

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 14 July 2015

Subject: Stop and Search Monitoring Data

Lead officer: Christine Matthews, Chair, Merton Stop and Search Monitoring Group

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and comment on the report provided by the Chair of Merton's Stop and Search Monitoring Group (see Appendix A) and ask other questions as appropriate.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Chair of Merton's Stop and Search Monitoring Group has been invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting to present the latest stop and search monitoring data and answer questions. Her report is provided in Appendix A.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. This issue was suggested by a councillor and by Merton Centre for Independent Living for inclusion in the Commission's 2015/16 work programme.
- 2.2. The councillor has suggested that the Commission:
- scrutinise the operation of stop and search of young people in the borough (under 25s);
 - examine monitoring data broken down by age, gender and ethnicity to check any over-representation and then to find out what action is being taken to address this;
 - find out what the roles of the police, council and schools are in relation to stop and search, including information about people's rights.
- 2.3. Merton Centre for Independent Living has suggested that any scrutiny of this issue should also consider monitoring disability as this is not currently recorded and there is a specific issue, particularly for people with autism where the situation can escalate if the police are not aware of the condition.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Commission members may choose to ask questions about any aspect of stop and search.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. Not applicable.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. Not applicable.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no property or resource implications at this time.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None for the purpose of this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix A – report from the Chair of Merton’s Stop and Search Monitoring Group

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None