

## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel

### Minutes of Stop & Search Scrutiny Session

Date: 24 May 2022

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Venue: Thorpe Wood Police Station, Cambridge

#### Attendees:

- 9 independent panel members
- Superintendent Robbin Sissons, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (RS)
- Sergeant Ciaran Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (CC)
- Jack Hudson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (JH)
- Fran Toovey, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (FT)

#### Apologies

- 2 independent panel members

#### 1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair, Al Gadney (AG) welcomed members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel (the "Panel") to the scrutiny meeting of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's (the "Constabulary") use of Stop & Search (S&S).
- 1.2 AG informed Panel members of the primary purpose of S&S and the 'reasonable grounds' test, details included in their packs and asked members to complete each assessment sheet and include any comments.
- 1.3 AG reminded attendees to declare any conflict of interest in any of the person(s) involved in any of the S&S videos.

2. Minutes of Previous Panel Meeting (21 February 2022)
- 2.1 The minutes of the previous S&S Scrutiny Panel was discussed. AG was the only Panel representative who had been present at the meeting on 21 February 2022. AG advised the Panel that he had signed off the minutes for this Scrutiny Panel.

NEW ACTION: Minutes of S&S Scrutiny Panel to be published on the Police & Crime Commissioners Website.

3. Action Updates from Previous Panel Meeting.
- 3.1 The section covers all the actions agreed from the S&S Scrutiny Panel held on 21 February 2022 and any outstanding actions specific to S&S.

ACTION 1.3(21/02/22): The Stop & Search Review Form to be amended to include an additional section for reviewing the Grounds as written in the TuServ system, which will be undertaken prior to BWV review. This will be assessed on its own merits and then the whole S&S will be assessed with an overall grading. Action allocated to OPCC.

UPDATE: There are several iterations of this form and the latest iteration was in use at this meeting. The forms have evolved over time. Feedback was required. It was agreed that a final iteration would be signed off by the Chair prior to the next S&S Scrutiny meeting. Action complete.

ACTION 4.1(21/02/22): Re Training Incident Feedback. AG to share findings with the Panel once all discussion has taken place.

UPDATE: AG advised that this feedback had been shared with all Panel members. Action complete.

ACTION 4.3 (21/02/22): RS to notify AG when the next Unconscious Bias input session would be so that invites could be shared with Panel members.

UPDATE: This was progressed following the last meeting. Dates of training input to student officers had been circulated. For clarity the purpose of Panel

members attending Unconscious Bias input was to enable Panel members to understand what training student officers receive. This followed the training incident experienced during a role play sessions. Action Complete.

AG highlighted the need for co-ordination of training attendance. It was agreed that this was the Constabulary's responsibility.

NEW ACTION: Constabulary to be the liaison point for future training needs and requirements.

ACTION 5.1 (21/02/22): RS to progress use of audio during strip search and update panel at next meeting.

UPDATE: RS provided an update on the use of audio during strip searches and the challenges associated with using audio only on Body Worn Video (BWV). It has been agreed that medical rooms in Custody Suite, which have audio recording facilities will be used for the purposes of strip searches. A discussion took place regarding the extent to which a strip search can be undertaken. RS explained this to the Panel. Action Complete.

ACTION 6.1 (21/02/22): AG requested that the Constabulary provide the Panel with monthly anonymised data for the use of S&S related powers.

UPDATE: The presentation provided by the Constabulary, see Section 4 below, included the data as requested. This will become a standing agenda item. AL asked whether the Panel considered that it would be useful to receive this information prior to the meeting. MM asked why can't TruServ data show officer reference, i.e. Collar Number not just ID Reference. CC advised that this data had been taken out of TruServe and that the ID Reference was a unique reference which related to the Officer. AL suggested that this was the first time that the Panel had seen this data and that the Panel would monitor the data provided to establish whether further data was necessary. Action Complete.

ACTION 8.2 (21/02/22): Stop & Search Review 1 (SS/1772572622/42. RAG Assessment – Amber. Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.

UPDATE: Feedback from the Scrutiny Group was considered by the Constabulary and fed back to the Officers.

ACTION 8.3 (21/02/22): Stop & Search Review 2. SS/0500697070/9. RAG Assessment – Green. Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.

