

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel

Date: 25 April 2023
Time: 18:00hrs – 20:00hrs
Venue: ARU, Peterborough

Attendees:

- 7 independent panel members attended
- Superintendent Robbin Sissons (RS), Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Inspector Jamie Rice (JR), Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Sergeant Ciaran Constable (CC), Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Caitlan Bones (CB), Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Jack Hudson (JH), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Apologies received:

Apologies from 5 independent panel members

1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chair, MM and RL welcomed all attending members to ARU for this Stop & Search (S&S) session of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Community Scrutiny Panel.

2. Minutes of Previous Panel Meeting (24 January 2023)

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous S&S Scrutiny Panel meeting were discussed. The minutes had been circulated by the OPCC, to all attendees, prior to attendance at this meeting. No additional comments had been received by the then Chair, Al Gadney or the OPCC. The minutes for the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 24 January 2023 were duly approved.

3. Action Updates from Previous Meeting

3.1 The action log, which is shown at the end of this document covers all agreed actions from S&S Scrutiny Panel held on 25 April 2023 in addition to any relevant outstanding actions from previous S&S Scrutiny Panel meetings..

4. Body Worn Video Reviews.

4.1 Regarding availability of BWV, CC identified that out of 10 incidents selected by for the purposes of this meeting, nine had BWV available.

4.2 Additional to the selection of BWV was 1 strip search, which had additional grounds but no audio recording available.

4.3 Stop & Search Review 1 – SS/3919709215/11

Brief Circumstances: Authority for S&S was Sec.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The object of the search was to find controlled drugs. A summary of the grounds showed that officers on duty could smell cannabis and observed a group of males, one of which was sat on a bench, smoking. As the officers approached the group began to walk away. Officers noted that only the subject appeared to be smoking. Officers engaged with the subject and had reasonable grounds to suspect that the subject was in possession of cannabis. The outcome of the search resulted in an item being found.

The grounds presented were considered before viewing the BWV. The consensus was that the written grounds provided sufficient evidence to justify this S&S.

Following viewing of the BWV the consensus was that the officer communicated clearly and demonstrated professional standards of behaviour. It was noted that there was a potential language barrier which resulted in the process being slowed down and drawn out. This was not a negative comment. It was noted that there was no explanation for the use of hand cuffs. It was noted that the pocket was emptied into an officers hand and not into an evidence bag. The use of evidence bags was discussed.

The consensus of the panel was that overall the encounter was justified, proportionate, necessary and ethical. One panel member stated that the officer was 'very calm, if a little drawn out, whilst waiting for background checks'

The consensus of the panel was that this S&S was assessed as Green. Feedback to be provided to the Constabulary for consideration and action where necessary.

4.4 Stop & Search Review 2 – SS/0500879324/5

Brief Circumstances: Authority for S&S was S.1 Police and Crime Evidence Act 1984. The object of the search was to find an offensive weapon. A summary of the grounds showed that Officers in plain clothes and high visibility clothing approached a group of males. One male was in possession of a metal pole. Based on this it was decided that all three males were to be detained and S&S as it was believed that they may have had other weapons on them. The outcome of the search resulted in an item being found.

The consensus was that the written grounds provided sufficient evidence to justify this Stop & Search. It was suggested that the grounds were 'ok but a little sparse'. In contrast other panel members suggested that the grounds were 'reasonable' with one adding that it was 'reasonable based upon potential impact of finding an object'.

Following viewing of the BWV the consensus was that the officer communicated clearly and demonstrated professional standards of behaviour. One panel member noted a 'respectful, good explanation'. One panel member observed that the BWV was covered occasionally. Another observed that the officer didn't ask whether they were in possession of any sharp items before conducting the search. It was also noted that only one BWV was considered when other officers were present.

The consensus of the panel was that overall the encounter was justified, proportionate, necessary and ethical.

The consensus of the panel was that this S&S was assessed as Green. Feedback to be provided to the Constabulary for consideration and action where necessary.

4.5 Stop & Search Review 3 – SS/1825309172/2

Brief Circumstances: Authority for S&S was Sec.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The object of the search was to find controlled drugs. A summary of the grounds showed that whilst patrolling officers saw a vehicle driving erratically and they caused the vehicle to stop. Upon speaking to the driver there was a notable smell of cannabis coming from the vehicle. The officers spoke to the occupants who admitted they had cannabis. The outcome of the search resulted in an item being found.

The consensus was that the written grounds provided sufficient evidence to justify this Stop & Search. No issues identified. One panel member wrote that the grounds were 'good' another that they were 'acceptable'.

Following viewing of the BWV the consensus it was observed that the person searched was wearing two pairs of trousers and that the officer handled the search sensitively.

