

**Stop and Search Community Monitoring Network**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

**Attendance List**

*Names taken from sign in screen on MS Teams*

<b>Barking and Dagenham</b>	Steve Thompson
<b>Barnet</b>	Mohamed Abanur
<b>Bromley</b>	Ian Smith
<b>Camden</b>	John Kilvington
<b>Croydon</b>	Marzia Nicodemi
<b>Hackney</b>	Nicola Baboneau
<b>Hammersmith and Fulham</b>	Jane Davis Sarah Chambers
<b>Havering</b>	Ian Weatherley <b>(Vice Chair)</b>
<b>Haringey</b>	Herval Almendoar-Webster
<b>Harrow</b>	Steven Lewis
<b>Islington</b>	Sheri Lawal
<b>Lewisham</b>	Tayo Disu
<b>Newham</b>	Chris Roffey
<b>Richmond - Upon - Thames</b>	Carole Atkinson
<b>Southwark</b>	Avril Jones
<b>Wandsworth</b>	Barbara Madelof Andy Healey
<b>Westminster</b>	Nathalie Stewart <b>(Chair)</b>
<b>MPS</b>	Acting Chief Insp John Evans Acting Insp Chris Williams PC Jim Heartland
<b>MOPAC</b>	Natasha Plummer – Head of Engagement Jamie Keddy – Community Engagement Officer

**Apologies:** Aimee Farquhar- Waltham Forest; Michelle Dibble – Hillingdon; Irfan Hussain – Barnet; Vlod Barchuk – Ealing; Roy Croasdaile - Brent; Julie Fallon – Redbridge; DAC Jane Connors - MPS

## 1. Housekeeping

NP welcomed the group and went over the housekeeping.

## 2. Chair's welcome

The Chair welcomed the group and confirmed apologies.

## 3. MPS Presentation – Search Wands - Acting Inspector Chris Williams

CW provided a brief update, advising that the MPS will be introducing more search wands, with new policy and training being developed to enable wider use of these tools. That work is still in the early stages, so the MPS made a commitment to bring this item back to the next meeting when the subject matter experts would be able to provide a more in-depth presentation.

**Action: MPS to bring Search Wands item back to the next meeting when a more detailed presentation can be provided.**

**Action: MOPAC to collate the questions raised by chairs about search wands during this meeting and share with the MPS to inform the presentation.**

## 4. Stop and Search on Children - Acting Chief Inspector John Evans & Acting Inspector Chris Williams

CW gave a presentation on the searching of children, which will be circulated with the notes. CW explained that there is no age restriction on who can be searched and it is not aligned to the age of criminal responsibility, so children can be searched and there are appropriate child safeguarding practices in place. CW explained that a "strip search" is only relevant to custody post-arrest with stop and search legislation only referring to More Thorough [searches] with Intimate Parts Exposed (MTIP) which can be conducted prior to arrest within the parameters of stop and search. This type of search might be conducted on someone suspected of having something in their underwear, for example. Due to the intrusive nature of 'strip searching' [post-arrest] the College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice has provisions in place that all officers are required to seek permission from a supervisor before conducting a strip search. In the MPS officers are required to adhere to the same authorisation requirements for MTIPs, which is more than is required in the legislation.

Between September 2020 – August 2021, 256,000 searches were conducted of which just over 4500 were MTIP searches. \*\*The positive outcome rate for MTIP searches is at 50%, which is higher than for non-MTIP searches where the positive outcome rate is about 28%. The majority of these searches were conducted on people between the ages of 20 – 24. Nobody under the age of 10 was subjected to an MTIP search in the last year.

Below is a table which explains the different levels of searches  
(Acronyms – BWV: Body Worn Video)

Level	Extent of search	Who can search	Where	Auth. required
1	Standard up to JOG search: removal of jacket, outer coat and gloves	Any officer	Public place	None
2	More thorough search: removal of headgear and footwear	Any officer	Out of public view	None
3	More thorough search: removal of religious headgear	Same sex officer where practicable	Out of public view	None
4	More thorough search: removal of upper and lower clothing e.g. shirt / trousers	Same sex officer	Out of public view	None
5	MTIP search: More Thorough with Intimate Parts Exposed: e.g. removal of underwear exposing genitals, buttocks and female breasts	Two same sex officers. BWV off. Look, don't touch. Bend, don't squat!	Out of public view – e.g. police station (not police van)	Supervisor's authority <b>must</b> be obtained prior to the search

The MPS have a ten-step guide for officers conducting MTIPs:

Remember the **MTIP 10**:

1. Suspect item in their underwear
2. Supervisors authority BEFORE search
3. Out of public view and somewhere suitable to be partially naked, NOT in police vehicle
4. If under 18 an appropriate adult MUST be present unless risk of serious harm
5. At least 2 officers of same sex. No more than 2 unless exceptional circumstances
6. Turn BWV off.
7. Remove upper and lower clothing separately to avoid embarrassment.
8. No physical contact with intimate parts – if something is found ask them to hand it over
9. Look don't touch, bend don't squat.
10. Consider the post MTIP checklist – Where possible offer a lift back

The groups discussed the MPS bite sized training videos and how they reference MTIP searching.

