

SUFFOLK POLICE POWERS PUBLIC SCRUTINY (SPPPS) MINUTES

**Date: 27th November
2024 1-3pm**

**Location: Suffolk One
College**

**Number in attendance: 65
(22 ISCRE Guest 43 Students)**

Chair - Phaniel Mutumburi

Minute Taker - Travis Dickerson

Welcome - All Welcomed by the
Chair

Minutes from previous meeting -
Minutes signed off

*PM provides an introduction of the
SPPPS to all the students and
staff*

*Suffolk Constabulary provides a
one hour "Know your rights"
workshop with the students*

43 Students Attended +:

Travis Dickerson (TD)
Sharon Lee (SL)
Phaniel Mutumburi (PM)
Jon Chapman (JC)
Elizabeth Casey (EC)
Beth Harper (BH)
Chloe Rolfe (CR)
Ashley Meyer (AM)
Thomas Jason (TJ)
Marcus Buckley (MB)
Victoria Stead (VS)
Jess Tack (JT)
Claire Connick (CC)
Felix Auery (FA)
Ben Throssell (BT)
Michael Spurling (MS)
Mia Jerrom (MJ)
Rory Houghton (RH)
Franstine Jones (FJ)
Amanda Houchen (AH)
Kate Fitzsimons (KF)
Sue Calvino (SC)

Know Your Rights

At this public meeting the panel took advantage of the number of students in attendance and supported the police to deliver a Know Your Rights workshop. The workshop is designed for young people to have an opportunity to engage positively with the police and learn about their rights in a stop and search situation.

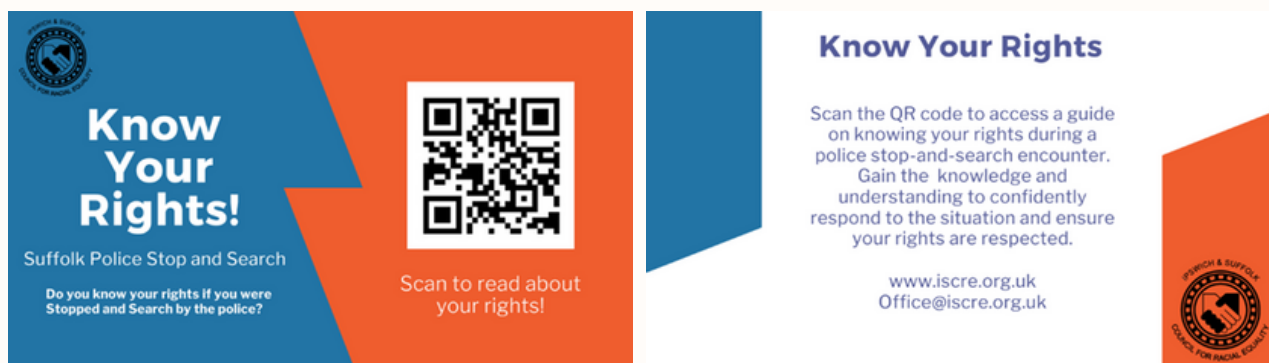
Theories and GOWISELY was explained to the young people, who volunteered to take part in the scenarios and role play.

There was excellent engagement and interest from the young people, who asked a number of thought-provoking questions.

Positive feedback was received to include... "I thought it was going to be a bit of a dry session, but it was really interesting and I learned a lot of information".

More information:

The following cards were handed out to students and visitors for them to be able to access further information about knowing their rights in a stop & search scenario. The QR code accesses the information booklet on ISCRE's website.



CASES FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY

**Case 1: Stop and Search
370410/290924/054157**

ISCRE Comments:

Can we please review the BWV .

The grounds for this search lack detail. What led up to the search, had a report come in to look out for this male? Is there recent intel on the male rather than the officers awareness of knife crime? Where was the eye witness to be able to see a knife. Where did this incident take place, inside or was it out in a public area? Did the member of public always have sight of the suspect until police arrived, did anyone else witness a knife as nothing was found? Were handcuffs used during the search?

Grounds:

OBS: I could see a male wearing a red jacket and with dreadlocks who had been pointed out to me by eye witnesses to be in possession of a knife. INTEL: I know that knife crime is a real threat and that this male has been pointed out to me by an eye witness as having possession of a knife. SUSP: I suspect that this male has a knife in his possession which is likely to be secreted as it was not in his hand.

Discussion:

BWV was reviewed by ISCRE

JC: Reads officer response...

I was stopped while I was driving a marked Police vehicle by a member of public who was stood on the street, claiming that she had seen a male with a knife outside of the kebab shop on UPPER ORWELL STREET, IPSWICH. She was the eye witness but did not want to give any details. She pointed the male out to me and said she had seen him with the knife but was not clear if she had eyes on him the whole time. This was not clear as there was a large group in the area, and to negate any threat to this group, I set off to detain the male ASAP rather than await any further details. This eyewitness described a tall black male with dreadlocks wearing a red hoodie and pointed him out to me, and this was the male who I detained and searched. There was no further intelligence on the male to relate to any knife crime, however I am aware that knife crime in Ipswich is on the rise. She explained to me that he had the knife in his hand and was waving it around in the street, but she was not clear on who this was directed towards. Upon my arrival he did not have a knife, so I suspected he may have it secreted in his possession. There were other persons in the street who also stated they saw a knife, however I do not have any of those details. Handcuffs in a rear stack were used, as per my AFI form URN 371772. In terms of nothing being found, the kebab shop checked their CCTV and told RIT officers there was nothing of note. However this was checked by RIT after they passed me this information and I had let him go, and this male WAS seen to be waving a large knife around and was arrested at a later date

EC: Elizabeth states communication was good between officers when dealing with the situation

Student Question(1) :Should officers be potentially putting themselves into harm? If an environment is deemed as hostile should they wait for a backup officer?

