# Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

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

| ORIGINATOR: | CHIEF CONSTABLE | PAPER NO: | AP20/28 |
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| SUBMITTED TO: | ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – 3 JULY 2020 |
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| SUBJECT: | USE OF STOP AND SEARCH IN SUFFOLK – 1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020 |
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**SUMMARY:**

1.  This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve-month period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. There were 3,632 stops during the reporting period.

2.  The number of stop and search used by Suffolk officers in the most recent quarter (1,075) was just over 31% (495) lower than at the commencement of new Home Office stop and search standards in April 2014.

3.  An assessment of the reason for search and the object of the stop show that the majority of stop and searches are associated with drugs. 2407 (66%) of all stop searches have drugs as the reason for the search. 324 (9%) of stop searches were strip searches and of these, 314 (97%) were in relation to drugs.

4.  In Q4 of 2019/20, people whose ethnicity was categorised as Black and Ethnic Minority were 3.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of White ethnicity. This represents a decrease from 4.6 in Q2 of 2018/19. There have been fluctuations in proportionality over the last 12 months with variations of disproportionality ranging between 3.2 and 4.8.

5.  Just 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).

**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 APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020**

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 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 of how stop and search powers are used. Two main concerns raised were that:

   a) the HMIC found that fewer than half of police Forces in England and Wales complied with PACE 1984 requirements that arrangements are 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 the database. This report covers the period between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 inclusive.

