Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE	PAPER NO. AP22/05

SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
14 JANUARY 2022

SUBJECT: USE OF STOP SEARCH IN SUFFOLK –
1 OCTOBER 2020 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

SUMMARY:

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve-month period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021. There were 4,470 stops searches during the reporting period.

2. An assessment of the reason for search and the object of the search shows that the majority of stop and searches were associated with drugs. 3,288 stop searches (74%) had drugs as the reason for the search. 381 stop searches (9%) were strip searches and of these, 363 (95%) were in relation to drugs. The second highest category is for searches under PACE S1.

3. Over eight out of ten people stopped and searched reported that they understood the reasons for their search and were treated with respect and dignity by the officer(s).

4. As a county, there has been a general increase in the total number of stop searches conducted per quarter since Q4 of 2018/19, which is reflective of the Constabulary's approach to proactive policing in a sustained effort to identify and prevent potential crime and disorder, though there has been a decrease in the most recent quarter (Q2 2021/22). The rate of stop searches resulting in arrest is above the national average and remained relatively high compared to other Forces in year ending March 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to take account of the steps that the Constabulary is taking to ensure stop search legislation is used fairly and effectively.

1. USE OF STOP/SEARCH IN SUFFOLK OCTOBER 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2021

1.1. A database for recording 'stop and search' and 'stop and account' was implemented in Suffolk in December 2014, as directed by the Home Office. The rationale behind the database is to allow for greater governance of the use of stop and search powers and to allow for the identification of trends in the use of powers by individual officers, teams or stations. The database also allows for increased data collection on stop and search outcomes.

1.2. The Home Secretary wrote to all forces in April 2014 following the findings of an HMIC inspection into how stop and search powers are used. Two main concerns raised were:

   a)   The HMIC found that fewer than half of police Forces in England and Wales complied with PACE 1984 requirements for arrangements to be in place for stop and search records to be scrutinised by the communities they serve.

   b)   Some forces set officer targets in relation to stop and search.

1.3. As a result, the Home Office and College of Policing introduced the 'Best Use of Stop and Search' scheme. Participating forces were asked to record the use of stop and search in more detail going forward in order to show the link (or otherwise) between the object of the search and the outcome. The scheme also introduced lay observation policies to enable members of the public to accompany officers on patrol and a 'community trigger' whereby police must explain to the public how powers are being used when there is a large volume of complaints.

1.4. This report (and future reports) is based on data collected from stop and search records since then and covers the period between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021 inclusive.

1.5. At the end of 2020, a new recording system (Optik) was implemented in Suffolk for recording stop and search events, which has been reported on in this paper alongside data from the pre-existing system which is still in use. While ongoing work is being undertaken to ensure the new system can replicate the information that is currently reported, there are some limitations to the overall dataset in places.

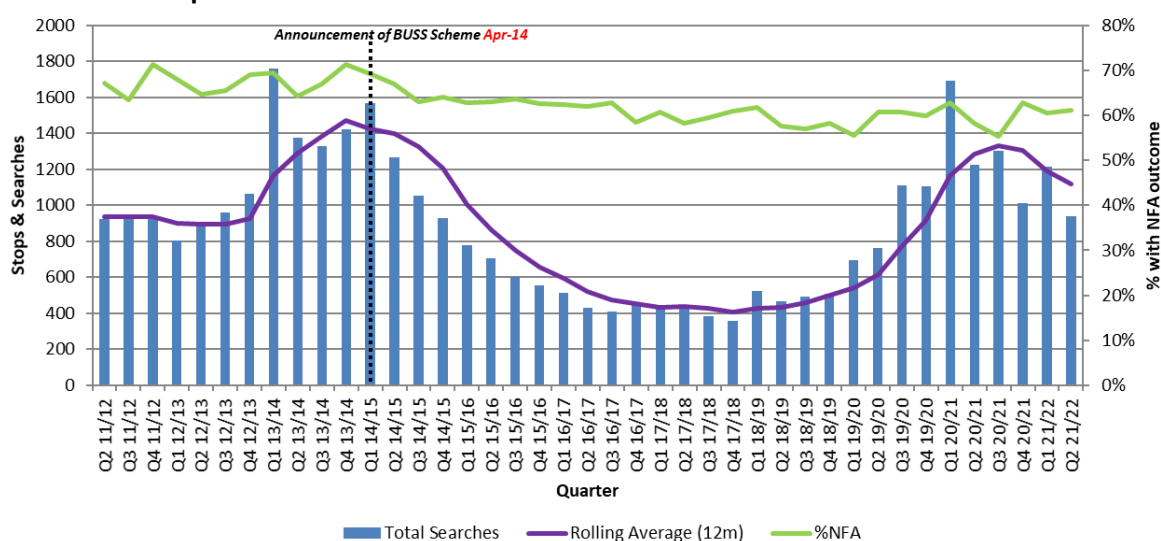## 2. OVERALL TRENDS[1]

2.1. Use of stop and search

Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

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[1] Rolling average based on a 12-month period

2.1.1. Figure 1 displays long term trends in stop and search over time, from Q2 2011/12 to Q2 2021/22. There was a consistent downward trend in stop and search following the announcement of the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme until Q4 2017/18. Since Q4 2017/18 there has been an upward trend, reaching a peak in Q1 2020/21 before decreasing from Q2 2020/21.
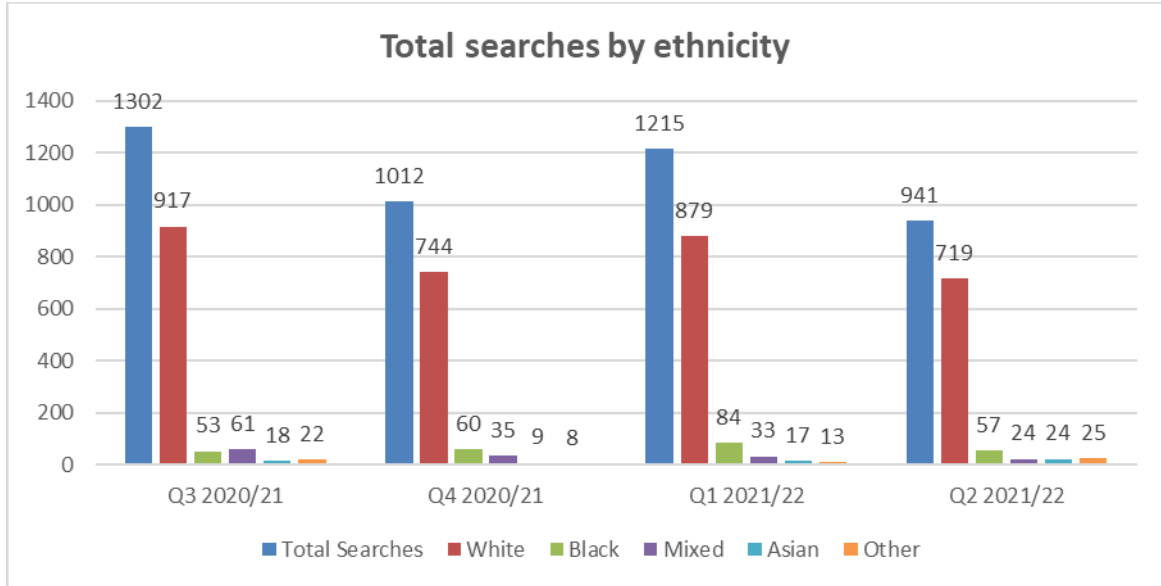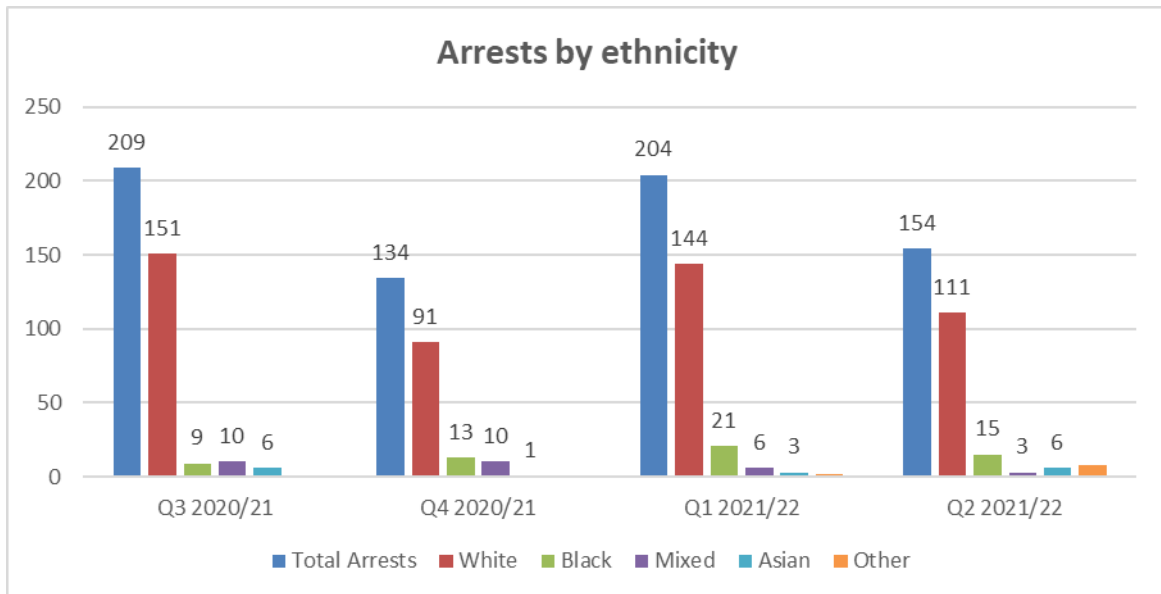

