



REPORT TO:	STRATEGIC SCRUTINY MEETING
DATE:	21st NOVEMBER 2019
TITLE:	BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH SCHEME (BUSS)
REPORT BY:	SUPT D. KITCHEN

1. Issue for Consideration

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Commissioner in respect of Lancashire Constabulary's progress and position relating to the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS) following the previous update in February 2019.

2. Recommendation

2.1. The Commissioner is asked to note the report and comment on items discussed.

3. Background

3.1. The Constabulary signed up to BUSS in 2014. The overarching aims were to improve the effectiveness and legitimacy around its deployment of Stop & Search.

3.2. Despite no indication or evidence of confidence issues relating to Stop & Search within Lancashire's communities, the Constabulary embraced the opportunity to assess its performance, in particular around recording of grounds (legitimacy), outcomes of interactions (effectiveness) and transparency of approach. This remains the case in 2019.

3.3. The scheme had many requirements, the key issues being:

- Quality of Grounds
- Recording of different positive outcomes (other than just 'arrest or NFA')
- Public information and Scrutiny
- Training and Awareness for officers & Supervisory oversight

3.4. The Commissioner will recall that he received a report at the February Scrutiny meeting concerning progress against BUSS. To summarise, this highlighted the following: -

- Use of Volunteers to support Scrutiny and broaden our public engagement across the force.
- Re-launch of the Ride Along programme, with a greater involvement of co-ordination through the OPCC.
- Tactical Deployment – analytical work is being undertaken to map out the use of Stop and Search against Place based issues, Organised Crime Group (OCG) activity and crime. A Business Intelligence Dashboard (BI) has been developed which will inform Place leaders and Neighbourhood Policing staff about the effectiveness of the power in their area, as well as proportionality and diversity information.
- Police officer feedback from a survey identified that the National Training package rolled out across the country was of poor quality creating confusion and this was followed by a dip in the use of the power. The force then looked at a new approach to training officers in the use of Stop and Search powers.

Updates on the progress of these areas of business are:-

- Eleven independent people were invited to take part in the ride along scheme and the feedback captured by the OPCC was mainly positive about the officer's enthusiasm interactions and professionalism, when dealing with members of the public (feedback has been disseminated to the individual officers) and additional ride along dates are being planned.
- The response to the findings of the Tactical Deployment analytical work was the creation of operation 'EDGE'. This operation coincided with the drive from Government to reduce instances of knife crime across the country. This began in May 2019, and there has been an associated rise in the number of searches performed.
- Officer confidence in using the power is increasing. Senior officers have given a strong message supporting the use of the power when legitimate grounds exist. Confidence of staff to ask for Section 60 searches and for senior officers to authorise S60 searches has also increased.
- We have worked with Merseyside Police to understand their Hydra training approach to Stop and Search, sending a cross section of officers from across the force to undertake the training and the feedback was not only on Stop and Search skills, but also on their street skills and decision making benefits, was also excellent.
- As a direct result of this, a business case, for the development of a new Hydra type-training package is to be developed and has been submitted to the training panel and if authorised, the current forecasted completion date for this piece of work is within the first half of 2020.

- After four years Caroline Mercer stepped down as the chair of the Scrutiny panel, although she remains an active member. Irene May, a former lecturer in law at Runshaw College is the new chair.

3.5. Summary of Performance Data 2019 (1st February -15th October 2019) – as at 13.11.2019, taken from Stop & Search dashboard

- 5,219 searches were conducted during this period (580 monthly average), compared 2,547 (283 monthly average) in 2018, an increase of 105%. It should be noted that this rise has corresponded with a return in confidence of the searching officers and the additional emphasis being placed on the tackling of violent crime, in particular knife crime and the associated increase in the use of section 60.

Offensive Weapons Searches (Operation EDGE) - all powers/legislation

- The number of searches for offensive weapons has increased. During the period February to October 2019, there were 1,148 searches undertaken, accounting for 22% of all searches with a positive outcome rate of 11%. Compared to 453, accounting for 18% of all searches during the same period in 2018 with a positive outcome rate of 16%
- Direct funded resources to Operation EDGE, intelligence led policing tactics and senior officer support in giving officers the confidence to use the powers gives some context to the rise.
- At present, we do not have the analytical data that is able to separate out Operation EDGE searches from the other searches.

Section 60 searches (S60) only

- S60 powers have been authorised on 15 occasions during this period, in total 362 persons were stopped under this power, with an outcome rate of 4%. Anecdotal evidence would suggest the impact of the requirement to advertise the fact that a S60 is in place has an impact on positive outcome rates. It is suggested that positive outcomes increase when an emergency S60 power has been authorised.
- During these searches, 14 articles were recovered, 11 of them recorded as offensive weapons. Although there has been a change in the legislation, the use of this power still maintains a high degree of scrutiny.
- S60 authorities were provided in the following Divisions, West 2, East 3 and South 10. The main age groups subject to search are 11-17years (122), 18-24 years (100) and 25-34 years (66).