2. **OVERALL TRENDS[1]**

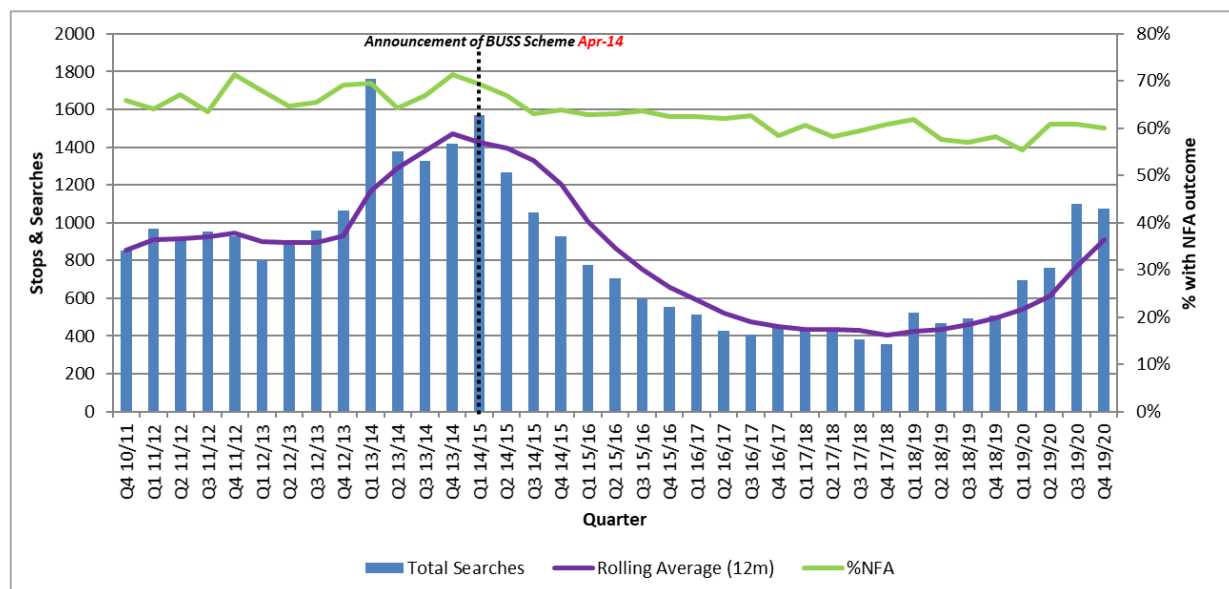2.1. **Use of stop and search**



*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 Q4 2010/11 to Q4 2019/20. There was a consistent downward trend in stop and search since 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 Q3 2019/20.
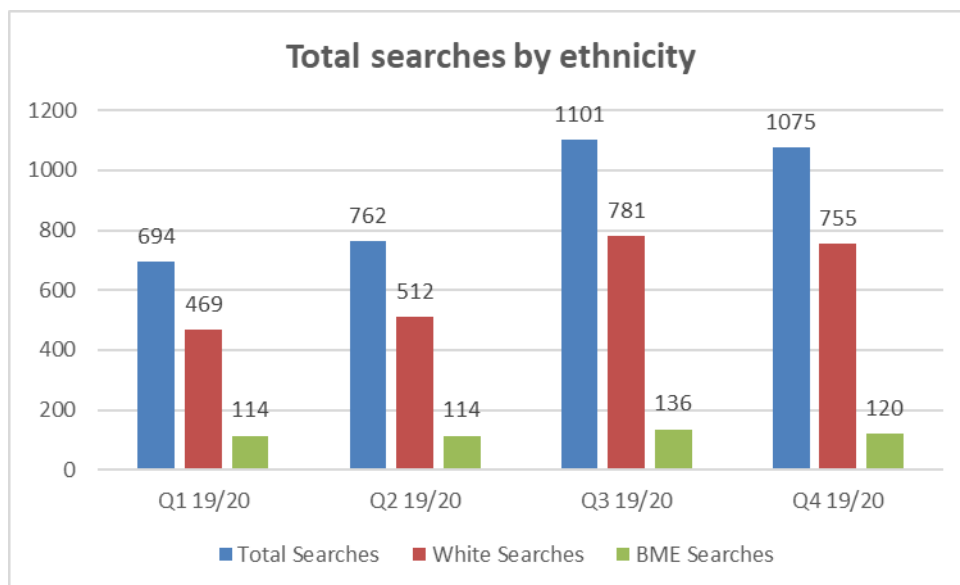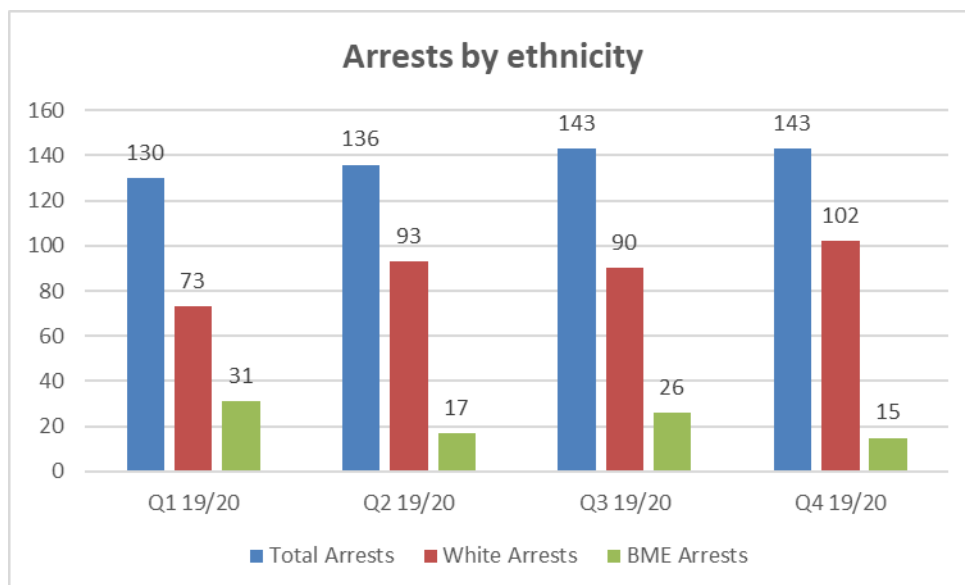