Figure 2: Stop searches by ethnicity

Figure 3: Total arrests by ethnicity (please note that an arrest may not result in a prosecution)
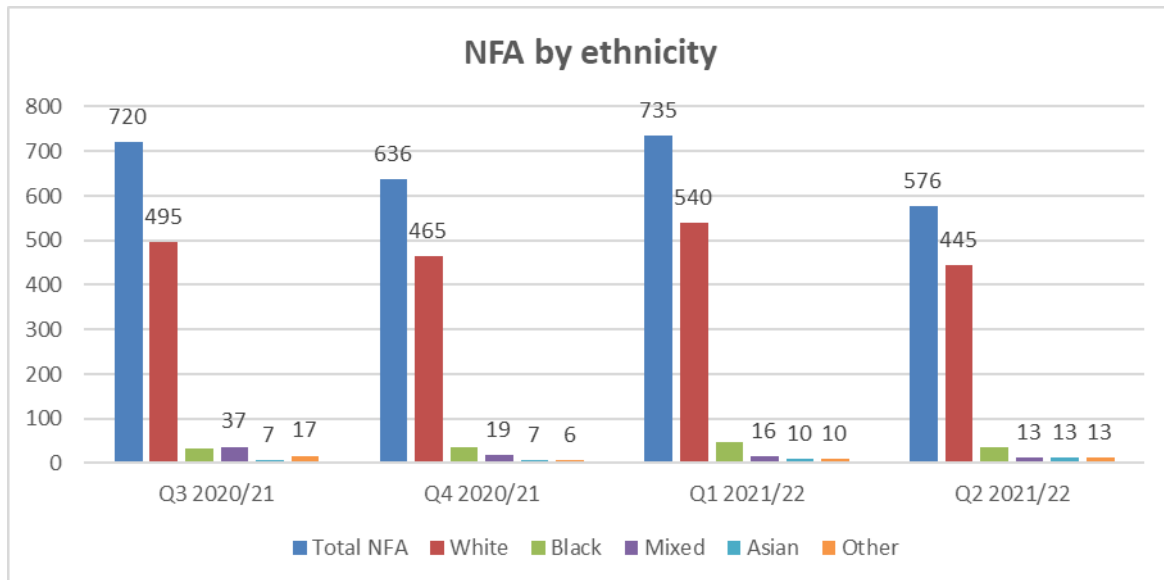
NFA by ethnicity

Figure 4: Total NFA by ethnicity

2.1.2. The above three charts (figures 2, 3 & 4) show the stop and search trend data for the last 12 months, split by ethnicity (with data from both recording systems). Please note that in some cases the number of ethnicities recorded does not match the total number of searches, arrest outcomes and no further action outcomes because on occasions the ethnicity is not stated within the data.

2.1.3. Figure 5 below displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk since the beginning of this reporting period, which shows a fluctuating trend with peaks in November 2020 and May 2021, with a slight increase in overall volume over the last twelve months compared to previous period. In the year that BUSS was introduced there was an average of 400 stop and searches per month; this has now decreased to an average of 360 per month in the last six months. However during the last six months the number of stop and searches has fluctuated, reaching a peak of 447 in May 2021.
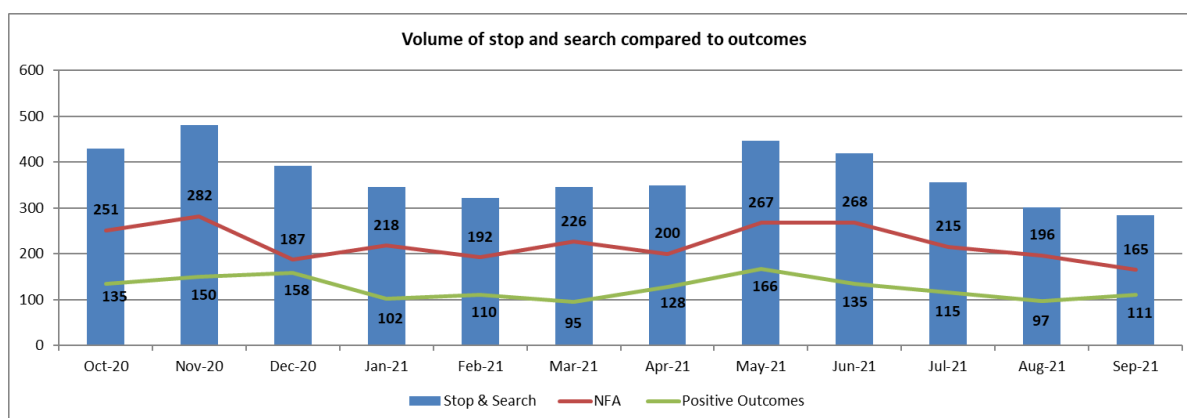

Figure 5: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes October 2020 – September 2021

2.1.4. Between October 2020 and September 2021, the average rate of searches resulting in no further action (NFA) was 60%. In terms of quarterly statistics, there has been an almost continual decrease in NFA rate since the introduction of BUSS compared to moderate

fluctuations prior to April 2014 (ranging between 63% and 71%). However, the NFA rate has remained the same since the last reporting period.
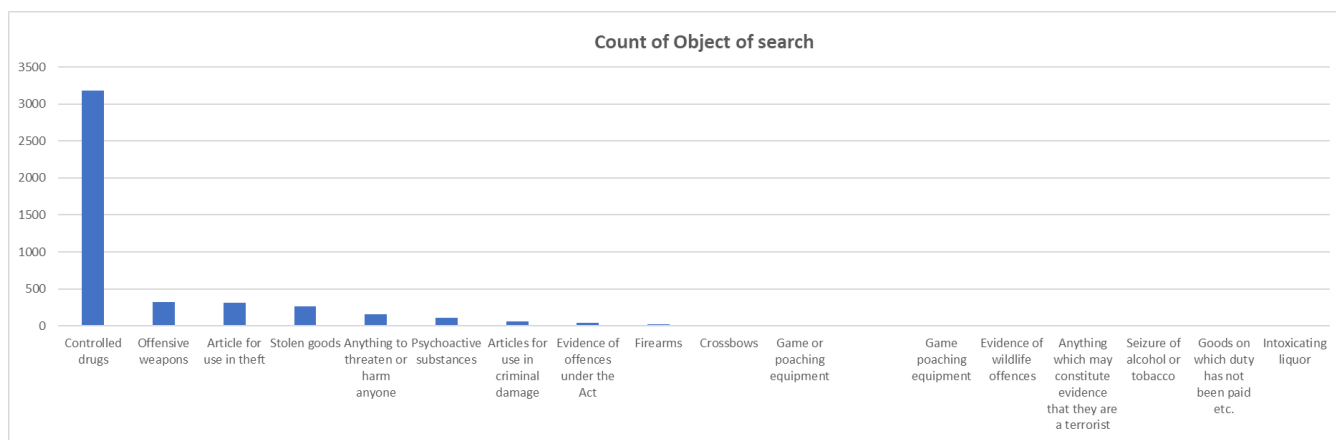
2.2. **Object of search**

Figure 6: Count of Object of Search

2.2.1.   Figure 6 displays the object of searches undertaken in Suffolk during this reporting period. In the majority of stop searches (74%) controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in two of the main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich and West Suffolk districts which is where police intelligence indicates that there is a higher prevalence of drug dealing and usage activity. Drugs related stop and searches accounted for 70% of the total number of stop searches in Ipswich, with a similar rate (77%) in West Suffolk.

2.2.2   During the reporting period, 3,288 stop and searches (74%) were conducted where the object searched for was drugs. Analysis of these drugs searches shows that 1,633 (50%) were carried out against persons aged under 25 years old[2]. In terms of ethnicity, 427 (13%) of these searches were on those of black or minority ethnicities, 2,407 (73%) on those of white ethnicity and 454 (14%) on people for whom the ethnicity is not known/not stated.

2.3.   **Use of strip search**

2.3.1   Between October 2020 and September 2021, there were 381 strip searches, accounting for 9% of all stop and searches which is the same figure reported in the previous report (published in July 2021). Figure 7 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 363 (95%) being drug related. Drug dealers are known to use various tactics to conceal drugs about their person, including concealing them in body cavities, hence the high prevalence of the use of strip searches in relation to drugs.

