

Minutes from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel

2nd Stop and Search scrutiny session

Date: 27th September 2021

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Venue: Thorpe Wood Police Station, Peterborough

Attendees:

- 9 independent panel members
- Insp Kirsty Hills, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Aly Flowers OPCC - Secretariat

Apologies: 1 independent Panel Member

1. Introduction and updates since last meeting

- 1.1 The Chair Al Gadney (AG) welcomed members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel (the “Panel”) to the second 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) from the Constabulary and Aly Flowers (AF) from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- 1.3 The Panel were informed that the venues for the meetings would be on a rotational basis around the county to cover the north, south and middle of the county to enable all Panel Members ease of access so they could hopefully attend one or more of the locations, these being Peterborough (Thorpe Wood), Huntingdon (Constabulary Headquarters), and Cambridge (Parkside).
- 1.4 AG informed the Panel that all of the themes arising from their assessment were being captured on a log, with all of the paper copies of the individual assessment forms being held by the OPCC.
- 1.5 AF updated the Panel that the Constabulary’s response to the scrutiny assessment of the two stop and searches from the July meeting (S&S/01/21 and S&S/02/21) had been received. Both the Chief Constable, Nick Dean, and the Assistant Chief Constable, Vicki Evans, agreed with the Constabulary’s response, which Superintendent Sissons had done. It was agreed that these assessment sheets would be circulated to all Panel members.
- 1.6 AG pointed out the importance of the Constabulary’s Chief Officer Team viewing the Panel’s comments and responding accordingly. This demonstrated the potency of the Panel and the significance of its work.

Action: AF to circulate Constabulary’s response to July scrutiny assessments to all Panel Members and capture response on the log.

2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last Panel meeting held on the 5th July 2021 were agreed and signed off as a true record.

3. Confidentiality Agreement

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

4. Scrutiny – presentation

- 4.1 KH took the Panel members through the presentation firstly showing the high-level analysis carried out on stop and search data from May to September 2021. The Panel agreed that whilst this analysis was useful the Data Group could better identify to the Constabulary what information they wish to have. AG informed the panel that this would result from initial assessments by the Data Sub Group.

- 4.2 Panel Members were given an explanation regarding the availability of the eight body worn video records that AG and EW had selected. Of the eight, only three were available and the Panel flagged they wished to know the reasons why these were not available to be captured to identify any emerging themes over time.

Action: AF to capture the non-availability of the body worn video for each meeting on the log

- 4.3 KH pointed out that one of the selected videos was unfortunately incomplete and that she was still identifying the remainder of the record. AG identified that the full written TuServ record could not accord with an incomplete video and highlighted the need for KH to resolve the missing video data in order to correlate written record with available video data.

Action: KH to resolve missing video data in order to correlate with written record.

- 4.4 The Panel agreed that the Chair, would put future selected videos in preference order to ensure that prepared videos would be exclusively decided by the panel.

- 4.5 Panel members were also reminded of the primary purpose of stop and search and the 'reasonable grounds' test.

5. Stop and Search scrutiny

- 5.1 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 three 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.

5.2 Panel Members discussed the approach to declaring an interest in any of the person(s) who were involved in any of the stop and searches. The Panel agreed to adopt the policy position of where they did have an interest, it was their choice as to whether they wanted to be excluded from that particular scrutiny session, but any personal interest should be declared in the first instance.

5.3 For each of the scrutiny sessions Panel members viewed the BWV, completed their review forms with their observations and comments following which EW asked each individual Panel member for their views on whether the stop and search encounter was necessary, proportionate, and ethical; was the reasonable grounds test met; were professional standards met in terms of compliance with the Code of Ethics; whether GOWISELY had been complied with; and any other comments they had.

6. **Body Worn Video 1 – Ref: S&S/03/21**

6.1 In summary the Panel's feedback was:

- This case was selected because it focused on younger members of the community. Whilst the stop could be justified due to intelligence received, the actual extent of the search was questioned given that it was obvious that the persons did not have the initial weapons described in the intelligence. Officers were searching for further items. It was not clear what grounds the officer had for searching beyond that declared in the initial intelligence.
- The Panel agreed that the overall rating of this stop and search was: **Amber with learning for the Officer.**

6.2 It was evident from viewing this BWV that other Officers were present during the stop and search encounter and that their BWV would have captured more fully the incident involving all of the three subjects in order that the Panel could give an assessment of the whole encounter as opposed to part of it. The Panel agreed that where there was more than one Officer in attendance at an incident they wished for all of the BWV records connected to the one stop and search encounter to be identified so that they could scrutinise them all to give a more fuller and clearer perspective of the encounter to aid their assessment.

6.3 An important observation was that the language used with such young subjects ought be appropriate to the age group, without jargon and adult phrasing. Constabulary ought consider appropriate training for all officers when dealing with minors.

Action: Constabulary (KH) to identify all BWV linked to one incident prior to submitting the list of all records to AG and EW in order for them to be aware in terms of their selection of the records for subsequent scrutiny.

The detailed feedback can be seen at Appendix 1.

7. **Body Worn Video 2 – Ref: S&S/04/21**

7.1 In summary the Panel's feedback was:

- This case was selected because it focussed on younger and therefore vulnerable members

of the community. The Panel were very impressed how the Officer, and the other attending Officer handled the situation. The subject being viewed in the BWV was particularly defensive and awkward at the beginning and during the Stop and search. The professional and calm handling de-escalated the emotions of the subjects throughout the situation. The Panel wish to commend both Officers.

- The Panel agreed that the overall rating of this stop and search was: **Green**.

7.2 The Panel noted that 'Use of Force form completed' was entered onto the TuServ record (from the print out of the information they had relating to the encounter) and agreed that it would be useful where use of force had been used during a stop and search encounter that they were scrutinising, that they had a printed copy of the use of force form for reference.

Action: Constabulary (KH) to provide use of force forms to accompany any stop and search record where it is referred to.

The detailed feedback can be seen at Appendix 2.

8. Body Worn Video 3 – Ref: S&S/05/21

8.1 In summary the Panel's feedback was:

- A sound stop and search with a calm demeanour which ensured the subject, in turn, remained calm and compliant.
- The Panel agreed that the overall rating of this stop and search was: **Green**. The officer dealt with a potentially volatile situation in a calm and professional manner.

The detailed feedback can be seen at Appendix 3.

9. AOB

9.1 Panel need to consider in the future whether the standard evaluation/assessment sheets require updating to aid reporting.

Appendices 1, 2 and 3 attached.

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Al Gadney
Chair