*Figure 2: Total searches by ethnicity*



*Figure 3: Total arrests by ethnicity (please note that an arrest may not result in a prosecution)*
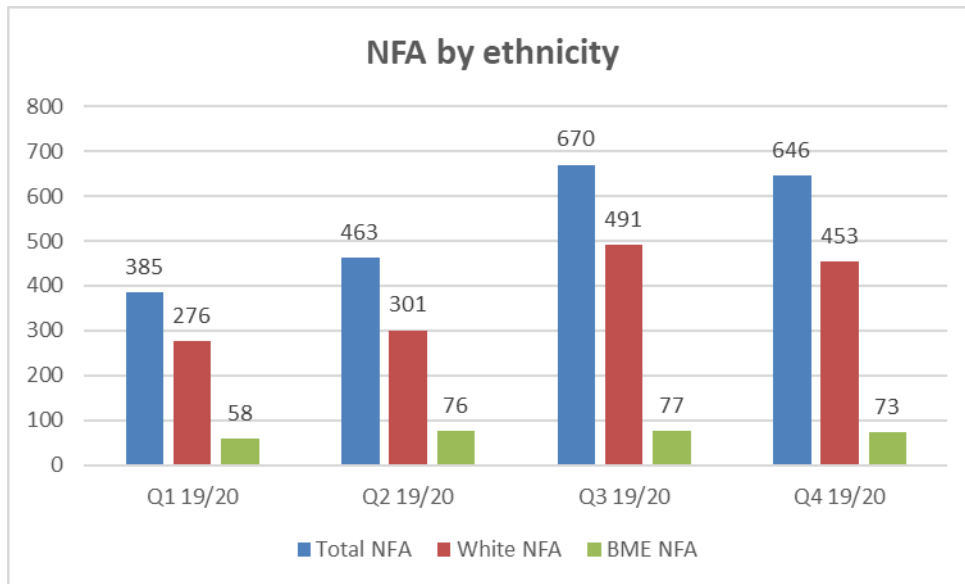
*Figure 4: Total NFA by ethnicity*

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. Please note, that in some cases the ethnicity data does not add up to 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 displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk since the beginning of the reporting period and reflects the general trend previously mentioned since the introduction of BUSS; there was a downward trend but there has been slight upward trend in volume over the last twelve months. In the year that BUSS was introduced there was an average of 400 stop and searches per month; this has now reduced to an average of 363 per month in the last six months. During the last six months the number of stop and searches has fluctuated reaching a peak of 424 in November 2019.
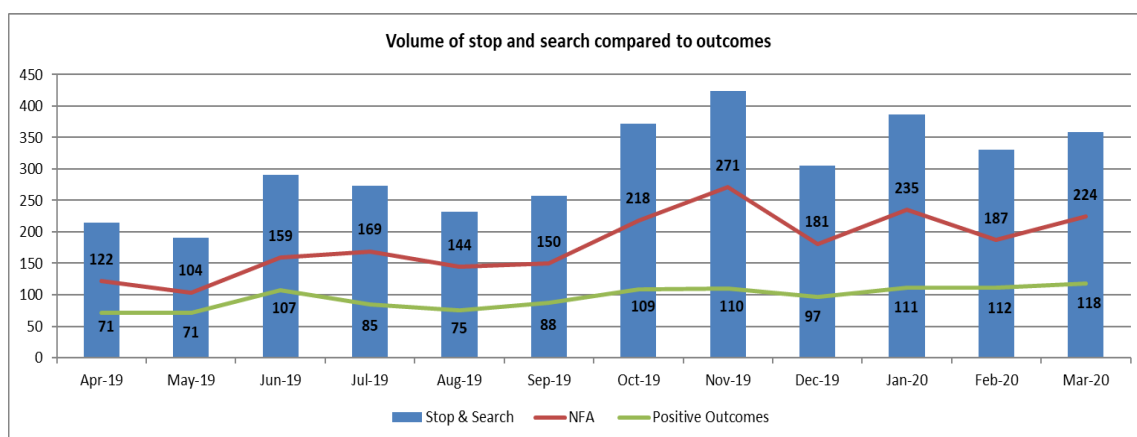


*Figure 5: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes April 2019 – March 2020*

2.1.4. Between April 2019 and March 2020, the average rate of searches resulting in no further action taken (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% in Q1 of 2011/12 and 71% in Q4 of 2013/2014). However, the NFA rate has increased slightly since the last reporting quarter by just under 2 p.p.