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[2] Public bodies, including public health, the NHS, local authorities and care providers, now widely recognise a young person as being anyone up to the age of 25 as opposed to age 18.
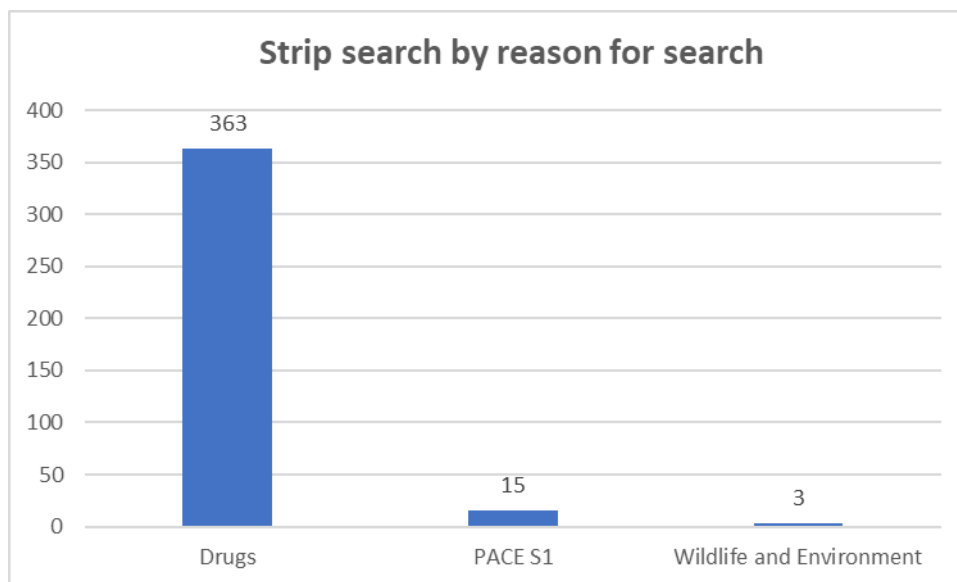
Figure 7: Suffolk strip search by reason for search

2.3.2   During the reporting period, 85 strip searches (22%) were undertaken on people of a black or minority ethnicity, which compares to 12% of stop searches undertaken on individuals of the same background. 262 strip searches (69%) were undertaken on persons of white (British) ethnicity, with the remainder undertaken on persons who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for was/were found in 164 strip searches (43%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in 75 strip searches (20%). The rate of items searched for that are subsequently found has increased by 12p.p. since the last reporting period, and items that were not searched for but were found increased by 5p.p.

Table 1: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

Strip search type	Total count	Total %	White count	White % total	Black count	Black % total	Not stated count	Not stated % total	Mixed count	Mixed % total	Asian count	Asian % total	Other count	Other % total
Drugs	363	95%	247	94%	51	96%	34	100%	22	96%	7	100%	2	100%
PACE S1	15	4%	13	5%	1	2%	0	0%	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
Wildlife and Environment	3	1%	2	1%	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Grand Total	381	100%	262	100%	53	100%	34	100%	23	100%	7	100%	2	100%

2.3.3.   The above table shows stop search by reason and ethnicity. The first two columns show the total count and percentage of stop searches according to the reason for search. The subsequent columns assess the count/percentage according to ethnicity for each of the reasons for stop search, and this part of the table should be read crossways. The majority of strip search are conducted for drugs-related reasons, for every ethnicity group.

2.3.4.   During the reporting period, the age category for which there were the most strip searches was 25 years and over, accounting for 56% of all strip searches, irrespective of ethnicity. For those of white ethnicity it was also 25 years and over (61% of all white individuals undergoing strip search) and for those of black or minority ethnicity it was the 18-24 years age category (49% of all individuals undergoing strip search).

Table 2: Age breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

Age category	Total count	Total %	White count	White % total	Black count	Black % total	Not stated count	Not stated % total	Mixed count	Mixed % total	Asian count	Asian % total	Other count	Other % total
10-14	3	1%	0	0%	1	2%	1	3%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%
15-17	40	10%	25	10%	9	17%	4	12%	1	4%	0	0%	1	50%
18-24	127	33%	84	32%	20	38%	4	12%	15	65%	3	43%	1	50%
25 and over	210	55%	153	58%	23	43%	24	71%	7	30%	3	43%	0	0%
Not stated	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Grand Total	381	100%	262	100%	53	100%	34	100%	23	100%	7	100%	2	100%

Stop and Search Outcomes

Table 3: Outcome breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

Outcome	Total count	Total %	White count	% of White	Black count	% of Black	Mixed count	% of Mixed	Asian count	% of Asian	Other count	% of Other	Not stated count	% of Not stated
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	251	6%	187	6%	8	3%	6	4%	2	3%	2	3%	46	7%
Local resolution	126	3%	99	3%	8	3%	8	5%	1	1%	2	3%	8	1%
No Category	301	7%	198	6%	13	5%	4	3%	2	3%	3	4%	81	12%
Nothing found - No further action	2667	60%	1945	60%	151	59%	85	56%	37	54%	46	68%	403	60%
Offender cautioned	45	1%	33	1%	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	10	1%
Offender given drugs possession warning	272	6%	218	7%	11	4%	17	11%	6	9%	2	3%	18	3%
Offender given penalty notice	29	1%	19	1%	2	1%	1	1%	3	4%	1	1%	3	0%
Suspect arrested	701	16%	497	15%	58	23%	29	19%	16	24%	11	16%	90	13%
Suspect summonsed to court	64	1%	51	2%	1	0%	3	2%	1	1%	1	1%	7	1%
Suspected psychoactive substances seized – NFA	14	0%	12	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%
Grand Total	**4470**	**100%**	**3259**	**100%**	**254**	**100%**	**153**	**100%**	**68**	**100%**	**68**	**100%**	**668**	**100%**

2.4.1   The percentage of stop searches resulting in "Article found" has increased by 1p.p since the last reporting period, at 6%. When assessing outcome types for subjects of white ethnicity and of black or minority ethnicities (excluding not stated), the most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for 60% of all outcomes[3]. Overall, this has stayed stable when compared to the last reporting period (01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021) however NFA rates have remained fluctuated across different ethnicities. NFA rate has increased by 1p.p for those of a black ethnicity, whilst decreasing slightly for those of mixed ethnicity (by 3p.p) and for Asian and 'other' ethnicities (by 5p.p and 2p.p respectively). It is worth noting that 'Other' represents small numbers. The NFA rate for those of white ethnicity has remained the same.

2.4.2   A further 7% of searches did not have an outcome recorded, as displayed in Table 3. This has decreased by 3p.p. when compared to the last reporting period (01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021).

2.4.3   The proportion of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome varies from district to district, ranging from 55% in Babergh, to 62% in Ipswich.

2.5 Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search
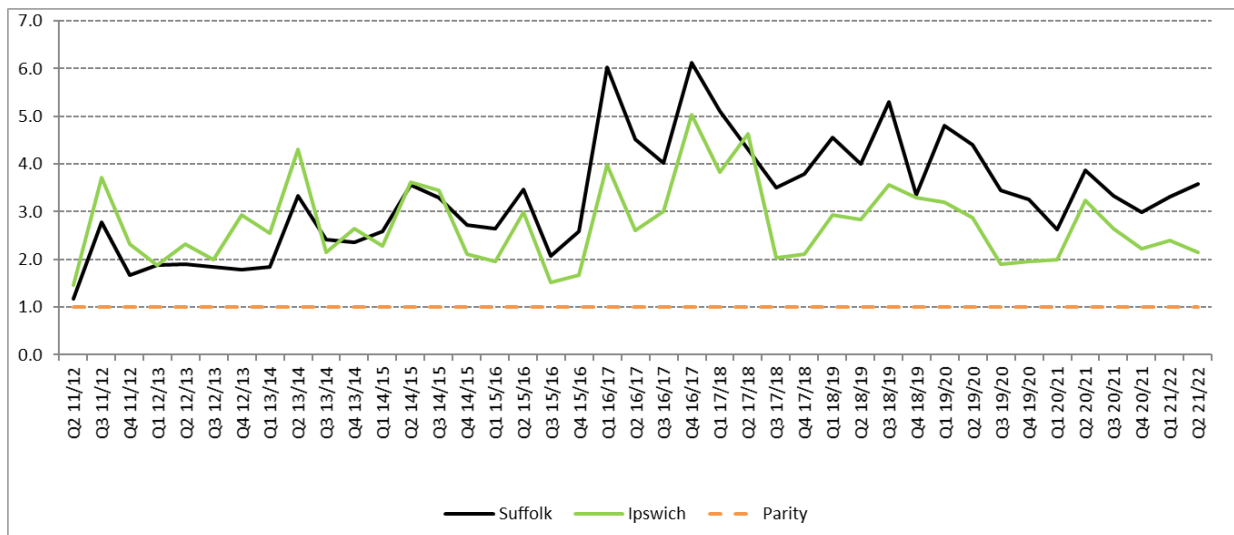
Figure 8: Proportionality in the use of Stop and Search in Suffolk

2.5.1   Figure 8 displays the proportionality of the use of stop and search across ethnicities in Suffolk as a whole and for Ipswich separately (where the use of stop and search is most prevalent).

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[3] Where ethnicity is known ('not stated' ethnicities are removed from this figure). If 'not known' ethnicities are included, the average proportion of NFA outcomes drops to 60% for the county.

As a guide, if the proportionality figure is equal to one, it equates to parity – or that a person of black or minority ethnicity has an equal likelihood of being subject to a stop and search as a person of white ethnicity. Where the figure is greater than one, this indicates that the likelihood increases and becomes disproportionate for a person of black or minority ethnicity[4].

