



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 13 December 2018

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 has led to the implementation of improved recording processes across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BCH) which are now well established.

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. Update

4.1 Since the start of the financial year 2017/18, all Forces have been gathering the same information in order to comply with a new Home Office Annual Data Requirement.

Data for all forces for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 will be published by the Home Office on the 13th December 2018.

- 4.2 A summary of the data being published is provided at Appendix A.
- 4.3 Publication will enable comparisons to be made between forces for the first time and may attract media interest as a result which will be managed through the NPCC centrally and the Corporate Communications team locally
- 4.4 Detailed analysis of the data now being gathered is underway by the College of Policing along with independent academics. This will improve our understanding of the circumstances in which officers and staff use force and then, for example inform the development of future training by the College. The Constabulary are participating fully in this work.
- 4.5 Following the retirement of Chief Superintendent Skeels, Supt Laura Hunt has taken over as the Force Strategic Lead for the police use of force.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 The Constabulary is developing the fora which have been established for some time to enable external scrutiny of stop and search powers to now cover use of force as well. There is a clear view that the Constabulary does not want to develop another separate scrutiny group for this work. The independent chair of the external Stop Search Scrutiny Group has been very supportive and a programme of “road shows” at 6 colleges of further education around the county is underway this academic year. This work will demonstrate progress towards the Area for Improvement identified by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services during the last Legitimacy inspection.

5. Recommendation

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

Reference	Data published on Force website can be accessed at: https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/About-us/Performance/Use-of-force
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