

ORIGINATOR: POLICY OFFICER

DECISION NUMBER: 41-2014

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT:

**FUNDING FOR THE STOP & SEARCH REFERENCE GROUP AND THIRD PARTY
REPORTING FUNCTION.**

SUMMARY:

1. This report requests a continuation of the funding to Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) to undertake the third party reporting function and to administer the community led Stop and Search Reference Group to ensure scrutiny of the use of Stop and Search.

RECOMMENDATION:

To agree the funding of £4,400 from the corporate budget for the 2015/16 financial year, in the respect of the PCC's contribution to the service described within this paper, subject to a Service Level Agreement being agreed between ISCRE and the Constabulary.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature

Tain Pannone

Date

01/12/2014

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 1.1 Suffolk Constabulary has opened up its use of stop and search to community scrutiny for approximately five years. The Stop and Search Reference Group was originally established following a report on Stop and Search in Ipswich. The independent report, published in 2008, made some key recommendations to improve practice with the use of Stop and Search. This included the establishment of a community led group to support the force with scrutiny of its use of stop and search to promote public confidence.
- 1.2 The PCC, and previously the Police Authority, in conjunction with Suffolk Constabulary, has funded the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality to run a Stop and Search Reference Group and a third party reporting centre.
- 1.3 More recently, to improve the use of stop and search nationally, the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme was announced by the Home Secretary in her statement to Parliament on 30th April 2014.
- 1.4 The principal aims of the Scheme are to achieve greater transparency, community involvement in the use of stop and search powers and to support a more intelligence-led approach, leading to better outcomes, for example, an increase in the stop and search to positive outcome ratio.
- 1.5 Scrutiny of the Constabulary's use of Stop and Search plays a component part in ensuring quality, consistency and transparency in the use of Stop and Search.
- 1.6 To date, the external scrutiny of Stop and Search which has been undertaken by the Reference Group has focussed on forms where the subject has a self-defined ethnicity of Black or Minority Ethnic. What is clear is that to give a more consistent message about quality and learning from the use of Stop and Search, the scrutiny needs to be of a random sample of all Suffolk Stop and Searches, from all ethnicities, including White British.
- 1.7 ISCRE has proposed an agreement based on a continuation of funding, which retains the third party reporting but ensures the scrutiny of Stop and Search samples forms from all ethnicities. The cost of this service is £8,800, which would require funding of £4,400 from the Police and Crime Commissioner and £4,400 from the Constabulary. This is a slight increase on the £4,200 the Police and Crime Commissioner pays toward the current agreement.
- 1.8 This report recommends that the Police and Crime Commissioner agree to the funding, subject to the Constabulary working with ISCRE to ensure that the Service Level Agreement includes appropriate levels of scrutiny which are practical. The Service Level Agreement will need to clarify what outputs will come from the service e.g. how the third party reporting is working and regular updates on the number of reports made, and regular findings from the scrutiny and how issues have been addressed. The PCC will need to receive the Service Level Agreement prior to the release of any funding.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 2.1 This is a continuation of previous funding and therefore there are no new financial implications of significance.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 3.1 This work is an important way in which the Constabulary is transparent in its use of Stop and Search and is a component part of its 'Better Use of Stop and Search' planned activity.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	Yes
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	n/a
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the (add decision-maker's title e.g. the PCC).

Signature:

Date *1 December 2014*