2.5.2 In the last quarter, subjects who were of black or minority ethnicities were 3.6 times more likely to be stopped and searched than subjects of white ethnicity when assessing the county as a whole.

Table 4: Suffolk Stop and Search by district, broken down by White/BME ethnicity

	Suffolk				Babergh				Ipswich				Mid Suffolk				West Suffolk				East Suffolk			
	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME
Q3 2015/16	744	653	68	9.1%	82	71	11	13.4%	145	117	22	15.2%	33	30	2	6.1%	234	207	23	9.8%	250	228	15	6.0%
Q4 2015/16	715	605	79	11.0%	43	36	4	9.3%	151	120	25	16.6%	47	42	3	6.4%	202	166	32	15.8%	272	241	15	5.5%
Q1 2016/17	524	391	119	22.7%	46	40	6	13.0%	173	107	61	35.3%	38	28	8	21.1%	153	117	32	20.9%	114	99	12	10.5%
Q2 2016/17	428	338	77	18.0%	32	29	3	9.4%	110	72	29	26.4%	24	22	2	8.3%	130	101	27	20.8%	132	114	16	12.1%
Q3 2016/17	408	320	65	15.9%	48	37	10	20.8%	98	67	25	25.5%	44	33	6	13.6%	131	111	13	9.9%	87	72	11	12.6%
Q4 2016/17	455	327	101	22.2%	37	28	7	18.9%	151	88	55	36.4%	44	43	1	2.3%	110	81	24	21.8%	113	87	14	12.4%
Q1 2017/18	443	333	86	19.4%	33	27	4	12.1%	135	86	41	30.4%	39	33	4	10.3%	164	124	31	18.9%	72	63	6	8.3%
Q2 2017/18	438	335	73	16.7%	38	34	4	10.5%	107	59	34	31.8%	63	57	3	4.8%	133	99	28	21.1%	97	86	4	4.1%
Q3 2017/18	383	310	55	14.4%	27	22	4	14.8%	99	75	19	19.2%	39	30	6	15.4%	119	93	20	16.8%	99	90	6	6.1%
Q4 2017/18	358	277	53	14.8%	19	16	1	5.3%	119	84	22	18.5%	36	34	2	5.6%	110	79	20	18.2%	74	64	8	10.8%
Q1 2018/19	526	391	90	17.1%	57	44	5	8.8%	159	107	39	24.5%	58	49	5	8.6%	151	118	20	13.2%	101	73	21	20.8%
Q2 2018/19	467	356	72	15.4%	33	28	3	9.1%	183	116	41	22.4%	37	28	6	16.2%	146	121	19	13.0%	68	63	3	4.4%
Q3 2018/19	491	344	92	18.7%	26	15	6	23.1%	213	131	58	27.2%	36	22	3	8.3%	131	104	16	12.2%	85	72	9	10.6%
Q4 2018/19	508	373	63	12.4%	45	39	2	4.4%	194	115	47	24.2%	22	17	1	4.5%	133	110	8	6.0%	114	92	5	4.4%
Q1 2019/20	694	469	114	16.4%	50	39	5	10.0%	316	178	71	22.5%	30	22	6	20.0%	163	120	21	12.9%	135	110	11	8.1%
Q2 2019/20	762	512	114	15.0%	35	30	2	5.7%	379	216	77	20.3%	23	18	1	4.3%	189	146	16	8.5%	136	102	18	13.2%
Q3 2019/20	1109	786	137	12.4%	68	53	6	8.8%	611	391	92	15.1%	39	30	3	7.7%	239	191	28	11.7%	152	121	8	5.3%
Q4 2019/20	1106	774	127	11.5%	81	69	3	3.7%	497	319	78	15.7%	55	34	4	7.3%	286	194	33	11.5%	187	158	9	4.8%
Q1 2020/21	1691	1307	173	10.2%	149	128	14	9.4%	497	323	80	16.1%	172	145	7	4.1%	491	391	47	9.6%	382	320	25	6.5%
Q2 2020/21	1233	874	172	13.9%	120	106	9	7.5%	542	313	127	23.4%	51	39		0.0%	286	227	25	8.7%	234	189	11	4.7%
Q3 2020/21	1302	917	154	11.8%	119	99	7	5.9%	518	311	102	19.7%	58	56	6	8.0%	331	257	27	8.2%	259	194	12	4.6%
Q4 2020/21	1012	744	112	11.1%	64	52	6	9.4%	388	249	69	17.8%	38	30	2	5.3%	343	275	20	5.8%	174	134	14	8.0%
Q1 2021/22	1215	879	147	12.1%	99	86	8	8.1%	483	296	88	18.2%	72	44	8	11.1%	345	273	32	9.3%	200	167	11	5.5%
Q2 2021/22	941	719	130	13.8%	58	46	11	19.0%	447	303	81	18.1%	48	35	6	12.5%	233	200	19	8.2%	154	134	13	8.4%

2.5.3 As a county, there has been a general increase in the total number of stop searches conducted per quarter since Q2 of 2018/19, which is reflective of the Constabulary's approach to proactive policing in a sustained effort to identify and prevent potential crime and disorder, though there has been a decrease in the most recent quarter. Volumes peaked in Q1 2020/21 due to the proactive policing during the first lockdown.

2.5.4 Table 4 provides some context to the county-wide picture, by displaying volumes of stop and searches over time in Suffolk at district level, broken down by stop searches conducted on people of white ethnicity and people of black or minority ethnicity. The last 12 months of district data (quarter by quarter comparisons) shows that from a county perspective, the overall number of stop and searches on people of white ethnicity has increased every quarter until the latest quarter where there has been a decrease in volume of overall stop searches. Although the number of stop and searches on people of black or minority ethnicities was higher in Q1 2020/21, the proportion this represents of overall stop searches was the lowest it has been since Q3 of 2015/16. For this reporting period (Q3 2020/21 to Q2 2021/22), stop searches on people of black or minority ethnicity accounted for 12.1% of all stop and searches (11.6% in the previous period). In terms of individual districts, there has been a general trend of increasing numbers of people who are the subject of stop and search tactics when comparing this reporting period with the last reporting period, but all with lower volumes in Q4 2020/21 with the exception of West Suffolk

2.5.5 Table 5 (page 9) highlights the proportion of all stop searches that are against people of black or minority ethnicities, and how disproportionate this was in each quarter. The overall disproportionality value for Suffolk has increased over the last 12 months from 3.5 in Q3 2019/20 to 3.9 in Q2 2020/21, however in Q1 of 2020/21 it was the lowest it has been in recent years.

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[4] Based on the ethnic breakdown for Suffolk / Ipswich given in the latest census (2011) - ONS

Table 5: Proportionality of Suffolk Stop and Search by district

Quarter	Suffolk		Babergh		West Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		East Suffolk	
	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.
Q1 2017/18	19.4%	5.1	12.1%	6.7	35.7%	6.7	30.4%	3.8	10.3%	5.6	0.0%	0.0
Q2 2017/18	16.7%	4.3	10.5%	5.3	18.9%	2.6	31.8%	4.6	4.8%	2.4	7.5%	2.4
Q3 2017/18	14.4%	3.5	14.8%	8.2	4.3%	0.6	19.2%	2.0	15.4%	9.2	5.0%	1.5
Q4 2017/18	14.8%	3.8	5.3%	2.8	21.4%	3.9	18.5%	2.1	5.6%	2.7	7.7%	2.3
Q1 2018/19	17.1%	4.6	8.8%	5.1	5.9%	0.7	24.5%	2.9	8.6%	4.7	23.0%	8.8
Q2 2018/19	15.4%	4.0	9.1%	4.9	18.5%	2.7	22.4%	2.8	16.2%	9.8	4.8%	1.4
Q3 2018/19	18.7%	5.3	23.1%	18.1	12.2%	2.7	27.2%	3.6	8.3%	6.3	10.6%	4.2
Q4 2018/19	12.4%	3.4	4.4%	2.3	6.0%	1.3	24.2%	3.3	4.5%	2.7	4.4%	1.8
Q1 2019/20	16.5%	4.8	10.0%	5.8	12.9%	3.1	22.5%	3.2	20.0%	12.5	8.4%	3.3
Q2 2019/20	15.4%	4.6	5.9%	3.1	8.5%	1.9	20.5%	2.9	4.3%	2.5	14.3%	6.4
Q3 2019/20	14.8%	3.5	10.2%	5.1	12.8%	2.6	19.0%	1.9	9.1%	4.6	6.2%	2.2
Q4 2019/20	14.1%	3.3	4.2%	2.0	14.5%	3.0	19.6%	2.0	10.5%	5.4	5.4%	1.9
Q1 2020/21	10.2%	2.6	9.4%	5.0	9.6%	2.1	16.1%	2.0	4.1%	2.2	6.5%	2.6
Q2 2020/21	13.9%	3.9	7.5%	3.5	8.7%	1.9	23.4%	3.4	0.0%	0.0	4.7%	1.7
Q3 2020/21	11.8%	3.3	5.9%	3.2	8.2%	1.8	19.7%	2.6	8.0%	4.9	4.6%	2.1
Q4 2020/21	11.0%	3.0	9.4%	5.2	5.8%	1.3	17.8%	2.2	5.3%	3.1	8.0%	3.5
Q1 2021/22	12.3%	3.4	8.1%	4.2	9.3%	2.1	18.2%	2.4	11.1%	8.3	5.5%	2.2
Q2 2021/22	13.8%	3.6	19.0%	10.8	8.2%	1.7	18.1%	2.1	12.5%	7.9	8.4%	3.2