## 2.2. Object of search



*Figure 6: Count of Object of Search*

2.2.1. Figure 6 displays the object of stops and searches undertaken in Suffolk, during the reporting period. In the majority of 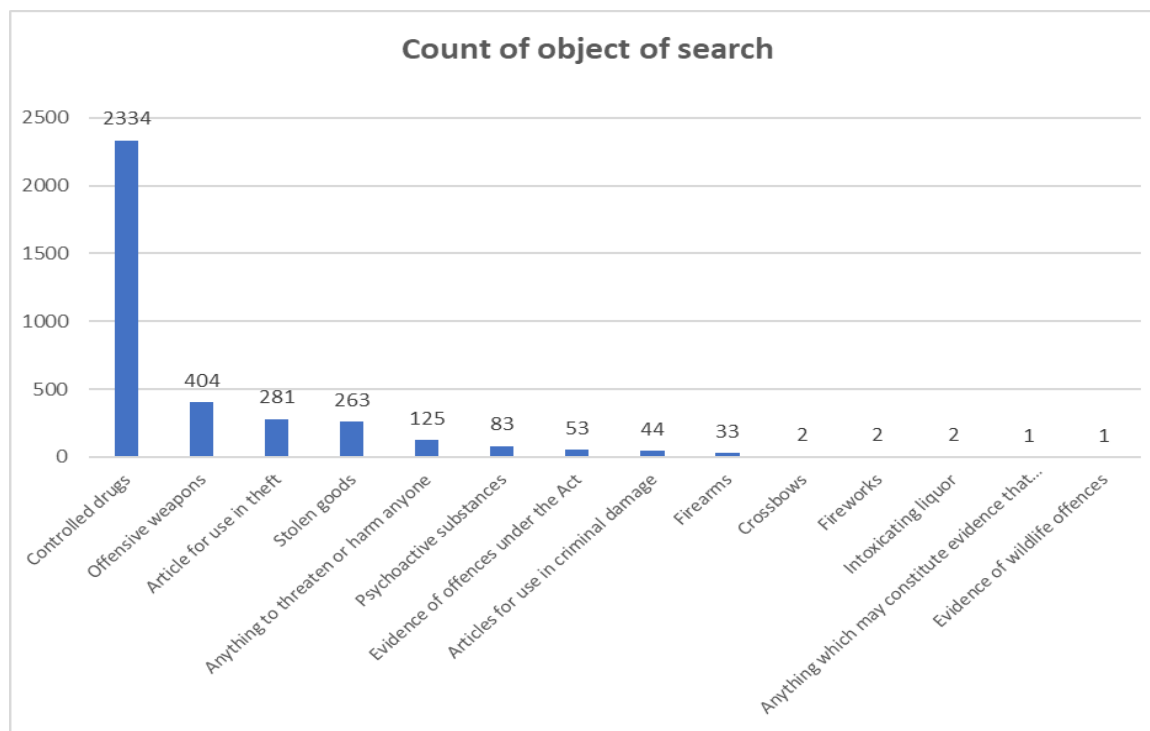stop searches controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in two of the main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich and West Suffolk districts which is where police intelligence indicates that there is a higher prevalence of drug dealing and usage activity. Drugs related stop and searches in Ipswich accounted for 60% of the stop and searches where drugs were recorded as the object of the search, and in West Suffolk the percentage was 69%.

Whilst drug related stop searches are recorded most frequently, the current heightened force focus on identifying and seizing offensive weapons (in particular bladed articles) is driving much of the Constabulary's stop and search activity. Unfortunately, these searches are difficult to identify from the data because offensive weapons are often found as a secondary item to an initial drugs find and so are underrepresented in the above. Similarly, this is the case for 'stolen goods' and 'articles for use in theft'. Planned improvements to our data collection for stop and search will hopefully enable us to distinguish more easily in future.

2.2.2. During the reporting period there were 2,334 (64.3%) of stop and searches where the object of search was drugs. Analysis of these drugs searches shows that, 1240 (53%) were carried out against persons aged under 25 years old[2]. In respect of ethnicity, 326 (14%) of these searches were on those with a BME background, 1639 (70%) on those of White ethnicity and 369 (16%) were on people for whom the ethnicity is not known/not stated.

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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.