The consensus of the panel was that the officer communicated clearly and demonstrated professional standards of behaviour. The 'friendly' style of the officer was noted. This was added to with an observation that the communication was 'generally good, respectful and efficient'.

The consensus of the panel was that overall the encounter was justified, proportionate, necessary and ethical.

Most panel members confirmed that GOWISELY had been covered, albeit there was also a consensus that the officer could have 'spoken more slowly to be clearer'. It was noted however that a good rapport was built and maintained.

There was general praise for the communication style. One panel member wrote 'brilliant communication, good standard'. Positive feedback was considered appropriate.

The consensus of the panel was that this S&S was assessed as Green. Feedback to be provided to the Constabulary for consideration and action where necessary.

4.6 Stop & Search Review 4 – SS/1384126838/1

Brief Circumstances: Authority for S&S was S.1 Police and Crime Evidence Act 1984. The object of the search was to find an offensive weapon. A summary of the grounds showed that the subject was being identified by Peterborough CCTV following an assault. They continued to be monitored with the subject appearing to conceal something in his waistband. The subject was in a high footfall area of the town where there had been recent issues with younger people being involved in violent offences involving weapons. Officers approached the subject, who upon being stopped pulled out a hammer.

The consensus was that the written grounds provided sufficient evidence to justify this S&S. No issues identified. It was noted that the grounds were 'clear'. Reference was made to the use of CCTV.

Following viewing of the BWV the consensus was that the grounds provided sufficient evidence to justify the S&S.

The consensus of the panel was that the officer communicated clearly and demonstrated professional standards of behaviour. It was observed that the communication was very professional and efficient.

The consensus of the panel was that overall, the encounter was justified, proportionate, necessary and ethical. Although the officer was in plain clothes it was observed that the officer offered to show them their warrant card.

There was a brief discussion re whether an armed response should have dealt with the subject in the circumstances. It was highlighted by the Constabulary

that officers were used to be going into such situations without them, conducting dynamic risk assessments as they proceeded.

A discussion took place regarding whether this was a S&S. The procedure stopped immediately when the person produced the hammer. No search was carried out. This matter was discussed, and it was agreed to provide feedback to the Chair to ensure that on the selection of the BWV, where possible a search is undertaken.

There was a consensus that this was an efficient stop, with everything 'done appropriately and by the book', with the officer keeping the 'suspect calm' the officer having a 'good manner' with the person stopped.

The consensus of the panel was that this S&S was assessed as Green. Feedback to be provided to the Constabulary for consideration and action where necessary.

4.7 Stop & Search Review 5 – SS/1310262714/1

Brief Circumstances: Authority for S&S was S.1 Police and Crime Evidence Act 1984. The object of the search was to find an article linked to theft. A summary of the grounds showed that officers were on mobile patrol when they were directed to the area of a vehicle seen acting suspiciously. The vehicle was stopped and the driver spoken to. The officers noted a 20litre container on the front passenger seat of his vehicle. Suspected offences were identified. A S&S was carried out. Nothing was found either on him or in his vehicle.

The consensus was that the written grounds provided sufficient evidence to justify this Stop & Search, albeit it was noted that the grounds were convoluted and at times confusing. It was observed that the officer had tried to describe at length all the components of the grounds, which had made it confusing. It was suggested that the written grounds did not provide sufficient evidence that a reasonable person would have concluded, on an objective basis, that the stop and search should be undertaken?

It was noted that for some there remained inconsistencies in the written grounds. One panel member noted that even 'after watching the BWV the incident was still confusing.

The consensus was that the officer communicated clearly and demonstrated professional standards of behaviour. Comments such as 'very clear' and 'precise', 'polite', 'calm' and 'professional' were noted. Both officers built up a 'good rapport' with the individual being searched. Finally they observed that the subject remained relaxed throughout reflecting the manner in which he was treated.

The consensus of the panel was that this S&S was assessed as Green. Feedback to be provided to the Constabulary for consideration and action where necessary.

5 Any other Business.

5.1 JH introduced a Joint Protective Services (JPS) Independent Advisory Group (IAG) engagement event to be held on Saturday 1 July 2023 at Monk's Wood Police Training Centre. A similar event was held in 2020 at Alconbury where, JPS did several demonstrations of the capability and capacity of these departments and provided the opportunity for front line teams to meet with JPS's external Use of Force (UoF) scrutiny panel and better understand each other's roles within the organisation. The offer to participate in this years event has been broadened out to the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire IAGs and scrutiny panels. Timings for the event were discussed. A flyer for this event would be circulated as soon as this has been finalised. OPCC to circulate to all Scrutiny Panel members this flyer.