2.5.6   A potential limitation of using census population data for disproportionality calculations is that not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk will be resident in the county. Between October 2020 and September 2021 there was a total of 4,470 stop and searches – 3,846 were on Suffolk residents, 549 on individuals who are resident outside Suffolk and 697 had no address recorded. Due to the higher rate of blanks in the subject address field on the new Optik system, this data has been separated from non-Optik data. Table 6 shows the disproportionality of stops and searches where the postal address of the subject is identified as within Suffolk

Table 6: Suffolk stop and search broken down by postal address

Address	Total	White	BME	Not Stated	BME as % of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	3224	2437	341	446	10.6%	2.8
Postal address outside of Suffolk	549	347	127	75	23.1%	7.3
Postal address not given	697	475	75	147	10.8%	3.1

2.5.7   Table 6 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches, on persons who are resident outside Suffolk, has on overall figures. For the reasons stated in 2.5.6, it is argued this is a more balanced way of looking at proportionality of stop and searches in Suffolk, if using the demographic profile of Suffolk residents as a basis for judging proportionality. The use of stop and search remains disproportionate when looking at this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

Table 7: South Suffolk (Ipswich) stop and search broken down by postal address

Address	Total	White	BME	Not Stated	BME as % of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	1371	902	229	240	16.7%	2.0
Postal address outside of Suffolk	154	75	62	17	40.3%	6.6
Postal address not given	311	182	49	80	15.8%	2.2

2.5.8   As in table 6, table 7 demonstrates the effect on stop and searches, of persons who are resident outside Suffolk, but showing data for South Suffolk only. In line with county statistics, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when analysing this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

2.6 Community Satisfaction/Quality of Service

Table 8: Responses to the question: Did you understand the reason for being searched?

Response	Total	Male	Female	Other	White	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other
No	492	421	64	7	267	27	11	4	5
Yes	2655	2263	374	18	1957	136	97	41	38

2.6.1 Community Satisfaction/Quality of Service currently cannot be extracted from Optik so Tables 8 and 9 relate to non-Optik records only. Table 8 shows responses to the question 'Did you understand the reason for being searched?'. As the table shows, the majority of respondents did understand the reason for the search (84%) with 16% of respondents indicating that they did not understand why they were searched.

Table 9: Responses to the question: Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?

Response	Total	Male	Female	Other	White	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other
No	581	495	79	7	308	38	17	5	4
Yes	2566	2189	359	18	1916	125	91	40	39

2.6.2 Table 9 shows responses to the question 'Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?' Responses are similar to the previous question, with 82% of respondents answering that they did and 18% saying they did not.

2.6.3 In terms of public satisfaction therefore, approximately eight out of ten stop search subjects were satisfied with the way in which they were treated by officers.

3. THE FOLLOWIMG INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY ISCRE ON THEIR WORK TO ADMINISTER THE STOP AND SEARCH REFERENCE GROUP (SSRG)

Reporting Period – June to December 2021

3.1 The aim of the Stop and Search Reference Group to build trust and equity in the way Suffolk Police use Stop and Search powers. The group provides people from BAME communities and others with a safe space and a neutral platform to share their experiences whilst challenging unfairness in order to reduce disproportionality in the use of the policing tool.

During the pandemic, we have been having SSRG meetings online. We held meetings on the following dates:

- 28 July
- 29 September
- 24 November

3.1.2 For the 28 July 2021 meeting, we received a total of 488 stop and search forms, covering the period from March 2021 to April 2021 and out of that we selected the following, to audit:

- BAME: 17 from 52
- White British: 30 from 297
- White Other: 19 from 58
- Not Stated – 27 from 81

3.1.3 For the 29 September 2021 meeting, we received a total of 115 stop and search forms which had already been dip sampled by the constabulary. We audited and made queries as follows:

- BAME: 32
- White British: 58
- Not Stated – 27

3.1.4 For the 24 November 2021 meeting, we received a total of 643 stop and search forms covering the period July 2021 to August 2021. We sampled and audited as follows:

- BAME: 27 from 88
- White British: 43 from 484
- Other – 26 from 71

3.1.5 Main issues that arose:

- The participants highlighted that while they are totally against the use of illegal drugs and would appreciate the police doing more to stop this, there was concern about the perceptions of disproportionate focus on possession rather than supply of drugs. It was however noted that a recent government report had highlighted Suffolk as a relatively good force for dealing with possession with intent to supply accounting for 48% of searches.

- The continued over reliance on the smell of cannabis as grounds for stops and searches remains an issue of concern for the community, given that internal Suffolk Constabulary guidance advises against the reliance on the smell of cannabis only.

- Another area of concern is the lack of reasonable grounds which forms the suspicion of officers. Tied with that, is numerous instances where there is no challenge from supervisors to the officers on the lack of reasonable suspicion.

- The disproportionate use of handcuffs and use of force on people from the minority ethnic communities has emerged as a concern and more information has been requested to shine a light on this issue.

- The SSRG continues to see, albeit in small numbers, poorly written forms, with very little information explaining why a stop and search was necessary. For most of these, the feedback is always that they are new officers with no experience. This clearly points to the need to improve on the training so that by the time the officers begin to use this power, they are fully equipped to do so appropriately, with the understanding of its impact on communities when it is wrongfully deployed. Such training will curb the use of stereotypes that the group sees on some of the forms.

- Officers are to be dissuaded from using police jargon on the stop and search forms especially the parts that are meant for the subject and also for public scrutiny.

- The reference group also identifies, at every meeting, good and exemplary stop and search forms that should be used to commend the officers and also to inform others of best practice.

3.1.6 The SSRG delivered training to sixth form students at Suffolk One on the rights and obligations of students when interacting with police officers. The training was well-received and the college requested that this be an ongoing exercise for all students.

3.1.7 Dates for 2022 SSRG meetings:

26 January

30 March
25 May
27 July
28 September
30 November

4.   **OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY**

4.1   The following section outlines some of the operational context within which the stop and search tactic has been used in Suffolk this year.

4.2.   East Suffolk

4.2.1.   Proactivity within the CPC Eastern Area continues to be driven by the Scorpion (East) and the Sentinel (East) teams, working in partnership to support the local SNTs within the Lowestoft and Halesworth localities, addressing local crime and ASB priorities.

4.2.2   Following the expansion of the "Kestrel" teams across all three CPC Command areas, with newly established teams in West and South areas, the original team has become "Kestrel – East". This will now provide dedicated intelligence gathering and proactive deployments in support of local priorities across the East area to undertake high profile, highly visible patrols in support of the local SNTs in both Lowestoft and Halesworth Locality towns and villages. The team will continue utilising "Stop & Search" as a significant tactic, which they have already regularly demonstrated can be used to good effect.

4.2.3   The local intelligence picture in relation to County Lines remains very positive. County Lines activity remains very light across the CPC- East Area, and there is a significant absence of established County Lines businesses within the Lowestoft or Halesworth localities. However, we continue to liaise closely and work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and colleagues from Norfolk Constabulary regarding particular operations – to maximise all opportunities to cause disruption to County Lines, looking to gain a foothold in the area.

4.2.4   As an area, efforts are made to target "local" Class A drug suppliers, again with significant success in addressing the crime and ASB issues associated with their operation within the local communities, through proactive disruption and enforcement.

4.2.5   Effective use of Intelligence led Stop and Search powers remains an integral part of the successful deployments across the eastern area, with examples of this including:

•   October 2020: After a successful bid by the East area, the Kestrel Team were deployed across several ASB hot-spot locations within Lowestoft. Controls were concentrated around Nicholas Everitt Park, Normanston Skate Park and Lowestoft town centre. Several positive engagements, particularly with groups of younger aged males, led to 15 Stop Searches being completed, a small quantity of drugs (Class B) being recovered, Cannabis warnings issued to five persons (one reported for summons), collation of intelligence relating to minor drug use, ASB and criminal activity, and disruption/dispersal to youths causing ASB at the relevant locations.

•   April 2021: Following a period of initial "street work", which included utilising tactics around Stop and search to gather evidence and build an intelligence picture around local drug supply, two search warrants were executed at addresses in Jenkins Green and Briarwood Road. The operation, led by Scorpion East and supported by Scorpion South, Lowestoft NRT and Lowestoft SNT, saw two arrests and Heroin to the value of £1500 recovered.

- July 2021: Officers from Sentinel East team deployed on patrols in a mix of plain clothed and uniformed officers (plain and marked vehicles) – tasked with patrolling hot-spot areas associated with criminal activity under a specific operation. Patrols between 21:00hrs and 02:30hrs resulted in a criminal (known to officers) being witnessed making exchanges with other known criminal associates in the High Street. Suspects were then stopped in St Peters Street and following a search they were discovered to be in possession of Ketamine, cash, texts on phone indicating dealing of Class A and a large amount of Cannabis growing equipment (heat lamps, pots, transformers) in the rear of the car. Vehicle was also seized for having no Vehicle excise Licence. Investigation is ongoing.