2.3. **Use of strip search**

2.3.1. Between April 2019 and March 2020, there were 324 strip searches, accounting for 9% of all stop and searches which is 1p.p lower than the last report (January 2020). Figure 7 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 308 (97%) being drug related. Drug dealers are known to use various tactics to conceal drugs about their person, including the concealing of drugs in body cavities, hence the high prevalence of the use of strip searches in relation to drugs. In addition to strip searches where drugs may be identified, recent analysis indicates that between June 2016 and July 2019, 37 intimate searches were conducted in custody in Suffolk on detainees who were believed to be concealing drugs. Typically, the length of detention in the cases can be longer, and in some cases authorisation is required to remand someone (detain them for longer) under section 152 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988[3]. This occurred only once out of the 37 instances in Suffolk.
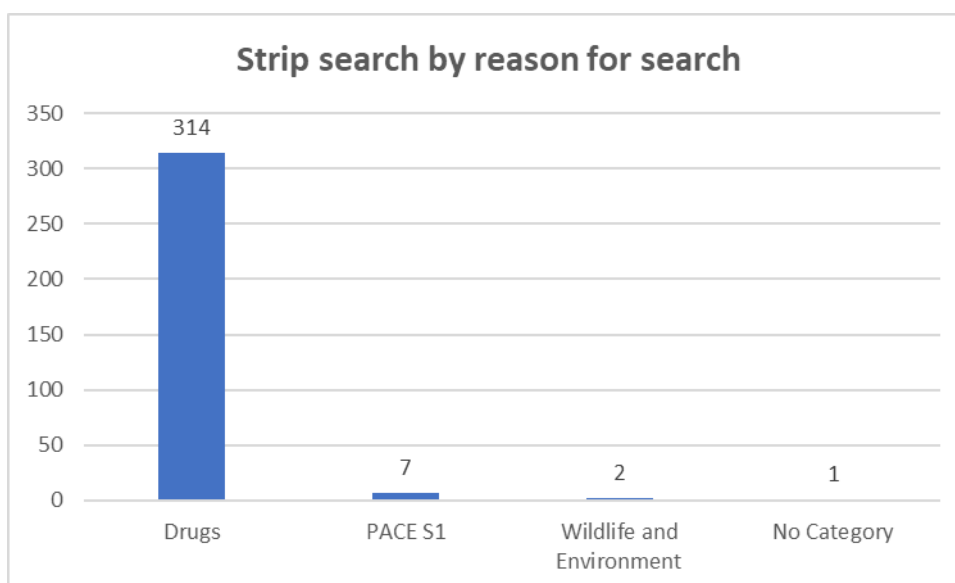


*Figure 7: Suffolk strip search by reason for search*

2.3.2 During the reporting period, 79 (24.4%) of all strip searches were undertaken on people of Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background, which compares to 13.3% of all stop searches undertaken on individuals of BME background. 204 (63%) of all strip searches were undertaken on persons of White (British) ethnicity, with the remainder comprising of persons who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for is/are found in 94 (29%) of strip searches, whilst additional items not being searched for are found in 50 (15.4%) of strip searches. The rate of items searched for found has remained the same and items not searched for found have increased by (by 1.4 p.p) since the last reporting period.

*Table 1: Strip search by reason and ethnicity*

| Strip search type | Total Count | % | White count | White % | BME Count | BME % | Not stated count | Not stated % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drugs | 314 | 96.9% | 197 | 60.8% | 77 | 23.8% | 40 | 12.3% |
| PACE S1 | 7 | 2.2% | 5 | 1.5% | 1 | 0.3% | 1 | 0.3% |
| Wildlife and Environment | 2 | 0.6% | 2 | 0.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| No Category | 1 | 0.3% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.3% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 324 | 100% | 204 | 63% | 79 | 24% | 41 | 13% |

2.3.3. The above table shows stop search by reason and ethnicity. The first two columns show the count and percentage of stop searches according to the reason for search. The following

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[3] Section 152 of the criminal Justice Act 1988.

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.

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 50.9% of all strip searches irrespective of ethnicity. For those with a White background it was also 25 years and over (53% of all white individuals undergoing strip search) and for BME subjects it was the 18-24 years age category (51% of all individuals undergoing strip search).

