



Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 3 September 2019



- Andy Taylor - AT Independent Panel Member (*Chair*)
- Adam Harrold – AH Director of Operations, Dorset OPCC
- Steve Plant – SP Independent Panel Member
- Jane Moir - JM Independent Panel Member
- Paul Cashmore – PC Independent Panel Member
- Stan Sadler – SS Dorset Healthcare
- Supt Pete Windle – PW Professional Standards Department, Dorset Police
- CI Stewart Dipple – SD Chief Inspector, Alliance Operational Support Command, Operational Support, Dorset Police
- Emma Knipe – EK Senior Performance Analyst, Corporate Development, Dorset Police
- Kerry Stacey – KS Personal Safety Officer, Dorset Police
- Andy Pasker – AP Public Order Trainer, Dorset Police
- Tom Smith – TS Scrutiny Manager, Dorset OPCC
- Jenny Heaver - JH PA to SMT, Dorset OPCC

Apologies

- Supt Tracey Baker – TB Dorset Territorial Police
- Conrad Astley – CA Comms & Engagement Officer, Dorset OPCC

Apologies

The Chair introduced Panel members and apologies were noted.

The minutes and public facing summary from the previous meeting were agreed.

Performance Report

The panel reviewed the data for Quarter 1 (Apr – Jun 2019/20).

It was noted there had been a 3% increase in use of force incidents as compared with last year when there had been a 15-16% increase. This was a reflection of improved data quality which meant that the figures are now reflecting a more accurate picture.

128 officers had been injured so far this year, an increase of 60% from 2018/19. There had been an 11% reduction in assaults on officer by subjects.

22% of interactions involved a subject who has a physical or mental health condition. Nearly one third of subjects are displaying aggressively resistant behaviour when force is used.

The three main impact factors continued to be alcohol, drugs and size/gender/build.

The panel discussed the use of Spit and Bite Guards (SBGs) which were introduced in December 2018.

DIP Sampling of Use of Force cases

The theme was based on the five officers who have been identified as using force the most frequently and cases of severe injury.

Cases 1, 2 and 3 were reviewed in detail.

In all the cases the panel agreed that the behaviour of officers, and the use of force used, was reasonable and appropriate.

Theme for Dip Sampling

The Panel agreed future themes should include cases involving injury. A further suggested theme was to consider cases involving bladed weapons and issues around disabled people.

It was agreed that the panel would review Spit / Bite guard cases and officers with the highest use of force.

Date of next meeting

Date of the next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 10 am to 12 noon.