JC response to student question(1) :The officer must determine how dangerous or hostile the situation is and then assess the impact of what could happen if they do not intervene.

Student Question (2): If no weapon was found, could this call be a waste of police time?

JC response to Student Question (2): No, as we are not able to prove that the caller did not in fact see a knife. We will investigate repeating callers and determine case to case.

Discussion continued.

CASES FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY

Case 2: Stop and Search 371676/020924/212928

ISCRE Comments:

Can we review BWV.

What was the officers explanation why force was used on one and not the other suspect? What was the ethnicity of the other suspect? Did the CCTV operator have sight on both suspects at all times? Was permission sought to search a minor?

We would like to review this BWV as a part of our scrutiny on force used on stop & search suspects, proportionality and necessity.

Grounds:

OBS: Call received from Town CCTV (Tango Victor) who had witnessed two males sitting on the bench at the Bus Station one male was seen to be griding what was believed to be cannabis and place this into rolling paper ans were seen to be passing susbtances which was believed to be cannabis. A description of the males where provided to force control and officers dispatched to the location and the two males were identified by police and stopped. INTEL: Male is known on police systems and has information to suggest that he is dealing drugs in the Sudbury area and is often in possession of drugs. Male also has intelligence to suggest that carries knives and weapons.

SUDBURY Station is a known ASB hotspot location and has lots of intelligence for drug use and drug supply, this is a location of interest and patrols are conducted daily to try and disrupt drug users and dealers. The male has 8x intelligence records all in relation to drug dealing and possession, latest intelligence record being 06/04/2024 which suggests that he is dealing drugs in the belle Vue Park and previous intelligence prior to that was 28/03/2024 that the male is supplying cannabis on behalf of his father. SUSP: Male was in a known drug hotspot location. The offence had been captured clearly on CCTV and on arrival CCTV confirmed it was the male that was detained who had been seen with another passing a substance which was believed to be cannabis.

Discussion:

BWV was reviewed by ISCRE

JC: Reads officer response...

My colleague was called to the bus station, and I went to assist my college was PC 792. There was a call received from Tango victor who had observed two males (Youths) rolling a joint at the bus station, Tango victor had sight of them at all times and had confirmed they were the males on arrival.

JC: Good communication from the officer when dealing with the two young men and the parents over the phone.

SL: From the review of the BWV it was observed that at one point the young person asked if the cuffs can be removed, it was also noted that they had been on for some time.

JC: The officer should of assured the young man that the cuffs are on for what reasoning. He can also reassure him that it is what the officers have to do when necessary.

Student Questions (1): Are officers prepared to deal with members of the public who may have sensory issues such as autism

CC's response to Student Question (1): Yes, officers are but it needs to be clear to the officer. It helps if they have something on their person such as a lanyard or badge. When noticed by officers they know extra precautions need to be taken.

Discussion continued.

CASES FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY

Case 3: Stop and Search:
371959/130824/193839

ISCRE Comments:

How has this incident moved from the smell of cannabis to searching for controlled drugs? How recent was the intel on the male? Was there any intel on the female? The smell of cannabis alone we understand is not reason enough to stop and search, at what point was the intel on the male received, or was the male known to the searching officer?

Grounds:

OBS: Two youths smelled of cannabis and then ran away from PC 5062. They were located by officers and male admitted to having smoked Cannabis. INTEL: The male party who was with the female had previous intel for drugs possession. SUSP: I suspected that the female may possess cannabis due to the smell and running away in response to police presence. The search grounds were given by PC MILES prior to my search, and are captured on his bodyworn video

Discussion:

JC: Reads Officer response...

The reason these individuals were Stop Searched was because my Sergeant and I had seen them lurking down a passageway and we stopped to try and engage with them, and as I got out of the vehicle, there was an overwhelming smell of cannabis. As soon as I got out and tried to speak with the youths, they began running away from us and would not stop despite our best efforts to call out to them. When we caught up with them, only two out of the three youths were there. I remember the male whom I stop searched telling me that he did use cannabis or did. Based on the overwhelming smell of cannabis, the fact that they had run away for no reason and the comment made around the cannabis use, my Sergeant was satisfied to authorise a Stop Search as they were under 18, and I had reasonable grounds to Suspect that they may be in possession of cannabis, and due to them having run off and been out of our eyeline for periods of time, we were not sure whether anything had been thrown or passed to each other and that is why they were both stop searched. From memory, all that was found was a Grinder on the male.

SL: What other suspicion was there other than loitering and the smell of cannabis? How did this become a drug search?

JC: The location of this situation needs to be considered, the officer needs to justify their suspicion for a stop and search.

Discussion continued.

Meeting ended at 15:05

Date of next Meeting: January 29th 2025 Via Teams