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

| Age Category | Count of strip searches | % of total | White count | % age category | BME count | % age category | Not stated count | % age category |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10-14 years | 3 | 0.9% | 2 | 66.7% | 1 | 33.3% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 15-17 years | 34 | 10.5% | 24 | 70.6% | 8 | 23.5% | 2 | 5.9% |
| 18-24 years | 118 | 36.4% | 69 | 58.5% | 40 | 33.9% | 9 | 7.6% |
| 25 years and over | 165 | 50.9% | 107 | 64.8% | 30 | 18.2% | 28 | 17.0% |
| Not stated | 4 | 1.2% | 2 | 50.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 50.0% |
| Total | 324 | 100.0% | 204 | 63.0% | 79 | 24.4% | 41 | 12.7% |

## 2.4. Stop and Search Outcomes

*Table 3: Suffolk stop and search Outcomes*

| Outcome Type | Count | % of all outcomes | White count | % of outcome code | BME count | % of outcome code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nothing found – No further action | 2164 | 59.6% | 1521 | 84.3% | 284 | 15.7% |
| Suspect arrested | 552 | 15.2% | 358 | 80.1% | 89 | 19.9% |
| Offender given drugs possession warning | 220 | 6.1% | 179 | 87.3% | 26 | 12.7% |
| No Category | 314 | 8.6% | 178 | 79.8% | 45 | 20.2% |
| Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable | 181 | 5.0% | 123 | 88.5% | 16 | 11.5% |
| Local resolution | 96 | 2.6% | 74 | 87.1% | 11 | 12.9% |
| Suspect summonsed to court | 51 | 1.4% | 41 | 85.4% | 7 | 14.6% |
| Offender given penalty notice | 23 | 0.6% | 19 | 86.4% | 3 | 13.6% |
| Offender cautioned | 20 | 0.6% | 14 | 82.4% | 3 | 17.6% |
| Suspected psychoactive substances seized – No further action | 11 | 0.3% | 10 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 3632 | 100.0% | 2517 | 83.9% | 484 | 16.1% |

2.4.1. The percentage of stop searches resulting in "Article found" have increased since the last reporting period, from 4.3% to 5.0%. When assessing outcome types for subjects from a White background and those from a BME background (excluding not stated), the most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for over 59% of all outcomes[4], with a further 8.6% of searches where the outcome is not recorded, as displayed in Table 3. The NFA statistic has increased by 0.9 p.p and the stop searches that did not have an outcome have increased by 2 p.p when compared to the last reporting period (01/10/2018 to 30/09/2019).

2.4.2. The proportions of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome varies from district to district, with the districts reporting the highest number of stop searches reporting a higher percentage of NFA outcomes (ranging from 48.6% in Mid Suffolk, to 64.3% in Ipswich).

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[4] 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 58.1% for the county.

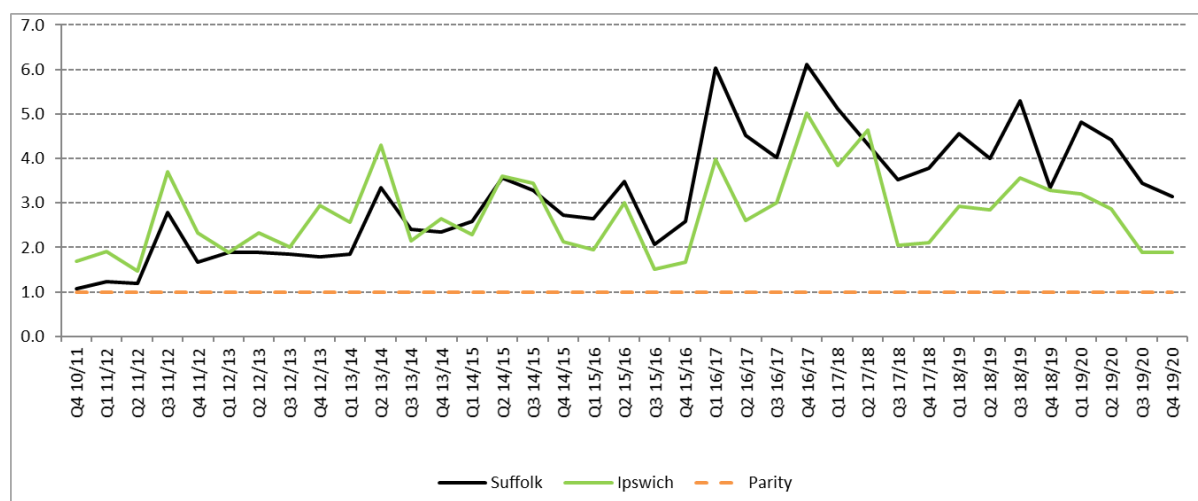## 2.5. Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search



