



**Minutes**  
**Use of Force Scrutiny Panel – 10-13.00 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting and introductions were made around the room. A new volunteer member of the Scrutiny Panel was introduced. Apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes and actions from last meeting**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019. No amendments made the actions were updated as detailed below.

**ACTION**

Professional Standards to liaise with Crime reduction & Community Safety around the complaint examples to be brought to the next meeting.

**ACTION**

Crime Reduction & Community Safety to liaise with custody to arrange a custody officer to attend the meeting to discuss recording of Use of Force data in that area.

**ACTION**

Crime Reduction & Community Safety to analyse the data more closely and establish effectiveness by each CSP and invite an operational officer to discuss the data at the next meeting.

**ACTION**

Professional Standards to discuss the decision making around suspects being taken to custody or Hospital. Professional Standards discussed this issue with the Chief Inspector for Custody and showed them the footage. The incident has been reviewed, feedback has been disseminated – this was a positive outcome. **Action Closed**

### 3. Scrutiny meetings – revised approach & Terms of Reference

A revised Terms of Reference was given to each panel member. The panel agreed to the revised Terms of Reference

- 6 meetings per year
- 3 meetings analysing all the Use of Force
- 3 meetings looking more deeply into each area of the Use of Force most commonly used, for example: handcuffs, Pava and UDT (Unarmed Defensive Tactics).

Discussions were held regarding what happens when the statement accompanying the body worn video footage is not available, the panel would like to know why the statement is not available to ensure transparency.

The annual report will be reviewed in July 2020.

**It was noted that whilst Police officers are present in the room, it is an independent panel and therefore the officers should only offer advice or explanations when asked.**

### 4. Expenses

No concerns around expenses.

### 5. Training for panel members

Personal Safety team confirmed that there were courses being run in the future, however they offered the panel several options:

- To watch sections of ongoing courses.
- Attend a bespoke course for panel members, showing them what is taught to new recruits. This would involve condensing a two week course into 2 x 6 hour sessions or delivered in morning sessions over two weeks. The course would include decision making, rational, medical issues and physical techniques.
- The training provided will involve 2 instructors, 1 PowerPoint, so it will necessary to train 4-6 people to make it worthwhile.

#### ACTION

Crime Reduction & Community Safety to liaise with the panel and Personal Safety team regarding future training dates (a bespoke session for the panel) from April 2020 onwards.

The NCALT online training must be completed by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Details have been sent to the Panel volunteers.

### 6. Discussion Re Quarter Use of Force Figures

Discussions were held around the recording of the Use of Force figures, there were still concerns relating to the Hatfield custody figures.

Professional standards advised that senior officers looked at the figures on a daily basis and also advised the panel to watch the Taser figures as they appear to be increasing.

## 7. Input from Professional Standards Department

Professional Standards confirmed that the new reforms and regulations would be introduced on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. This will concentrate on more conduct assessments and teaching rather than punitive sanctions overseen by a new Inspector (practise crime & improvement officer). It was reported that 14 allegations linked to the Use of Force were made, this number is comparable to Bedfordshire complaints. The majority were category C – lower level, however 1 category a (serious assault) was reported and referred to the IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct).

PSD allow 28 days appeal for local area scrutiny cases. The reviewing body will now be dealt with by the PCC (Police & Crime Commissioners) office.

It was asked how internal reviews were conducted. It was confirmed that after a member of staff had 3 complaints or 3 non-upheld, they would then be called in for a conversation and a decision would be made on any further action if necessary.

## 8. Input from Team Leader, Personal Safety Training.

No further input.

## 9. Review of the Use of Force dip sampling focusing on:

- **Handcuffs**

The example was chosen but unfortunately no statement was available, and the panel watched the body worn camera footage.

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force** (Based on the fact that the suspect did not struggle when handcuffed, the panel will review this example again when the statement is available).

### ACTION

Crime Reduction & Community Safety to request the statement from the officer.

- **Taser**

The example was chosen by and panel members watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement. It was agreed that the statement was not very clear although it put the situation in context. Discussions were held around the immediate use of Taser, however when reading the statement the decisions were taken because the officer had been told that the flat in question was occupied by a female and her child. Discussions were also held around the swearing and language used by the police officers.

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force.**

- **Spit Guard**

The example was chosen and the panel watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, it was agreed that the level of force used was appropriate

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

- **Pava**

The example was chosen and the panel members watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement. At first the panel struggled to understand why the police officers were waiting for so long before acting however the statement clarified this.

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

- **Escalated Force**

The example was chosen and the panel watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, it was agreed that the appropriate Use of Force was used.

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

## **9 Any Other Business**

The panel were asked to consider ways of informing the wider community that volunteers are present at meetings such as the Scrutiny Panel.

**Date of next meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020