Stop and Search
Scrutiny Report
1st Jan-31st March 2018

Date: 11/05/2018
Unit: Local Policing Support Unit
Author: Dawn Woollcott
Introduction

This document reports on the period between the 1st January and 31st March 2017 and looks at three fundamental areas of scrutiny and public satisfaction relating to stop and search in Essex.

Complaints

During the period of the 1st January and 31st March 2018 there has been no complaints recorded in relation to Stop & Search.

The complaint recorded from the last quarter is still under investigation and at this stage cannot be reported on further.

Anonymous Public Survey

It is noted that participation in the anonymous public survey is low, with only 2 additional responses being received during the reporting period.

The below tables focus on the survey responses relating to the legal requirements of stop and search and officer civility:
Q1 When you were stopped and searched did the officer:

Answered: 80  Skipped: 0

- Explain why you were bel...
- Tell you what item you wer...
- Give you their name?
- Explain which law you were...
- Offer you a copy of the...

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Yes  No
Q3 Did the officer treat you with respect?

Answered: 80   Skipped: 0

- Yes
- To some extent
- No
- Don’t know/can’t...

Percentage distribution:

- Yes: 40%
- To some extent: 20%
- No: 40%
- Don’t know/can’t: 0%

Page 4 of 10
Q4 Was it the right decision to stop and search you?

Answered: 80  Skipped: 0

- Yes, in the circumstances: [Graph showing percentage]
- Possibly: [Graph showing percentage]
- No, it was wrong: [Graph showing percentage]
- Don't know/can't...
Q4 Was it the right decision to stop and search you?

Answered: 80  Skipped: 0

- Yes, in the circumstances: 30%
- Possibly: 20%
- No it was wrong: 50%
- Don't know/can't: 0%

Page 6 of 10
Ride-Along Feedback

In July 2016, Essex Police implemented a Ride-Along Scheme. This enables members of the public to accompany police officers on patrol to get a real insight into police work and to hopefully encounter stop and search live action.

Ride-Alongs we have over 18 on-going applications. Feedback from previous Ride Alongs is as follows:-

**Person 1:** Date of Ride-Along – 04/01/2017, Chelmsford.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it gave them “extra enthusiasm to follow their dream career choice”. The Ride-Along had ‘probably’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.
Person 2: Date of Ride-Along – 14/01/2017, Location – Southend.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they were “impressed with how the officers dealt with each incident calm, putting people at ease and at all times extremely considerate and courteous”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 3: Date of Ride-Along – 15/01/2017, Location – Loughton.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was an “absolutely amazing experience”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 4: Date of Ride-Along – 24/01/2017, Location – Braintree.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was an “excellent insight into modern police work” and that the Ride-Along had ‘probably’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 5: Date of Ride-Along – 20/01/2017, Location – Force Control Room.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they “learnt a lot and had a good day”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 6: Date of Ride-Along – 10/02/2017, Location – Harlow

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however the Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 7: Date of Ride-Along – 25/02/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that the Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 8: Date of Ride-Along – 02/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was a “very insightful” and that they were “grateful to have had the opportunity”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 9: Date of Ride-Along – 28/02/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated “amazing respect for all involved. The hard work and dedication is outstanding”. They also stated that “this is something more young people should do”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the
police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

**Person 10:** Date of Ride-Along – 28/02/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that “everything was dealt with in a very professional manner which allowed them to see that the police cannot always deal with a problem but are always there for support”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

**Person 11:** Date of Ride-Along – 03/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they had “really enjoyed their experience and it had been very insightful. The officers they were with had been really friendly and had given them a good experience of what it is like to police in Essex”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

**Person 12:** Date of Ride-Along – 08/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they had “a really good time on the ride along. Learnt a lot about different aspects of policing”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘probably’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

**Person 13:** Date of Ride-Along – 09/03/2017

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was an “interesting insight into amount of paperwork/admin that goes into dealing with incidents”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

**Person 14:** Date of Ride-Along – 09/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that the Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

**Person 15:** Date of Ride-Along – 25/02/2018, Location – Force Control Room.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they had a “brilliant day in the FCR, very friendly staff and it was really interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘probably’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.
Reasonable Grounds

Reasonable grounds recorded by officers during each Stop & Search are now individually reviewed and analysed.

The results for the reporting period 1st January 2018 – 31st March 2018 are as follows:-

Of the 1120 reviewed:

- **1010 (90.1%)** had reasonable grounds recorded, **46 (4.1%)** did not have reasonable grounds recorded.
- **64 (5.7%)** were deemed borderline acceptable however feedback was required and provided.
- Of the 46 which did not have reasonable grounds, **6** were BME totalling **13.04%**.
- **100** of the stops during the reporting period were female.

All of those with reasonable grounds not recorded have received individual feedback via their supervisors.

**Conclusion**

A new training package is currently being created for all front line officers and supervisors in conjunction with the College of Policing. Training in “Best use of Stop and Search” is currently being completed by all front line police officers, PCSO’s and Specials and it is anticipated that all will have completed this by the summer of 2018.

The public survey results are an area of concern however there is a very small percentage of completions in relation to the number of searches actually carried out and therefore it is not anticipated that this gives an overly accurate review of searches completed by Essex Police.

Complaints are still very low in relation to Stop & Search which is very positive.