Drugs and Stolen Property

- Drugs (2,465) and stolen property (364) searches accounted for 59% of all searches excluding S60 searches in 2019 – this is a 62% increase on the same time period last year.
- Drugs (1,369) and stolen property (378) searches accounted for 69% of all searches excluding S60 searches in 2018.
- The Stop and Search positive outcome rate (excluding S60) is 19% (915 positive outcomes) compared to a rate of 22% (557 positive outcomes) in the same period in 2018.
- Over this period, the positive outcome rate for drugs searches was 20% (496 positive outcomes) and for stolen property was 26% (96 positive outcomes) - excluding S60

Outcome Rates by Ethnicity (Self Defined)

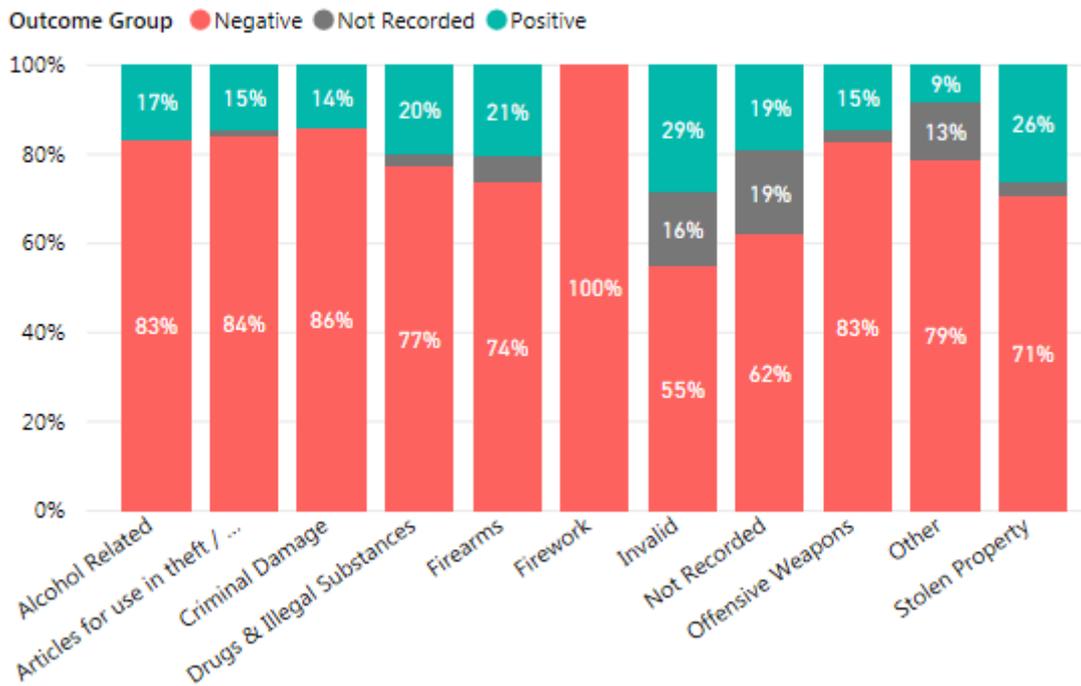
All search objects, excluding S60

- The ethnicity data within the Stop and Search dashboard, is based on self-defined ethnicity – the positive outcome rates are based on where an individual identified as White or BAME
- In 2019, there were 3,409 stops for individuals who identified as white – the positive outcome rate for these stops was 18% (611). This compares to 1,813 searches in 2018, with a positive outcome rate of 23% (411)
- In 2019, there were 621 stops for individuals who identified as BAME – the positive outcome rate was 21% (129). This compares to 307 searches in 2018, with a positive outcome rate of 28% (87)

All search objects, S60 only

- There were 232 stops for individuals who identified as white – the positive outcome rate for these stops was 3% (8). This compares to 20 searches in 2018, with 0 positive outcomes.
- There were 52 stops for individuals who identified as BAME – the positive outcome rate was 6% (3). This compares to 3 searches in 2018, with 0 positive outcomes.

Stop & Search Total by Object of Search and Outcome Rate



Proportionality

- The introduction of the new Connect system changed the way in which the BI Dashboard communicated its location of search information to the dashboard. The changes now mean that Stop and Searches are now recorded at street level.
- There is little if no disproportionality between the numbers of persons stopped and searched from different ethnic backgrounds between 2018 and 2019.
- The Constabulary is undertaking a piece of academic work with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in regards to Stop and Search proportionality that will be presented at future Scrutiny meetings.

3.6. Priorities over the coming months are:

- Continue to develop and engage with the scrutiny panel and its new chair.
- Explore the value of further developing the BI Dashboard to provide additional data.
- Continue to promote the ride along scheme with a further invitation to the public to participate in November 2019.
- Introduction of a Force wide newsletter.
- To progress the development of a new Stop and Search training package.
- To explore the findings of Lancaster University research paper.