**Action: MPS confirmed that the bite sized training videos are still available and any chair wishing to review the videos should make a request to the MPS team.**

## Question & Answer

How do officers approach searching those with disabilities that may impact their ability to hear, see or have limited capacity to understand the situation?	All officers should take reasonable steps to ensure the person stopped understands the situation. The Quality of the Encounter Model encompasses this practice.
What would constitute exceptional circumstances for more than two officers to be present for an MTIP search?	It's different in every circumstance but a situation where the person was excessively violent, and more officers were needed to manage the situation. This would be the exception and not regular practice.
Who can be an appropriate adult for a minor who is going to be subject to an MTIP?	In the first instance, officers will contact the child's parents/guardians.
How can the MPS ensure that only two officers are involved in an MTIP search?	It is the responsibility of the supervising officer and officers conducting the search to ensure the policy is followed. There is a written record of every MTIP search which will include the present officers' details.
When an officer is conducting an MTIP search will the camera be fully turned off or will the sound still be recorded?	The MPS policy is that the camera will be fully turned off during the search, so that neither sound nor video will be captured.
When conducting a search how do officers search a person's mouth?	There is specific guidance on how to safely conduct a mouth search, which has been developed by the Officer Safety Team. The MPS conducted a review on the policy with the help of a doctor who is considered a subject matter expert.
Will parents be informed of MTIP searches for under 18s?	Currently there is no policy for informing parents when an under 18 is searched unless there are safeguarding concerns. There are occasions when informing parents may agitate the situation and some people may not provide their details. Officers are encouraged to consider any safeguarding concerns and to complete a MERLIN report. The 'Merlin' IT application is police database used to record the details of those vulnerable people aged 17.
How is MTIP stop and search data monitored and is it published?	MTIP search data is available on the MPS dashboard. <a href="#">Stop and search dashboard   Metropolitan Police</a>
What is the MPS doing to monitor the proportionality of MTIP searches?	<i>The MPS have taken an action to respond to this question.</i>

**Action: MPS to clarify the policy on conducting mouth searches, including whether they can be conducted by force.**

**Action: MPS to circulate via MOPAC volume and proportionality data for MTIP searches.**

### 5. MPS Update – Stop & Search Figures & The Government's Beating Crime Plan - Acting Chief Inspector John Evans & Acting Inspector Chris Williams

The Government's Beating Crime Plan can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beatng-crime-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beating-crime-plan/beatng-crime-plan)

JE confirmed that when the plan was released he spoke directly with some chairs about their concerns. JE referenced page 26 which focuses on Serious Violence Reduction Orders which a court can impose on an individual involved in a knife offence. This order allows officers to search those convicted with less justification for the search. The court will give the order to those convicted of a knife offence. The Quality of the Encounter Model will also require officers to explain to the individual that they are being searched based on the Order in place at the time.

The Plan also references Knife Crime Prevention Orders. These are preventative, but it is a criminal offence to breach such an Order.

The chair raised concerns with the trial of Serious Violence Reduction Orders and asked that MOPAC raise these concerns with the Home Office. NP confirmed that she would speak to the MOPAC Criminal Justice team (who are leading on this work) and share the Chair's concerns and highlighted that MOPAC had responded to the Government consultation on the new Orders and had raised some of these issues at that time.

The chair also referenced a report written by Dame Carol Black on drugs which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-drugs-by-dame-carol-black-government-response>

### Question & Answer

How will the pilot be assessed to understand the impact?	<i>Mopac will take questions about SVROs and KCPOs to the Criminal Justice Team and provide a briefing to the group.</i>
Is an individual who has a Knife Crime Prevention Order allowed to move to an area where the practice is not in use?	

**Action: MOPAC to circulate a note to the CMN providing more detail about Serious Violence Reduction Orders and Knife Crime Prevention Orders.**

### 6. MOPAC Update - Natasha Plummer

- NP confirmed that she had spoken to most of the chairs this week and/or left messages to let them know that MOPAC will be progressing the review of community scrutiny in October. She confirmed chairs would be invited to a consultation session on 18<sup>th</sup> October. MOPAC will circulate the information from the meeting so those unable to attend have the opportunity to respond to the discussion and questions posed during the meeting.
- NP explained that the draft Police and Crime Plan is being finalised and MOPAC aim to begin consultation in October. There will be multiple opportunities to engage in the consultation through Talk London, written responses and public meetings. MOPAC will host specific sessions for SNBs/CMGs with dates to be confirmed.
- NP highlighted that the next public meeting on the Mayor's Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing will take place on 7 October. This meeting will be focussed on the voice of young people and any support from the chairs in ensuring the opportunity is widely shared would be most welcome. The general MAP update will be circulated to everyone, so the wider information will be shared.

## 7. Any Other Business

NP confirmed that MOPAC's main office will be at Union Street and agreed to circulate the full address and Engagement Team details.

**Action: MOPAC to circulate details of MOPAC's new address and include an updated list of the staff within the Community Engagement Team.**

DRAFT

*\*\* Positive Outcome Rates refer to a stop and search where an illegal item was found. Eg: weapon / drugs.*