constabulary’s Continuous Professional Development Sessions on the role of the Panel.
  - Data Group – the Assistant Chief Constable was currently considering the rationale and remit for the Data Group and therefore at this stage it is not known what data the Panel may receive in the future.

- 1.4 As this was the first formal scrutiny meeting, the Panel agreed in terms of its governance that action, risks and issues register would be useful. The purpose of this log would be to capture the types and themes of observations made on records such that it is possible to maintain a track of matters and progress therein. The OPCC would hold this and update as required from scrutiny panel meetings and more generally about Panel business where required.

**Action: OPCC to draw up Action, Risks and Issues log in agreement with AG, EW and Constabulary, and for this log to be used for all future meetings and Panel business as required.**

## **2. Confidentiality Agreement**

- 2.1 All Panel members present were asked to sign individual Confidentiality Agreements and these were returned to AF.

## **3. Scrutiny – process and purpose presentation**

- 3.1 KH and AG took the Panel members through an introductory presentation and explained to Panel members how the Constabulary stored stop and search information on their system and the process that then has to be undertaken by KH to provide data to the Chair (AG) and Vice Chair (Ellis Weinberger (EW)) ahead of each stop and search scrutiny meeting. This involves KH looking through an average of 350 stop and search data entries extracted from the Constabulary's system in terms of redaction of personal, sensitive, and identifiable information, so that this data can then be provided to AG and EW in order for them to select around eight records that they would like the Panel to scrutinise, in the knowledge of these selected records the Panel may scrutinise a maximum of three per meeting. KH then ascertains which of those selected records are available for scrutiny i.e whether the body worn video (BWV) is still on the Constabulary's system. KH then informs AG and EW of which ones are available and it is then from these that they decide which two or three the Panel will scrutinise.
- 3.2 Panel members were also reminded of the primary purpose of stop and search and the police powers that govern their use, with discussion focussing on the 'reasonable grounds' test.

**Action: KH presentation to be circulated to all Panel members**

- 3.3 The Panel members acknowledged due to the manner in which police force systems store and retain data, and the timing of when data is pulled off the system (i.e the 350 data records) and how data is marked for retention or disposal, some body worn video records then may not be available for subsequent scrutiny following selection by AG and EW. The Panel agreed that it would be useful to identify how many BWV were then not subsequently available, the reasons for this and as a consequence to identify any common themes. The availability of BWV would be included in the log to enable tracking and should identify of the records chosen how many not available and of those which ones were just out of date.

#### **4. Stop and Search scrutiny**

All Panel Members had a pack of information to aid their scrutiny which included the following:

- 'GOWISELY' sheet – (*'GOWISELY' being the acronym that states what information by a police officer conducting a stop and search to an individual*)
- 'Code of Ethics – summary' (*from College of Policing's website*)
- Stop and Search Review Form (*one for each body worn video shown*)
- Information related to the two stop and searches including details of the date, location, subject information, the authority on which the search was being carried out, the legislation, the grounds of the search (redacted), the outcome of the search, and other relevant information pertaining to the stop and search.

##### **4.1 Body Worn Video 1 – Ref: S&S/01/21**

4.1.1 Panel members viewed the BWV and following this EW asked each individual Panel member for their views on whether GOWISELY had been complied with and any other comments they had. In summary the Panel's feedback was:

- This case was selected because it focused on younger members of the community. The Panel was very impressed with how the officer dealt with the issue in hand and we felt that the overall impression left on the young people would have been positive. We would most certainly like our positive feedback to be returned to the command chain.
- The Panel agreed that the overall rating of this stop and search was: Green.

The detailed feedback can be seen at Appendix 1.

##### **4.2 Body Worn Video 2 – Ref: S&S/02/21**

4.2.1 Panel members viewed the BWV and following this EW asked each individual Panel member for their views on whether GOWISELY had been complied with and any other comments they had. In summary the Panel's feedback was:

- The overall impression was that some information was available to the officer but was not declared or known by the Panel or reader of the TuServ Grounds record, almost as if there was some undeclared intelligence that was informing the officer's decision making. Based on the information in the Grounds, this stop and search was technically unreasonable, however when considered with the BWV and context of the overall stop and search, the Grounds become clearer.
- In an Ethics sense, the interaction with the subject developed from harsh to acceptable during the early GOWISELY delivery to unacceptable at the latter end of the interaction

The Panel agreed that the overall rating of this stop and search was: Amber with learnings for the Officer.

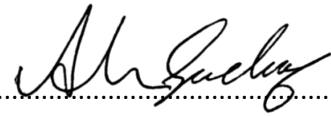
The detailed feedback can be seen at Appendix 2.

4.3 The Panel discussed whether the grounds for a stop and search should be included in the information presented to them as part of the scrutiny pack and whether this assisted their objective assessment. Further discussion required.

**5. AOB**

5.1 Date of further scrutiny sessions to be arranged and agreed.

Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Gadney', written over a horizontal dotted line.

**Al Gadney, Chair**