

SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT 2019

Safer Neighbourhood Panel:	Tamworth Safer Neighbourhood Panel
Working Title:	STOP & SEARCH SCRUTINY 2019
Reason for enquiry:	To meet the requirement of the Staffordshire Commissioner, that Stop & Search is reviewed annually by all Safer Neighbourhood Panels
Background:	<p>At the time of the scrutiny all available Body Worn Videos and Search records relating to the selected cases were reviewed.</p> <p>The Local Police Team Excel Spreadsheet detailing Stop and Search events from the last six months in 2018 have also been made available to the Tamworth Safer Neighbourhood Panel.</p> <p>Staffordshire on the police.uk website has also been used to review Stop and Search data within other Staffordshire Local Police Teams.</p> <p>Panel members undertook their scrutiny of Body Worn Video footage and associated reports at Tamworth Police Station.</p> <p>Prior to conducting the scrutiny panel members undertook voluntary study of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Policing Stop and Search Course Handout Version 1.1 • Stop and Search OPST PowerPoint Presentation Staffordshire Police • Purpose of Stop and Search PowerPoint Presentation Staffordshire Police • Panel members had also attended Stop and Search Training Session on 13/03/2018. <p>This is the third Stop and Search report for Tamworth Local Police Team.</p> <p>The Stop and Search Scrutiny was held on 30/01/2019 at Tamworth Police Station, Spinning School Lane and was conducted by four members of the Tamworth SNP.</p> <p>Safer Neighbourhood Panel Stop and Search Scrutiny templates had been made available to the Chair via the Safer Neighbourhood Panel Co-ordinator prior to the Scrutiny and were distributed for panel members to complete.</p>
Review of Findings:	<p>10 Stop and Search cases had been selected for the Scrutiny –these were randomly selected by the Vice-Chair. From those selected to sample; 50% had no videos available for the panel to observe and one that was conducted by Lichfield Local Police Team was a paper-based report only.</p> <p>The panel asked why the videos were not available and it was explained that 5 videos covering 3 incidents carried out by Officers outside the Tamworth Local Police Team were not available as the recording devices had not been activated at the time of the Stop and Search.</p>



The Supervisors of the Officers involved have been informed by the Local Police Team Deputy Commander so that immediate lessons learnt can be made across the Force. These Stop and Searches had been undertaken by firearms officers or officers from other areas working in Tamworth. The panel had requested for scrutiny the Stop and Search of an under 18 year old suspect to provide as wide a range of age and gender as was possible.

Scrutiny 1:

The first video recording was shown. The suspect was a male of 29 years of age; notes confirm that he was of Black British nationality; who was stopped under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1973 and Section 47 of the Firearms Act 1968 on 31st August 2018 @ 13.00. The stop and search was facilitated from intelligence that the suspect may have access to a handgun due to his links with organised crime. The recording viewed actually reflected the handover of the suspect to the Tamworth Local Police as he was taken away to be strip searched at Spinning School Lane, Tamworth Police Station. The initial Stop and Search was carried out by an Armed Response Vehicle Officer who then handed the suspect over to the LPT officer who transported the Suspect to Tamworth Police Station to be Searched. The video seen showed the handover of the suspect to the LPT only. No video footage is available for either search

Scrutiny 2:

The second video related to a 16 year old male, White North European W1, who had been stopped and subsequently searched (outer clothes and pockets only, at the location in Tamworth; under Section 47 of the Firearms Act 1968. Intelligence had been received that he had a hand gun. There were three other youths aged about the same age with the suspect. The suspect confirmed that the search and conversation that followed confirmed that there wasn't a gun and No Further Action (NFA), was taken. The suspect had confirmed that he had taken a small amount of drugs for recreational use only. The acronym GOWISELY was administered appropriately and correctly.

Scrutiny 3:

A third video involved a 16 year old Black Caribbean male who was inside a residential house that Tamworth Police Officers were attending for search purposes. The occupants at the address are known to be heavily dependent on crack cocaine and heroin. As the officers approached the house the youth was seen to be looking out of a rear window as if to leave but then ran upstairs on seeing the police. He was unable to provide a reasonable account as to why he was at the property or how he knew the occupants as he lived in Birmingham. He was constantly on the phone while the police were present and officers suspected he fitted the profile of a "cuckoo." He was searched on the grounds that the officer believed he was drug dealing. Video evidence confirms that the GOWISELY requirements were adhered to



in full and the male was found to be in possession of £280 that he could not account for. The money was seized by the officer as it was believed to be criminal property. No further action was taken beyond this.

Scrutiny 4:

A fourth video was a 22 year old Pakistani male. The vehicle that he was driving had been stopped for possible traffic matters (no insurance), insurance was later confirmed. The video had been shown that GOWISELY had been applied appropriately. There was a small amount of cannabis held by a passenger but noted for personal use only and No Further Action was taken.

