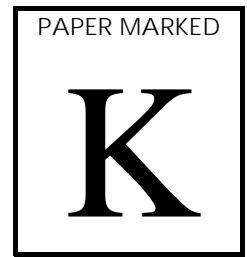


LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY



Meeting **LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

Date **5 MAY 2009**

Report of **SUPERINTENDENT STEVE BOULTON**

Subject **LEICESTERSHIRE STOP AND SEARCH AND STOP AND ACCOUNT**

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the 7th May 2009 Police Authority meeting on all aspects of the Police use of Stops in Leicestershire.
2. The stop and search report dated 23 April 2009 is the full report prepared for the Police Authority Diversity Panel working (copy attached).
3. The stop and account report is to provide a progress report on the pilot scheme of Recommendation 24 of the Flanagan Report.

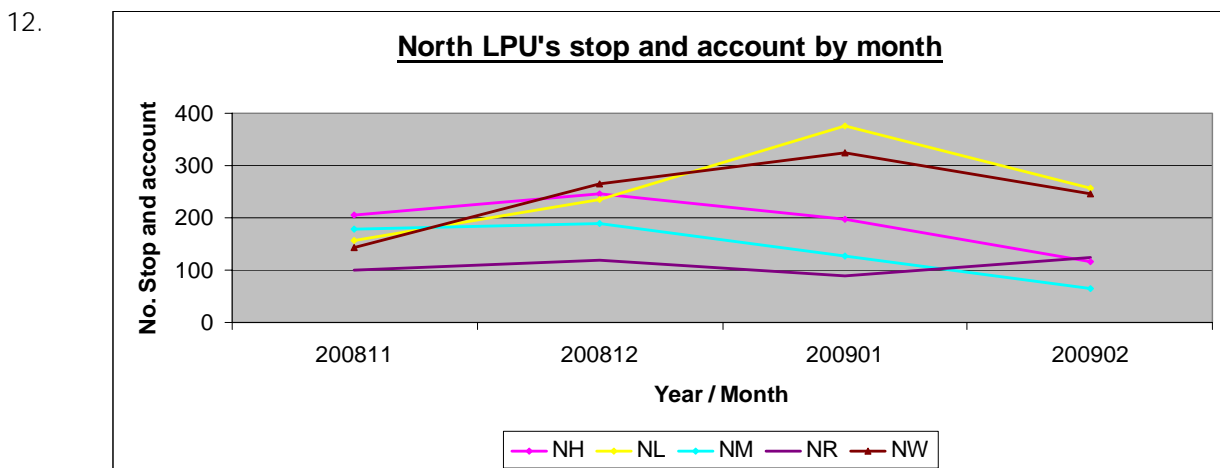
Background

4. The Airwave Stop and Account procedure was implemented on 1 November 2008, following ministerial publicity and a series of National legislation hold ups.
5. The process is significantly slicker than the existing paper-based system. Currently officers have to complete a P1 Stop and account form, issue one to the subject and then process the paperwork through LPU clerks, Area CSB's and Performance Review. There is a Home Office requirement to collect and present the data for accountability of stop and search data.
6. Leicestershire Constabulary completes on average 19,000 stop and account process plus 19,000 stop and search processes per annum. The estimated cost saving for the revised process is 1,900 staff hours/annum and a potential saving of £26,163 of officer time (based on average service of 5 years) and £5,038 in police staff time.
7. On 22 December, the ACPO lead Chief Constable Mackey (Cumbria) circulated an invite to all Forces to roll this out when legislation changes. The revisions of the statutory instrument are effective from 1 January 2009.
8. There is a varied picture nationally as to which Forces will proceed quickly with the changes. Leicestershire is one of 4 Forces piloting the scheme and a further 10 Forces were included under the Governments 'reducing knife crime initiative'. The initial rollout required community consultation and Police Authority engagement, this phase is absent from the new proposals.
9. In effect the ACPO National steer allows Forces to implement at their wish, even though the National pilot is not concluded. Leicestershire Constabulary is well placed to do this.

10. The scheme on the North BCU has been very successful. The officers are required to use 2 x Airwaves transmission codes and issue a Constabulary service calling card (with their ID on), to the subject. IT systems then collect the data and present them in a manageable format for Home Office purposes. This also provides a vastly improved and more dynamic management dataset. Managers can ensure staff are doing stops in the right places at the right times, set against NIM tasking and proportionality. This is significantly better than the current system.

Pilot Scheme Performance

11. There was a slight numerical increase in the recording of stop and account occurrences during the pilot period although this levelled off in the third month.



13. The data is recorded contemporaneously, with no "data lag" such as with the previous system requiring submission of forms. The system has reduced the data inputting workload by approximately half. This has cost saving benefits not just with regard to the time spent by officers involved in the street encounter but also the "backroom" administrative function, inputting forms etc.
14. There is no evidence of disproportionate use across ethnicities with known demographic profiles in agreement with submissions.
15. The new system provides a more transparent and more usable data than the paper-based system. Data can be broken down to individual officers, shifts, LPU's etc on a spreadsheet which is updated electronically. When GPS facilities are added to Airwaves, grid references will also be recorded automatically. This will allow for dynamic mapping of stop and account and allows much greater synergy between stops, activity and intelligence. Managers will have better information to evaluate if resources are in the right place at the right time.

Rollout of Airwaves Stop and Account

16. On the 1st April 2009, the Airwaves system of recording stop and account was extended to all operational staff. This includes Central and South BCUs, Operations Department and Crime Support.
17. The rollout is being managed at a local level with minimal disruption and at no significant cost. Each BCU/Department has appointed a Flanagan Stop and Account champion and is using existing management and training structures to implement the scheme.

18. The initial snapshot (two weeks data) indicates significant usage of Airwaves under the new system. A progress report to the National Team will be provided after the initial 3 months implementation.

Recommendations

19. It is recommended that the Police Authority note the success of Recommendation 24 of the Flanagan Report and the rollout across the Constabulary.
20. It is recommended that the Police Authority note the contents of the Stop and Search report. The reduction in search volumes and arrest rates has occurred in other Forces. There is no change in business in Leicestershire to account for this and no evidence of disproportionate use of powers.

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