- September 2021: Proactive deployments by the Sentinel East team, from 20th – 22nd September, with the objective of gathering evidence and building the intelligence picture to support further proactive work (Search Warrants) resulted in:

  10 vehicles stopped – vehicles and occupants searched
  4 x persons arrested (2 x FTA warrant, 1 x PWITS, 1 x theft series, from shops)
  3 persons searched – 1 positive result (PWITS)
  2 x Sec 18 PACE premises Searches (post-arrest search authorities)
  1 x Sec 165 seizure (No Insurance)
  1 x Negative drug wipe for driver suspected of driving under influence of narcotics
  1 x Traffic Offence report for no Insurance and no VEL
  Several Intelligence Reports submitted.

4.3   West Suffolk

4.3.1   Stop and Search continues to be an essential tactic in supporting local commanders to achieve the force plan. The use of this tactic can be seen across local policing areas and is deployed within numerous commissioned operations and in response to trending threats. Over the last 12 months it has been effectively used to combat drug dealing & possession, county lines, offensive weapons possession, knife crime, burglaries and theft.

4.3.2   Use of stop and search continues to be monitored at the monthly performance meetings and through commissioned operations, allowing commanders to monitor monthly outcome rates and identify the impact of local operations. This facilitates strong oversight at a local level, enabling commanders to respond quickly to use of the tactic, whilst ensuring its legitimacy as a policing tool and remaining accountable to our communities to minimise negative impact on trust and confidence.

4.3.3   Overall, the positive outcome rate provides a strong indication that stop search is mainly intelligence based. The West reviews recent intelligence at daily management meetings, to be tasked out to local policing, providing a focus for local staff and continuing the good links between the western area intelligence unit and frontline staff.

4.3.4   Operational Examples:

- Intelligence surrounding known location for drug dealing. Two males were seen passing items to each other. Stop check of one of the males was undertaken as he was identified as having recent investigations linked with PWITS/Concern in Supply as well as recent intel relating to class A. Male was detained under Section23 and a strip search was authorised. Located in his possession was a bundle of class A wraps, an amount of cash and three mobile phones. The male was arrested for Possession With Intent to Supply.

- Kestrel team were on foot patrols due to shared intelligence involving class A drugs. A male was observed dealing, however on spotting officers, he turned and walked away in a different direction, pursued by uniform officers. The male was located again and seen using his mobile phone. Enquires were made and a second male was located in a vehicle nearby. Both were detained for a section 23 drug search, with the support of a specialist drugs dog. This resulted in a positive outcome with Class A found, two golf-ball size wraps, approximately £500 cash and a phone seized. The male was arrested for Possession With Intent to Supply.

- During a mobile patrol, a lone male was located parked up in his vehicle on a quiet industrial estate. The male was detained for a section 23 drug search, along with his vehicle. An amount of Cannabis was located under car seat, and the male admitted it belonged to him. A Cannabis warning was issued.

4.4   South Suffolk

4.4.1   Stop and Search is monitored locally through the Southern Area performance meeting and tasking meetings and attention is placed on the use of the tactic at team level and positive outcome rates per locality. Inspectors undertake their own reviews of the tactic by individual officers, as part of their monthly performance returns and complete regular reviews of Body Worn Video. The use of Stop Search continues to be intelligence driven, focussing on area priorities, emerging threats and high harm individuals.

4.4.2   Op Shere has now become the South Kestrel Team, operating under a new terms of reference, with a strong focus on proactive engagement and visibility within the command area. They will work closely with Neighbourhood Teams and proactive teams to enhance our response to criminality and tackle neighbourhood crime that most impacts local communities. The Kestrel Team will have a greater focus on public interaction to deter criminal activity and support local communities, building stronger relationships in which to gather intelligence and direct the use of police tactics more effectively and proportionately.

4.4.3   Daily management processes are in place to ensure timely dissemination and allocation of intelligence, in which a stop and search may result. This ensures officers are tasked with the most recent intelligence. Officers are required to submit intelligence relating to both positive and negative outcomes for stop searches, to help better inform officers' reasonable grounds in future interactions.

4.4.4   The availability of Stop Search as a tactic continues to be a valuable tool in response to retail theft, allowing offices to confirm or mitigate the need for arrest where reasonable grounds exist. Over this period, the tactic has been used to recover stolen property from a number of retail premises, including everything from make-up and clothing, to food and alcohol.

4.4.5   Searches under S.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act continue to account for the majority of Stop Searches undertaken in the command. This is reflective of the area priorities and continued focus on County Lines. Offensive weapons are often also recovered as a result of these searches, as well as accounting for the next highest volumes of searches. This is also indicative of the intelligence picture within the command and a continued drive to gather information relating to high harm and risk.

4.4.6   Section 60 stop search authority has previously been used in the Southern Area in response to significant incidents of violence. In these instances the authority has been overseen by NPCC, with proportionality / use reviewed afterwards and scrutinised. The Southern Area will shortly be establishing an Op Velocity Car, utilising additional resource to deploy uniformed

and plain clothes officers in response to current and actionable intelligence regarding county lines and local drug suppliers.

4.4.7   Operational examples:

- Plain clothes patrols in the Waterfront area resulted in a male being encountered and searched based on his behaviour and intelligence. Officers recovered a significant number of controlled drugs and a knife resulting in multiple charges of; Possession with Intent to Supply, Concern in the Supply of Drugs, Possession of a Bladed Article in a Public Place and Obstruct / Resist a Constable. The male was remanded as a result.

- A male was detained and searched in the Gippeswyk Park area in response to recent intelligence, the male was found to be in possession of a large quantity of cash and Class B drugs. The male was linked to a known drug line and charged as a result.

- Officers on proactive patrols in Hadleigh engaged with the occupants of two vehicles after observing unusual behaviour. Based on the interaction with the drivers, their behaviour and intelligence, one of them was searched. Officers recovered a lock knife and baseball bat from one vehicle, along with a large quantity of Cannabis and almost £1000 in cash. The driver was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply and Possession of Offensive Weapon.

- During a check by neighbourhood officers of a suspected 'Cuckooed' address, a male was identified in the back garden. He was searched based on intelligence and found to be in possession of 80 wraps of Class A drugs and arrested. During the search a second male attended the address and was also arrested for Concern in the Supply of Class A.

- Officers responded to a report from a member of public who believed they had witnessed drug dealing. The male made off from police during initial contact and after a short foot chase was found in possession of a kitchen knife, Class A drugs, a large quantity of cash and scales. He was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply.

- Intelligence in relation to four individuals resulted in stop searches where as a result of a stabbing a S60 was authorised.

- Following a stabbing, there was a report of a linked gang member who had travelled by train were found in possession of a screwdriver. A further stop and search of another associated person was undertaken a few days later of the persons associated with the operation was negative – but a hunting knife in a sheaf was found nearby. Two further stop searches of two of the gang members in the street found them to be in possession of drugs.

- As part of an ongoing Operation in the Southern Area targeting urban street gang violence in the South East, intelligence-led stop and searches have been effectively used to recover offensive weapons, bladed articles and drugs from criminality visiting Felixstowe. The operation is reviewed on a monthly basis and stop search has been a key tactic in disrupting gang criminality and bringing offenders to justice.

4.5   Operation Velocity

4.5.1   Operation Velocity is an initiative focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk. During the reporting period, 108 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to these operations with West Suffolk reporting 55 and South (Ipswich) reporting 44 and East Suffolk reporting

four. In West Suffolk there were 42 stops of subjects from a white background and two on those from a BME background and in Ipswich there were 29 stops on subjects from a white background and 12 stops on those from a BME background.

4.5.2. The countywide statistics are shown in the table below:-

Table 12: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocity.

District	Total	White	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Strip searches	NFA outcome	Suffolk resident	Non-Suffolk resident
Babergh	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
West Suffolk	55 (51%)	42 (53%)	2 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (70%)	34 (45%)	37 (50%)	11 (69%)
Ipswich	44 (41%)	29 (36%)	10 (83%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	3 (30%)	34 (45%)	28 (38%)	5 (31%)
Mid Suffolk	5 (5%)	5 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (7%)	5 (7%)	0 (0%)
East Suffolk	4 (4%)	4 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	4 (5%)	0 (0%)
Total	108 (100%)	80 (100%)	12 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	75 (100%)	74 (100%)	16 (100%)

4.5.3. In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity, 69% were Suffolk addresses, 15% were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 17% of cases.

4.5.4. The NFA rate for Operation Velocity is 67%.

4.5.5. According to the County Lines Disruptions Log, the following statistics have been recorded between October 2020 and September 2021.

Area	No disruptions	Quantity of drugs seized	Cash seized
South	148	400g of Heroin, 1.1kg other class A, 6.7kg cannabis, 100g cannabis plant	Approx £29,000
West	31	1.13kg other class A, 670g Cannabis, 2g other class B	Approx £1,500

Table 13: Countywide Disruptions.

4.5.6. Please note that in the majority of disruptions, amount of cash seized was not provided (as in blank, not confirmation of no cash seized), so the cash seized only relates to disruptions where detail was provided.

