



Metropolitan Police Authority

Waltham Forest Community Engagement Board – 25 June 2008

MPA Update

Report by the Link Member

Summary

This report updates members on the Authority's youth scrutiny, the monitoring regime for the MPS trial of the deployment of Taser by specially trained police units and on the use of stop and search powers as part of Operation Blunt II.

A. RECOMMENDATION

- 1. that the report be noted.**

B. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

MPA Youth Scrutiny 2007/08

- The Authority commissioned the youth scrutiny in October 2007. The final draft report is the product of six months of intensive research into young people's relationships with the MPS and their experiences as victims, witnesses and perpetrators of crime in the capital.
- The draft youth scrutiny report was submitted to the Full Authority on 29 May 2008 and it includes 53 recommendations for various agencies including the MPS and local authorities. However, the recommendations have yet to be agreed and the report will be discussed further at the next Full Authority meeting on 26 June 2008.

Taser Pilot Monitoring

- The MPS commenced the Home Office trial of the deployment of Taser by specially trained police units (Territorial Support Group) who are not firearms officers, but who are facing similar threats of violence on 10th December 2007.
- As part of this trial, the Authority has established an oversight group and a comprehensive monitoring regime, which incorporates daily returns on Taser usage, a more detailed weekly summary, and bi-monthly meetings with the responsible officer to look at specific incidents in greater depth.
- During the first monitoring period (10th December 2007 – 17th February 2008) there were 124 deployments of Taser at 67 incidents, with 8 discharges. During the second period (8th February – 20th April 2008)

of review 92 deployments were made by the TSG at 53 incidents. During this period Taser was discharged on 15 occasions.

Stop & Search – Operation Blunt II

6. Operation Blunt II has been introduced as a long-term, pan-London operation that aims to reduce the carrying of weapons on the streets and serious violence involving young people as victims of knife crime and offenders. It is based on the robust, intelligence-led use of stop and search powers in specific localities using powers under s.60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (which give officers the right to stop and search anyone when there is evidence that serious violence has taken place or may take place) in areas where knife offenders live as well as where knife offences occur.
7. Operation Blunt II was the subject of a report to the Full Authority in May 2008, where concerns were raised about the wide-ranging use of S60 powers, although there was still broad support for this operation, provided that it is based on intelligence and is implemented with sensitivity and respect. However, given the concerns raised, it was agreed that an update report would be submitted to the Full Authority in 6 months' time.

C. RACE AND EQUALITY IMPACT

No adverse impact to any equality group is anticipated as a result of this report.

D. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

Report author: Natasha P Plummer

Background Papers

None