UPDATE: Feedback from the Scrutiny Group was considered by the Constabulary and fed back to the Officers.

ACTION 8.4 (21/02/22): Stop & Search Review 3. SS/3141959646/72. RAG Assessment – Red. Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel and update the panel on any subsequent action taken. The agreed protocol for those assessed as Red is that this S&S should be referred to PSD, by the Constabulary for their consideration.

UPDATE: PSD reviewed this matter and have reviewed the body worn video footage of the search. Whilst there are elements that may have been missing from the encounter, PSD are content that the behaviours do not amount to a significant breach of the standards of professional behaviour to merit a conduct investigation. As such no further action is to be taken by PSD and this matter will be closed. It will remain on PSD systems for corporate memory and is passed back to Cambs for localised learning to be addressed by line managers for the officers concerned.

RS advised that following PSD's determination, they will now go back to the officer's line manager informing them of the panels observations. The expectation being that they will make the officer's aware so that learning can be achieved.

ACTION 8.5 (21/02/22): Stop & Search Review 4. SS/3141959646/73. RAG Assessment – Green. Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel and update the panel on any subsequent action taken

UPDATE: Feedback from the Scrutiny Group was considered by the Constabulary and fed back to the Officers.

#### 4. Constabulary Data

- 4.1 AL, prior to this meeting had initially independently selected eight S&Ss for potential scrutiny, with Body Worn Videos available for them all.
- 4.2 The Constabulary provided an overview of data relating to strip searches for April 2022. There were eight strip searches undertaken from a total of 251 S&S recorded.
- 4.3 The Constabulary provided an overview of anonymised data relating to officers who had exercised their powers in April 2022. There were five officers highlighted who had undertaken between 5 and 11 S&S. CC advised that this was the first time they had presented this data and that further analysis may assist the Panel.

NEW ACTION: Constabulary to provide further clarity on the data provided, for example why one officer had eleven stops.

- 4.4 The Constabulary provided an overview of the number of records reviewed during Q4 2021/22, by their internal Scrutiny Group, and the action taken. This is in addition to any external scrutiny provided by this Scrutiny Group. AL highlighted that there was a lot of scrutiny taking place which is a real positive but asked whether the internal scrutiny was sustainable. RS responded by saying that at this moment in was sustainable and remaining necessary. It was also considered necessary in light of the increase in the number of new Police Officers as a result of the Uplift Programme.

## 5. Scrutiny of Grounds Only

### 5.1 Stop & Search Review 1 SS/1340331462/18

Brief circumstances: Male adult in his twenties stopped on suspicion of being in possession of drugs. Seen to enter a vehicle which is linked to drug offences.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 1. The panel rated it as Green with positive feedback to be provided to the officer.

NEW ACTION: The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/1340331462/18 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.

### 5.2 Stop & Search Review 2 SS/0419581062/30

Brief circumstances: Plain clothed officers on patrol in Cambridge City Centre to address violent crime when they see three males acting suspiciously. As the officers approached the males, comments are made which the officers believe relate to the supply of drugs. All three males are detained for the purpose of a search under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Subsequently the males are taken to Parkside Police Station for the purpose of a strip search.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 2. The panel rated the initial grounds for the S&S as Amber. The additional grounds for a strip search as Green. Overall assessment as amber with learning identified.

NEW ACTION: The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel re SS/0419581062/30 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.

## 6. Scrutiny of Body Worn Video

### 6.1 Stop & Search Review 3 SS/3141959646/87

Brief circumstances: Search of male in his twenties, believed to have dealt drugs. Additional strip search undertaken.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 3. Overall assessment as Amber with learning identified.

NEW ACTION: The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel re SS/3141959646/87 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.

6.2 Stop & Search Review 4 SS/2608895841/7

Brief circumstances: Male child (teenager) seen by members of the public to be in possession of a knife. When produced to officer, found to be a fake/dummy knife.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 4. Overall assessment as Green.

NEW ACTION: The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel re SS/2608895841/7 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.

7. Any Other Business.

- 7.1 AL sought feedback on the approach to grounds only assessments and whether there was an opportunity to conduct additional grounds only meetings. There was a general consensus that there are benefits about exploring the grounds and then seeing the BWV.