

Police and Crime Panel 10 March 2014

Stop and Search Report to the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

Purpose

 The purpose of this report is to brief the Police and Crime Panel on progress towards improved training, recording and oversight of West Midlands Police use of Stop and Search powers.

Background

- 2. The Police and Crime Commissioner's <u>Police and Crime Plan</u> includes a commitment to introduce new oversight mechanisms for stop and search. Stop and search is one of the most intrusive overt policing powers and is often controversial. The Police and Crime Plan therefore recognises that stop and search can be a source of tension between the police and public they serve.
- 3. The Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a <u>stop and search summit</u> on 20 September 2013, including speakers from a range of organisations and the chance for attendees to have their say about stop and search.
- 4. Building on the work already underway, the summit indicated agreement for a stop and search action plan that included objectives, deadlines and responsibilities. At its core were three linked issues: training (with community input), better recording of stop and search and improved public accountability. It was agreed that the action plan would itself be subject to public consultation, which ran from 11 November 2013 to 20 December 2013. The full results of the consultation, along with information on other issues relating to stop and search, are available in a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Policing and Crime Board on 7 January 2014.

Stop and Search Action Plan

5. The Stop and Search Action Plan guides activity led by West Midlands Police and the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime in implementing the commitments in the Police and Crime Plan and arising from the stop and search summit. The latest version, as at 25 February 2014, follows.

West Midlands Police & West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime Stop and Search Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Additional information and progress updates
Public Consultation: The joint stop and search action plan was subject to public consultation	WMOPC	Completed December 2013	Reported to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014. Consultation found support for proposals for publication of stop and search data. Consultation responses relating to training and dissemination of information will inform future activity. Respondents interested in joining a stop and search scrutiny panel contacted.
 Mandatory stop & search training will be delivered to all front line police officers. The training package will be subject to consultation with representatives of Stop & Search Scrutiny Panels. All front line supervisors will receive additional training regarding their managerial and leadership responsibilities 	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Completion April 2014	The front line training package was subject to internal and public scrutiny. Training for officers of ranks up to Inspector began in November 2013, and will complete in March 2014. Training for supervisors is underway. Training package has received favourable feedback from attendees.

Electronic recording pilot – Airwave terminals: A review of the Airwave radio terminal experiment for the recording stop & search	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Completed November 2013	Airwave recording was switched off following a decision in December 2013, after serious concerns with the geographic accuracy and "usability" of the system were identified. Solihull and Coventry LPUs and Operations have returned to paper based recording practice.
Electronic recording via Service Desk / Resource Allocation Dispatchers Electronic stop and search recording based on live time geocoded data entry by Service Desk and Resource Allocation Dispatchers	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Phased activation from April 2014	Full project management protocols in place including weekly reports to the Silver lead. The project has five phases, with Phase 1 testing to begin in January 2014. Objective is to achieve initial operational capability on 1 April 2014, supported by further operational testing.
Intelligence Led: The force needs to achieve a position whereby the use of stop and search is intelligence led and is integrated into patrol plans	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Initial report March 2014	Birmingham West and Central LPU pilot began December 2013
Management Information: The distribution of accurate data that allows the force to scrutinise the activity and assess the effectiveness of individual officers, teams and entire policing units must be achieved. This data will also allow the force to provide communities with an accurate account of how effective and proportionate its use of stop and	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	The first LPU specific data sets that included arrest rates and race proportionality rates were produced and distributed to senior police leaders in October 2013. Information is produced in monthly reports to commanders, which is used both to assess

search is in any given locality			practice effectiveness and provide data to stop and search scrutiny panels (q.v.)
Public Information: Stop and search data is to be made available via an online geographic interface facilitated through the force and PCC's websites	WMOPC & Chief Superintendent Burgess	Timing dependent on new technology recording practice	Phase 5 of the new recording project. Web-based publication of geocoded stop and search data was supported by the consultation. To include facility for individuals subject to stop and search to provide feedback after they have been stopped and searched. Interim capability also under development.
Public Knowledge: There will be a 'Know Your Rights' publicity campaign delivered through social media. The record of receipt to be issued following a stop and search under the new automated system will also include details of an individual's rights in respect of stop and search	WMOPC	Anticipated launch to coincide with publication of geocoded stop and search data	West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner website includes "Know Your Rights" information about stop and search
Public Scrutiny: A review of the ten locally based stop and search scrutiny panels is to take place to achieve consistency and the sharing of best practice. The ten local panels will be invited to meet with the PCC bi-annually. Local scrutiny panels will be asked to consider inviting members of local authority crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committees to their meetings	Chief Superintendent Burgess & WMOPC	Complete - Report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014	Review of the ten local scrutiny panels complete: - Findings reported to Stop and Search Gold - Standard agenda agreed, with room for local flexibility

			Dip sampling protocols in operation Contact information for stop and search scrutiny panels published on PCC website
Section 60 Review: A review of the force's use of Section 60 authorities to search under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is to take place	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Complete - Report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014	Force policy dictates that pre- planned Section 60 authorisations require approval from an Assistant Chief Constable or above. Use proportionate: 7 authorisations in 2013-14 to date (EDL protest, potential football related disorder and gang related violence)
Schedule 7 Review: Implications of proposed changes to Schedule 7 Stop and Search are to be reviewed in the context of current use of this power by West Midlands Police	Detective Superintendent Southern	Complete - Report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014	Anticipated changes to Schedule 7 practice:

			Findings of WMP research on experiences of Schedule 7 due in 2014.
Academic Research: A review of existing research around stop and search will take place with a view to consolidating knowledge	WMOPC	Paper 2014	Summary of Home Office and other research.
Outside Agencies: A review will take place to understand the impact of the use of stop and search in WMP's force area by other forces and policing agencies	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	Agencies also conducting stop and search in WMP's force area include British Transport Police, Central Motorway Patrol Group and the National Crime Agency
Peer Review: West Midlands Police will invite other police forces to assess various aspects of our approach to improving of use of stop and search	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Complete	The training package has been positively reviewed by Dorset Constabulary and Leicestershire Police, with recommendations incorporated. Future invite likely to review action plan.
Body worn cameras: West Midlands Police is piloting the use of body worn cameras, their relevance to stop & search will be explored during this pilot	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	Proposal for body worn cameras pilot in Birmingham South LPU, to include response and Taser officers.
Home Office Consultation: The Home Office have recently conducted a national consultation on stop and search. The force will respond to the recommendations that are made. It is not yet known when the recommendations will be published	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	Both the force and the PCC made submissions to the national consultation. The PCC's response included issues raised during the stop and search summit held in September. No further information available on timing of Home Office plans, but publication is due shortly.