



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 23 January 2020

Police use of force

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on developments over the last year in the recording and scrutiny of the use of force by officers and staff against members of the public.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the content of this report.

3. Background

3.1 The National Police Chiefs’ Council recording and reporting project led to the implementation of improved recording processes across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH) which are now well established. National standardisation of recording practices was rolled out in April 2017 in line with Home Office requirements.

3.2 The data being gathered has been published quarterly on the force website to improve transparency and accountability. (A link is provided below for reference).

4. Governance

4.1 Supt Laura Hunt is Strategic Lead for the police use of force.

- 4.2 Governance and scrutiny at Force level continues to be provided by two groups:
- a. the Health and Safety Meeting chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable which focuses on the health and safety implications for both officers and subjects).
 - b. the Ethics Inclusion and Diversity Group chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable which receives reports on the profiles of those subject to force to consider issues of disproportionality and vulnerability.
- 3.3 External scrutiny of use of force has been developed during 2019 by extending the remit of the Stop Search Scrutiny Group due to frequent overlap between the use of these coercive powers. A review of this approach is planned for early 2020.

4. Developments

- 4.1 Force data has been reported as part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement and data for all forces for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 was published in December 2019. This being the second year for which data has been collected at a national level, interpretation is now becoming more meaningful. An explanatory note has been produced by the Home Office which is particularly useful setting out “Key results” at a national level (accessible via the link to Home Office documents below).
- 4.2 At a national level, the data gathered on police use of force is informing the work of the College of Policing and National Police Chiefs’ Council staff safety review commissioned last summer. Early findings have been briefed to Chief Constables and details will be published in the New Year for implementation.
- 4.3 A local review of the Force crewing policy was commissioned by the (previous) Assistant Chief Constable which has drawn on a number of data sets including local use of force reports. A report is being tabled at the next Force Health and Safety Meeting for discussion with the aim of using an up to date evidence base to inform crewing practices.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the content of this report.

Reference	<p>General Use of Force data published on Force website can be accessed at:</p> <p>https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/About-us/Performance/Use-of-force</p> <p>Use of Force data features in our Equality Data publication:</p> <p>https://www.cambs.police.uk/assets/PDFs/About/Transparency/AboutUs-Equality-EqualityData2019-20.pdf</p> <p>Home Office Police use of force statistics 2018-19:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-force-statistics-england-and-wales-april-2018-to-march-2019</p>
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