5. NATIONAL COMPARISON

5.1 The latest national stop search data was published to March 2021. In the year ending March 2021 there were 695,009 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales including the British Transport Police but excluding Greater Manchester Police under section 1 of PACE, an increase of 24% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk (April 2020 to March 2021) the number of stops increased from 3,426 to 5,230 (52.7%) in Suffolk.

5.2 The latest national data are for the financial year 2020/21. This data shows that Suffolk conducted over seven stops per 1,000 of population compared to five stops per 1,000 of

population in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were 12 searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2021.

5.3   In the year ending 31st March 2021, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups (Black, Mixed Race, Asian and Minority Ethnic) were just over four times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be white.

5.4   A similar pattern was seen for the Black Ethnic Group specifically (a subset of BME covering Black, Black African, Black Caribbean and other Black backgrounds) In the year ending 31st March 2021, in England and Wales people who identify as Black or Black British were searched at a rate 7.0 times higher than those identifying as being from a white ethnic group.

5.5   In Suffolk, for the year ending 30 September 2021, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were 3.3 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be white. These statistics show a very slight increase in disproportionality in Suffolk as at the end of the year ending March 2021 those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were 3.2 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be from a white background.

6.   BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH (BUSS/HMIC INSPECTIONS/ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN (APPGC) RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1   The Home Office has requested that all police forces in England and Wales provide returns in relation to progress against actions arising from Best Use of Stop and Search, HMIC PEEL Inspections and APPGC (in terms of use of stop and search on children and young people) in one standardised format.

6.2   Appendix A displays the latest statistics in respect of the Proportionality of Stop and Search Use in Suffolk in respect of BME and Age, for the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.

7.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1   There are no financial implications associated with this report.
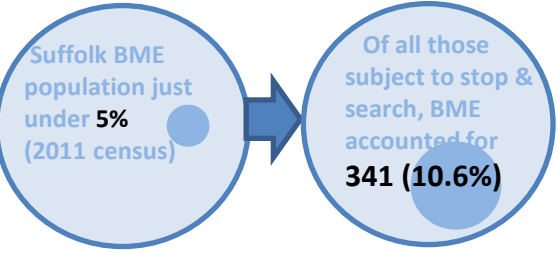
8.   OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

8.1   There are no other implications or risks associated with this report.

PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - BME

Date Range 01/10/2020 to 30/09/2021

Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk
Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 3224 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.

Suffolk BME population just under 5% (2011 census)

Of all those subject to stop & search, BME accounted for 341 (10.6%)

Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.6	6.5	2.4	5.8
All addresses	1.1	7.9	2.6	5.8

Since the last reporting period, disproportionality has decreased for all addresses and Suffolk only in all ethnicities apart from "Other".

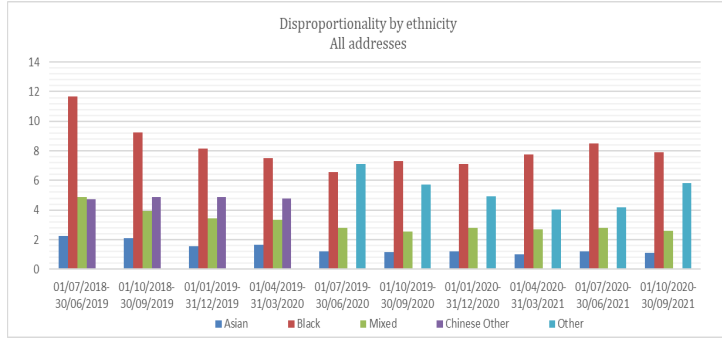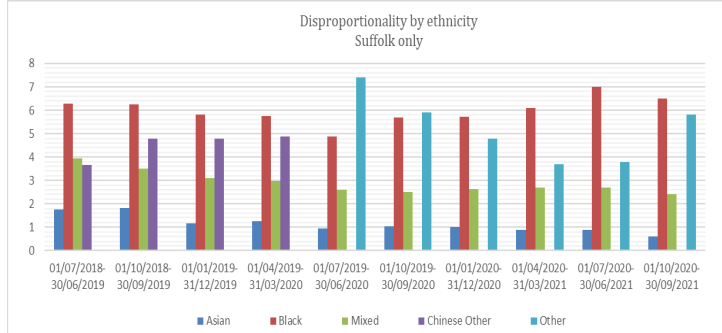See comparison to previous reporting periods in the two charts below:

Disproportionality by District

- Excluding subjects with addresses outside Suffolk, the local BME community is just under **2.8** times more likely to be subject of stop/search than white counterparts, increasing to **3.3** times when including all subjects.
- Unlike the previous reporting period, the highest disproportionality was seen in Mid Suffolk for Suffolk only addresses (previously Babergh).
- Searches in West Suffolk were the least disproportionate.
- Overall disproportionality for Suffolk only and all addresses has decreased slightly since the last reporting period.
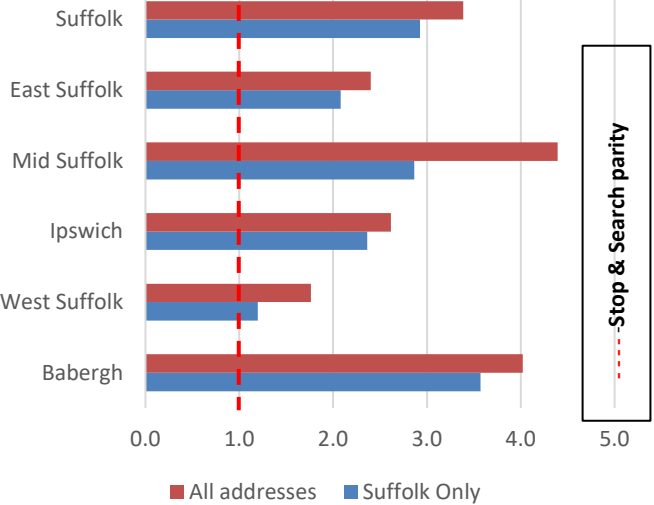
Disproportionality amongst Under 18s.........

- Of all U18s subject to stop search BME = **10.6%.**

- Reviewing the under 18 population, BME subjects **1.9** times more likely to be stop searched than white peers (Suffolk only). This is a slightly higher rate than in the last reporting period.
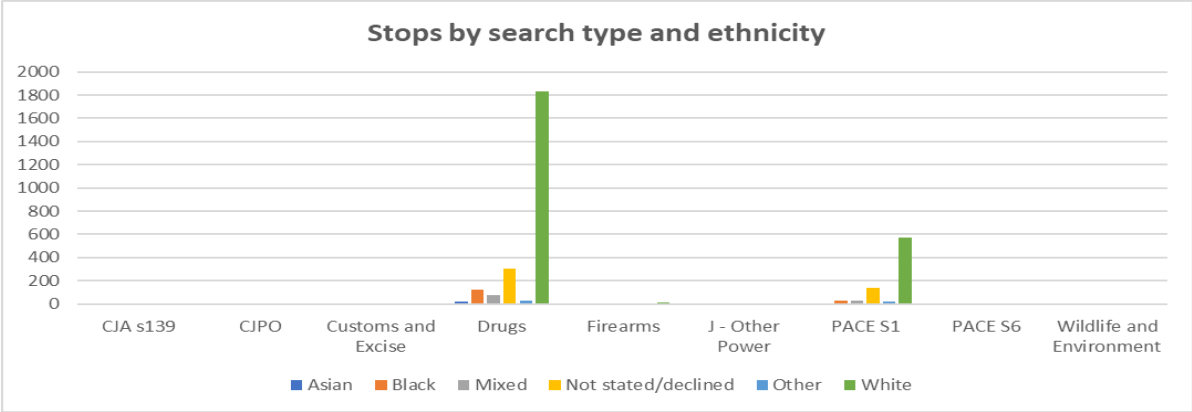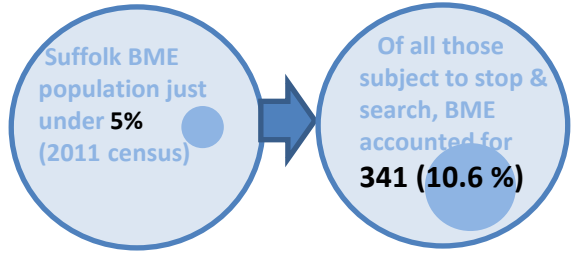

Disproportionality by ethnicity Suffolk only

Disproportionality by ethnicity All addresses

Disproportionality by District — All addresses / Suffolk Only

---Stop & Search parity---

District	All addresses		Suffolk addresses	
	BME	**White**	**BME**	**White**
All	542	3241	341	2431
East Suffolk	50	629	37	499
Mid Suffolk	22	165	13	128
Ipswich	340	1159	229	902
West Suffolk	98	1005	48	697
Babergh	32	283	14	205