Scrutiny 5:

The fifth video viewed related to a 42 year old male that police officers came across. The subject who matched the description of a wanted male ran off as the police officer approached him. The officer gave chase, apprehended the suspect and conducted the stop and search of outer clothing. Body worn video footage confirms that the search was appropriate and conducted in line with GOWISELY expectations. The search identified that the male had been in possession of a small amount of cannabis. In order to maintain a gender balance the panel requested the printed Stop and Search report, that involved a 16 year old female. This Stop and Search had been undertaken by an officer from Lichfield District Local Police Team. Although there was no body worn video available to view the interaction the officer's report is complete and gives an appropriate justification for the stop. The officer was acting on intelligence that the young person had been in Tamworth stealing from shops. No stolen property was found and the incident was disposed by voluntary interview.

Findings:

Scrutiny of the 5 Stop and Search reports available to the Panel showed that relevant fields of information are completed by the Local Police Team and serve as an accurate record of Stop and Search incidents. There was a trend of increased professionalism in the videos that were seen. No comment can be made regarding the 5 videos that weren't seen.

The general view is that the Local Police Team officers are conducting their responsibilities in respect of Stop and Search in our community professionally, identifying themselves and their stations, providing explanations and reasons for the search and offering copies of search records. It was disappointing that yet again the availability of other officers Body Worn Videos operating within in the Local Police Team area cannot fully evidence this.

Staffordshire on police.uk and ONS data enables a comparison of Tamworth Stop and Search data with other areas within and across the Staffordshire Force. For the



purposes of this scrutiny Tamworth Stop and Search data for July to Dec. 2018 has been compared with the same period in 2017. We have also considered how Tamworth outcomes for this period compare with averages across the Staffordshire force for the period July to December 2018.

From July to December 2018 there was a total of 74 Stop and Searches conducted across Tamworth. The majority of these took place in Tamworth Town, Mercian and Spital with 26 and 14 respectively. The fewest were reported in Amington and Bolehall with 1 and 5 for the same period.

This compares with a total of 62 Stop and Searches reported for the same period in 2017. Data reports confirm 25 took place in Tamworth Town whilst 2 were conducted in Mercian and Spital. Amington and Bolehall outcomes were again low with a return of 2 and 4 respectively.

The total number of Stop and Searches across the Staffordshire Force for the period July to December 2018 was 1,489 giving an outcome of 4.97% taking place in Tamworth.

Of the 74 Stop and Searches conducted across Tamworth from July 18 to December 18 - 20.3% were on grounds of stolen goods, 9.5% on grounds of offensive weapons, 22.9% on grounds of articles for use in theft, 44.6% on grounds of controlled drugs and 2.7% on grounds of firearms.

Ethnicity of those searched across Tamworth in the July 18 to December 18 period was:

84.7% White, 8.3% Black African / Caribbean, 1.4% Asian and 5.5% Other

Two searches were recorded as vehicle searches.

The outcome of these searches was as follows:

- NFA / Disposal 66.2%
- Community Resolution 22.9%
- Arrest 6.7%
- Caution 1.3%
- Unknown 2.7%

The ages of those stopped for these searches was as follows:

- 34+ 18%
- 25-34 20.8%
- 18-24 31.9%
- 10-17 26.4%
- < 10 1.4%
- Unknown 1.4%



	<p>The Scrutiny Panel would like to thank Sergeant Gary Harborow for his assistance in enabling the Stop and Search Scrutiny to be undertaken.</p>
Conclusions:	<p>Whilst it was encouraging to note that Panel members were reassured in the improvements in the professionalism applied by the Local Police Team from the stating of the GOWISELY acronym and the nature of the application and compliance of Stop and Search regulations; there were Panel concerns raised; that only 50% of videos were available for inspection from the 10 cases selected. This figure needs to be increased if the Panel is to have total reassurance that Stop and Search activities are being undertaken appropriately within Tamworth. This issue was raised as a concern from a previous review and further work needs to be done if this is found to be happening across the Force from other Panel Scrutiny this may be a matter for counselling within the Discipline Procedure or further training issue as raised previously.</p> <p>It also further raises the issue that the Tamworth SNP could have access to other Policing Teams (LPT) particularly within the County of Staffordshire LPTs, and maybe with the West Midlands Constabulary as there appears to be a trend in the need to work more closely with other neighbouring police forces to maintain good order in Tamworth.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>Review training for retention of Stop & Search Video</p>
LPT Commander Report Feedback:	<p>I would like to sincerely thank the Safer Neighbourhood Panels scrutiny into the way Stop Search is carried out in Tamworth. We need the support and confidence of our communities that the police act fairly and in the interests of the public good.</p>
SCO Response:	<p>A thorough review by Tamworth Safer Neighbourhood Panel, the SCO will raise the retention of BWV at the Stop Search working group.</p>