



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 24 March 2015

STOP SEARCH UPDATE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Business Co-ordination Board ("the Board") on the adoption of the Home Office Best Use of Stop Search guidance by Cambridgeshire Constabulary ("the Constabulary").

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

3. Best Use of Stop Search

3.1 Work continues to ensure full and robust compliance with the 'Best Use' scheme.

3.2 On 20th January 2015 Inspector Ford met with Inspector Hob Hoque from Bedfordshire Police in relation to their implementation of a public scrutiny group, who will be routinely inspecting and commenting on Stop Searches in their force area. Good work has been done to ensure this is representative of that community most likely to be affected and the intention is to replicate this process within Cambridgeshire.

3.3 Local Policing Areas have been contacted, with a view to providing community representation, willing and able to form part of the Cambridgeshire scrutiny group. Initial indications suggest there may be some gaps that will need addressing, including representatives from the Eastern European community. Volunteers will continue to be sought from these communities.

3.4 A 'Lay Visitor' scheme, suitable for implementation within Best Use requires formal ratification and will be discussed further via the All Stops Steering and Scrutiny Group (ASSSG).

3.5 The next meeting of the ASSSG took place on 9th March 2015, and full monitoring and progress against the scheme was discussed and documented.

4. HMIC Inspection

4.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) visited the Constabulary on 28th – 29th January 2015, as part of a national inspection of Stop Search activity. A total of nine forces are to be visited, with all forces providing an electronic data return.

4.2 Due to this being part of a national inspection, there will be no individual force inspection report - rather a more generic one highlighting the current national picture around this business area. An initial hot de-brief was provided at the conclusion of the visit and key points are detailed below:

4.3 Strengths

- The Constabulary has adopted Best Use of Stop & Search.
- The ASSSG is responsible for monitoring the Constabulary's Stop and Search Policy and Procedures. Strategic Lead for All Stops is Superintendent Tony Ixer. Dip sampling takes place of Stop and Search forms.
- The ASSSG utilises an Action Plan to record and update decision making, progress against tasks, and agenda items. HMIC and Best Use of Stop Search Scheme recommendations are tracked within the plan. This is a living document.
- The Constabulary is introducing a Lay Observation policy to allow members of the local community to accompany police officers on patrol using Stop Search.
- The Constabulary has raised the minimum level of Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 authorisation from Inspector to Chief Officer (ACPO) level, limited the time frame to 15 hours, and uses "that incident involving serious violence *will* take place" instead of "*may* take place" in the wording of the authorisation.
- The Constabulary commissioned a Cambridge University study around disproportionate Stop Searches. This independent review indicates that the Constabulary are not conducting stop searches in a disproportionate way.
- The target for officers to carry out Stop Searches has been removed. From a number of sources, HMIC notes a consistent message that there is no pressure to carry out Stop and Search, and that activity is focus on safeguarding.
- There is a positive attitude amongst PCSOs and good knowledge of their powers to stop and seize alcohol and tobacco from juveniles.
- There is a robust Stop Search mapping tool which now shows 'positive outcome' (see Areas for Improvement). This is open to everyone and a version of this data is shown on the public facing website.
- Mandatory National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) training on stop and search is at 94% compliance amongst front line staff.
- TuServ will deliver enhanced data recording and search ability across the Strategic Alliance - including the ability to enter details of stop searches. Training on the

new smartphones will start in April 2015, and technology will now be geo-based automatically.

- Numbers of stop searches have dropped from 14,398 between November 2012 and October 2013, to 7,480 between November 2013 and October 2014. This is believed to be as a direct result of changes in processes and procedures for stop search.
- Stop Search forms were amended in 2010.
- There has been a language change within briefing and tasking to 'hotspots' and 'crime targets' – focussing activity and resulting in more proportionate and intelligence-led use of stop search as a tactic.

4.4 **Areas for Improvement**

- More consistent recording of searches where more than outer clothing is removed during the search – whether this be in custody or private premises.
- The Stop Search data is not used as an oversight monitoring tool. While the mapping data appears to be a useful management tool, its wider business use is unclear as it does not directly feed into any strategic or tactical group.
- The Central Intelligence Bureau is focussed on safeguarding projects - not with mapping hotspots including Stop and Search.
- Stops under Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act are not monitored or recorded. However this is the case in all Police Forces across England and Wales.
- Supervisory monitoring of Stop Search forms should focus on ensuring the recording of lawful and appropriate grounds for the search.
- The successful outcome of arrest for stop and search between December 2013 and December 2014 is only 3-6%.
- There is no monitoring of seizures of alcohol by PCSOs.
- A knowledge check showed variation in levels of knowledge around stop search legislation and interpretation.
- Training on Stop Search is currently limited to the NCALT e-learning package.
- Dispersal Orders appear to be being used as a routine tactic in some areas of the Force, and a more detailed rationale for their use should be recorded on the occasions that they are used.
- The Scrutiny Group currently has limited Independent Advisory Group (IAG) representation.

4.5 These points will be considered by the ASSSG and necessary action taken as appropriate.

5. **Mobile Data Solution**

5.1 The TuServ mobile data Stop Search solution continues to be developed and a likely completion date of May 2015 is envisaged. In addition to TuServ, Athena will also

have a Stop Search requirement which it is anticipated that TuServ will map directly across to.

6. Stop Search Figures

6.1 The number of Stop Searches conducted in the Constabulary area has continued to go down. Searches have dropped from 14,398 during the period of November 2012 and October 2013 to 7,480 during the period of November 2013 to October 2014. This appears to be in line with the National trend and as a result of Stop Search being removed from local performance targets.

7. Recommendation

7.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	
Contact Officer	Inspector Ian Ford, Operational Support Team, Central Intelligence Bureau, Cambridgeshire Constabulary