The table to the left displays the counts of stop searches conducted on persons split by White/BME and District.
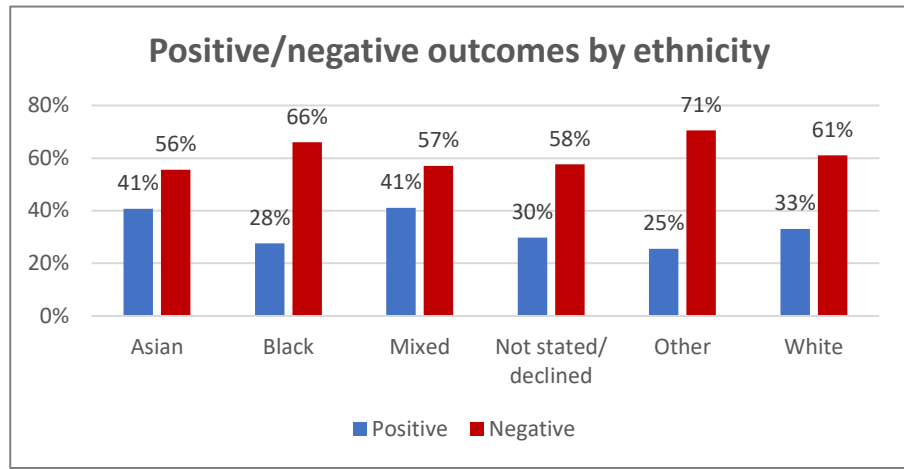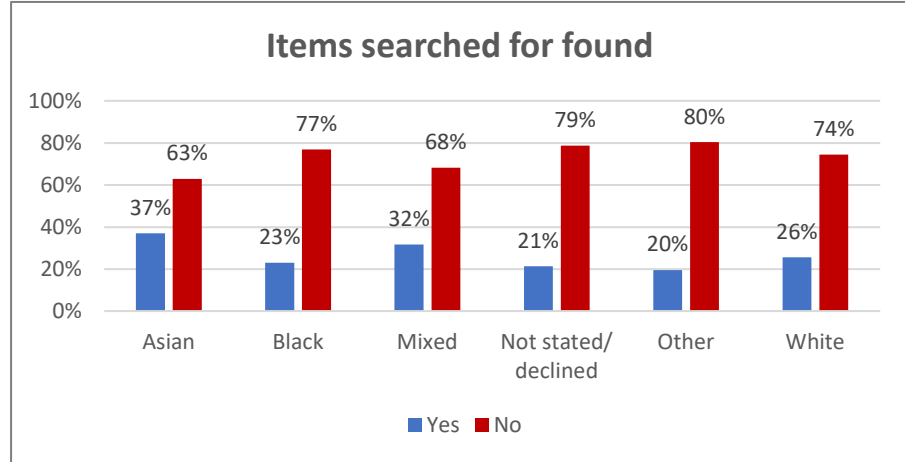
PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK – BME

Suffolk BME population just under **5%** (2011 census)

Of all those subject to stop & search, BME accounted for **341 (10.6 %)**

Stops by search type and ethnicity

Legend: ■ Asian ■ Black ■ Mixed ■ Not stated/declined ■ Other ■ White

The most prevalent reason for search is Drugs (S23 Misuse of Drugs Act). This has remained stable since previous reporting periods.

Find rates for items that have been searched for have increased for all searches (25%) and find rates have increased across all ethnicities.

Items searched for found

	Asian	Black	Mixed	Not stated/declined	Other	White
Yes	37%	23%	32%	21%	20%	26%
No	63%	77%	68%	79%	80%	74%

Positive/negative outcomes by ethnicity

	Asian	Black	Mixed	Not stated/declined	Other	White
Positive	41%	28%	41%	30%	25%	33%
Negative	56%	66%	57%	58%	71%	61%

The percentages in the graph above are the percentages of each ethnicity total rather than a percentage of all stops in Suffolk. Please note a small number of stops will show a high percentage. Negative relates to NFA and positive is all other outcomes excluding No Category.

The positive rate is higher and NFA rate is lower for those living outside of Suffolk than inside of Suffolk, across every ethnicity group.

Overall positive outcome rate has increased by approximately 2.0p.p since last reporting period and is 32.5%.

PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - AGE

Date Range 01/10/2020 to 30/09/2021

Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk
*Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 3224 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.*

Suffolk Under 18 population just under 10% (2011 census)

→ **Under 18s accounted for 641 (19.9%) of stop searches**
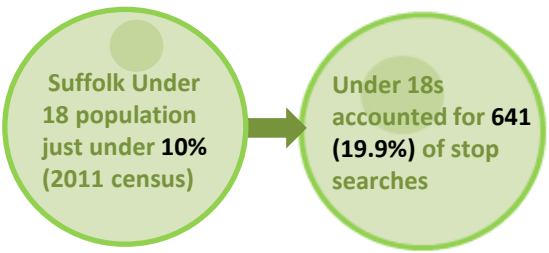
Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk for Under 18s

Under 18s	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.4	8.0	1.0	5.8
All addresses	0.8	9.9	1.2	5.7

Amongst U18s, Asian and Mixed ethnicities experience lower disproportionality then when all ages are reviewed together.

For Suffolk only addresses and all addresses, disproportionality for U18s has increased slightly for Asian and Other but decreased for Black and Mixed ethnicities.
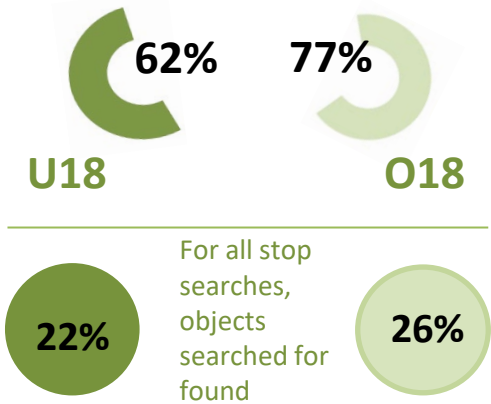
Disproportionality by District

- All addresses
- Suffolk only
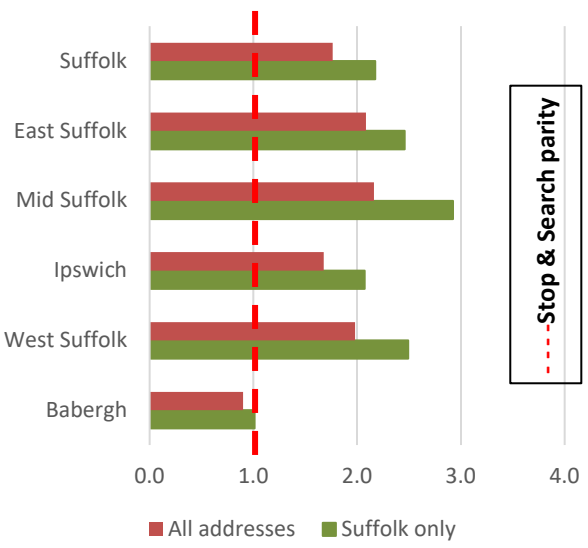
- The Suffolk U18 community is just over **2.2** times more likely to be subject of stop/search than over 18 counterparts, decreasing to **1.8** times when including all subjects indicating that the majority of external subjects are aged over 18.
- Disproportionality has remained stable for all subjects and for Suffolk addresses only since the last reporting period.

Items Searched for by reason for search

Drugs were the most common items searched for by reason for search for Over 18s and Under 18s.

62% U18   **77%** O18

**22%** | For all stop searches, objects searched for found | **26%**

The percentage of objects searched for found has increased by 2p.p for U18s compared to last reporting period and increased by 2p.p. for the O18.

Under 18 disproportionality amongst BME………

Looking at Suffolk's BME communities, under 18s are more likely to be subject of stop and search than over 18s at a rate of **1.3.** This is stable since the last reporting period.

Outcomes by age
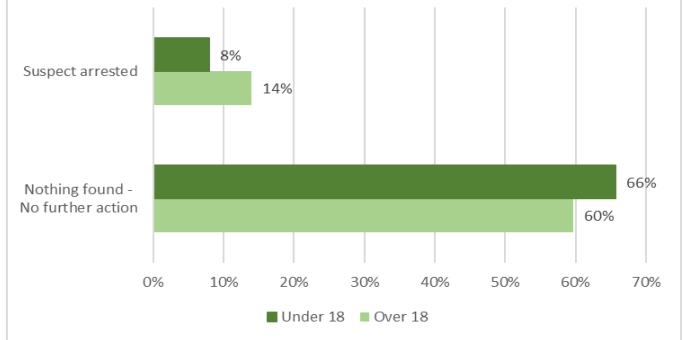
- Under 18
- Over 18

- Following stop search under 18s are subject to NFA more often than over 18s
- Under 18s are subject to arrest less than over 18s

Stop by search type and age

- Over 18
- Under 18
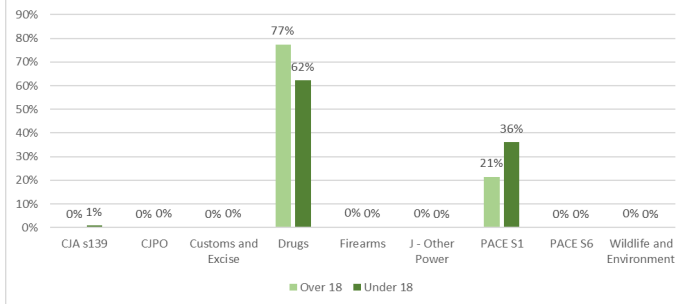
Drugs and Pace S1 are the most common reason for stop searches and this has remained relatively stable since last reporting period.