5.2 No other business was presented. MM and RL thanked everyone for their attendance and participate.

Date of next Scrutiny Panel meetings are currently scheduled for:

Stop & Search – 27 June 2023 at Cambridgeshire Constabulary HQ

Action and Decision Log: Stop & Search Community Scrutiny Panel

Action/Decision	Date	Information	Owner	Update
ACTION: 23/04/25/4.3	25/04/23	Constabulary to review findings for SS/3919709215/11 and update on any subsequent action taken.	JR	24/5/23 – Feedback provided to officer and their supervisor. No further action required in relation to this S&S.
ACTION: 23/04/25/4.4	25/04/23	Constabulary to review findings for SS/0500879324/5 and update on any subsequent action taken.	JR	24/5/23 – Feedback provided to officer and their supervisor. No further action required in relation to this S&S.
ACTION: 23/04/25/4.5	25/04/23	Constabulary to review findings for SS/1825309172/2 and update on any subsequent action taken.	JR	24/5/23 – Feedback provided to officer and their supervisor. No further action required in relation to this S&S.
ACTION: 23/04/25/4.6a	25/04/23	Constabulary to review findings for SS/1384126838/1 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	24/5/23 – Feedback provided to officer and their supervisor. No further action required in relation to this S&S.
ACTION: 23/04/25/4.6b	25/04/23	Provide feedback to the Chair to ensure that on the selection of the BWV, where possible a search is undertaken. Ref SS/1384126838/1	OPCC	OPCC have discussed with Chair. Chair to consider when selecting BWV. No further action required.

ACTION: 23/04/25/4.7	25/04/23	Constabulary to review findings for SS/1310262714/1 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	24/5/23 – Feedback provided to officer and their supervisor. No further action required in relation to this S&S.
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.7.2	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/1552059606/3 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.7.1	24/01/23	The Constabulary to look into the disagreement that has been documented in the SS/1552059606/3 grounds between the officer and Sergeant as this looks rather unprofessional.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.6.2	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3749100736/84 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.6.1	24/01/23	The Constabulary to speak to officers involved in SS/3749100736/84 regarding the interaction being controlled temporarily by the subject (through provocation) rather than the officers.	JR	

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.5.2	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3379797349/4 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.5.1	24/01/23	The Constabulary to verify if corresponding UoF report completed for SS/3379797349/4 with feedback to officer if not completed.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.4	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3379797349/1 & SS/3379797349/3 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/3.3	24/01/23	Explore options for increased scrutiny, covering other aspects of policing such as Sect 136 Mental Health, Domestic Abuse incidents and taser use.	JH & RS	
ACTION:22/10/25/5.1	25/10/22	Explore benefits of having a CSP presentation to be used during training of new recruits. RS has approached the training team and they are more than happy for this to be incorporated into their training. They	RS	Action ongoing - 24/01/23

		suggest that a video would be good as it provides more flexibility on when they show it and will have less impact on the panel / gives consistency in delivery and is a contingency for times the panel can't make it.		
ACTION:22/10/25/3.2	25/10/22	Look at alternative for under-16's to get involved with scrutiny – possibly through Youth Panels.	JH	Action ongoing - 24/01/23 MH still exploring this option.
ACTION: 22/08/23/2.1	23/08/22	Minutes of S&S Scrutiny Panel to be published on the Police & Crime Commissioners Website. A conversation took place around whether members would be willing to have names and faces appear on the website. General consensus was yes. JH will send consent form around to all panel members, via AG.	OPCC	Action ongoing - 24/01/23 Constabulary happy to have presentation on website. Consent form has been signed by all members who have attended meetings since 23/08/22.
ACTION:22/10/25/7.6.2	25/10/22	Explore why BWV is not started when entering premises during Section 8 warrant to pre-empt any possible S&S incidents.	RS	Action closed – 24/01/23

ACTION:22/10/25/7.6.1	25/10/22	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3702843619/1 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/10/25/7.4	25/10/22	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/0128078458/10 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/10/25/7.3	25/10/22	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/1966200011/45 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	Action closed – 24/01/23
DECISION:22/10/25/6.5	25/10/22	AG suggested that calling notices include; Minutes of previous meeting (including Action & Decisions Log); Constabulary data; Summary of monthly statistics; Frequent Searcher report.	OPCC	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/10/25/4.1	25/10/22	Explore ways of wider sharing 'Good Practice' using positively rated BWV.	RS	Action closed – 24/01/23

ACTION:22/08/23/10.1	23/08/22	Grounds Assessment Criteria to be printed and made available at all panel meetings.	AG OPCC	Action closed – 24/01/23
DECISION: 22/08/23/6.0	23/08/22	Data will be shared in advance of the meeting and only questions raised in advance will be addressed in the panel. Looking to share data quarterly?	AG	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION: 22/08/23/1.3	23/08/22	Chair to speak to the Constabulary to consider the scope of their requirements in relation to the Use of Force in Custody. Update from AI needed.	AG	Action closed – 24/01/23