

# **LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

PAPER MARKED

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Meeting           **DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

Date               **MONDAY 9 MAY 2011 – 9.00 A.M.**

Report of         **CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Subject           **STOP AND SEARCH - UPDATE**

## **Summary**

1. This report is intended to update members on the progress relating to the EHRC agreement and the use of Stop & Search.

## **Recommendation**

2. It is recommended that members consider the contents of this report.

## **ECHR**

3. The Constabulary has been in regular contact and dialogue with the EHRC and have recently signed a formal agreement which includes a schedule 23 agreement of the actions the Force has agreed to undertake. This agreement is included as appendix A of this report and the accompanying schedule at Appendix B.
4. The agreement lasts for 18 months, ending in September 2012 and the actions and developments being put in place are designed to be effective beyond the agreements duration.

## **Next Steps Program**

5. In February 2011 the NPIA Next Steps Program carried out a five day visit to the Force which involved the observation of operational stop and search activity, attendance at briefings, participation in focus groups, interviews with officers, staff and members of the Police Authority.
6. This visit found no evidence of any discrimination. All the encounters witnessed were conducted with care and consideration of the suspects and it was clear that current tasking/briefing process appears to focus work on crime hotspot areas. The NPIA also disaggregated the figures for the City and County BCU's and when this is done disproportionately reduces to Black/White 1.23 & Asian/White 1.4 for the City and Asian/White 2.0 for the County with no B/W disproportionately.
7. However, the visit also found a poor understanding amongst officers of the purpose of stop & search. It found that in order to meet targets officers have focused on 'soft' stop search targets, notably people suspected of cannabis use. Officers have rationalised this process by linking cannabis use to burglary offences. It found that training should focus on the effectiveness of stop & search. Another key finding was that few tiered nominals are stop searched.

## **Stop Search Performance**

8. The total number of searches for the rolling 12 month period is 22,129 which is a decrease of 5153. The total number of searches is on a downward trend for Black, White, Asian and Other. The rate of reduction for White searches is faster than for Black, Asian or Other which has an adverse statistical effect on disproportionately.
9. Black/White disproportionately is at 4.9. It was at 4.8 from September 2010 to January 2011 and has been at 4.9 for the last two months. Asian/ White disproportionately is stable at 1.8 and has been so for the last 5 months. Other/White is at 0.9 having decreased by 0.3 from the previous month.
10. The stop search arrest rate (also referred to as conversion rate) stands at 7.4% with increases seen in all 7 categories. This is a rise of 0.3% from last month and a 2.3% increase over a 12 month period. There is a positive upward trend in this rate.

## **Important Work Stream Updates**

11. Training – A Training needs Analysis has been completed which identified the same finding as the NPIA Next Steps Program. A training program has been developed and will begin in May which will deal with the issues of grounds for search and intelligence led searches. This training will give officers a better understanding of the use of stop search.
12. IT – Progress is under way to migrate to an integrated IT system with the goal to incorporate stop search into CIS. There are technical issues which need to be overcome but it is anticipated that the integrated solution using CIS and utilising mobile data will be available in the autumn.
13. Tasking Directorate – The Directorate have begun work on two strands of work commissioned by the Gold Group. The first is to develop a performance framework for the use of stop and search. The second is to conduct a detailed intelligence audit to ensure of systems and processes are not discriminatory.

## **Implications**

Financial: none. Risk Management: The risk management of this issue is being directly managed through the Stop & Think Gold Group chaired by ACC Morgan which meets monthly. Work stream leads are held to account at this meeting. Stop Search performance is also managed by the Executive Group. There is LPA representation at the group; Vice Chair Dr Hill and Dr Chowdhury attend the meetings ensuring representation from the LPA Diversity Committee. Legal & Diversity: Failure to meet the undertakings that form part of the agreement will have diversity and legal implications however this is not anticipated or foreseen.

## **Background Papers**

The signed agreement can be found at Appendix A and the accompanying schedule at Appendix B.

## **Officer to Contact**

Chief Inspector Nick Glynn, Force Lead – Stop Search  
Tel 0116 222 2222 Ext 2412 or 07971 992 452  
Email: [nick.glynn@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nick.glynn@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)