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

2.5.1. Figure 8 displays the ethnicity proportionality of the use of stop and search for Suffolk as a whole and for Ipswich (where the use of stop and search is most prevalent). As a guide, if the proportionality figure is equal to one, it equates to parity – or that a BME person has had an equal likelihood of being subject to a stop and search as a White person. Where the figure is greater than one, BME people have been disproportionately subjected to the use of stop and search compared to White people[5].

2.5.2. In the last quarter, people whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 3.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of White ethnicity when assessing the County as a whole. The statistics for Ipswich show that those whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 1.9 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of White ethnicity.

*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 2014/15 | 1053 | 862 | 138 | 13.1% | 78 | 74 | 4 | 5.1% | 291 | 189 | 81 | 27.8% | 58 | 50 | 6 | 10.3% | 315 | 283 | 24 | 7.6% | 297 | 266 | 23 | 7.7% |
| Q4 2014/15 | 927 | 800 | 110 | 11.9% | 112 | 101 | 10 | 8.9% | 217 | 167 | 46 | 21.2% | 82 | 80 | 2 | 2.4% | 268 | 227 | 32 | 11.9% | 248 | 225 | 20 | 8.1% |
| Q1 2015/16 | 776 | 667 | 89 | 11.5% | 83 | 70 | 12 | 14.5% | 190 | 148 | 36 | 18.9% | 81 | 70 | 9 | 11.1% | 255 | 219 | 28 | 11.0% | 167 | 158 | 4 | 2.4% |
| Q2 2015/16 | 885 | 724 | 127 | 14.4% | 85 | 75 | 8 | 9.4% | 219 | 153 | 57 | 26.0% | 66 | 55 | 5 | 7.6% | 246 | 212 | 30 | 12.2% | 269 | 229 | 27 | 10.0% |
| 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 | 73 | 16.7% | 38 | 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 | 1101 | 781 | 136 | 12.4% | 68 | 53 | 6 | 8.8% | 607 | 389 | 91 | 15.0% | 39 | 30 | 3 | 7.7% | 237 | 190 | 28 | 11.8% | 150 | 119 | 8 | 5.3% |
| Q4 2019/20 | 1075 | 755 | 120 | 11.2% | 78 | 67 | 3 | 3.8% | 484 | 314 | 74 | 15.3% | 54 | 33 | 4 | 7.4% | 276 | 187 | 30 | 10.9% | 183 | 154 | 9 | 4.9% |

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

2.5.3.     As a county, there has been a persistent increase in the total number of stop searches conducted per quarter since Q3 of 2017/18, which is reflective of the Constabulary's approach to proactive policing in a sustained effort to identify and prevent potential crime and disorder. This has dropped slightly in the latest quarter.

The above table, 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 White and BME stop and searches. The last 12 months of district data (quarter by quarter comparisons) shows that from a county perspective, the overall number of stop and searches has increased for White with every quarter until the latest quarter where there has been a slight decrease in volume of overall stop searches. The number of BME stops remained stable for the first two quarters on the last financial year before increasing in Q3 and deceasing slightly in Q4. BME stops accounted for 13.3% of stop and searches in this reporting period (Q1 2019/20, Q2 2019/20, Q3 2019/20, Q4 2019/20), which is a 2.4 p.p decrease from 15.7% in previous reporting period (Q3 2018/19, Q4 2018/19, Q1 2019/20, Q2 2019/20). In terms of the 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 and the last reporting period. The district that has experienced the greatest increase in total number of stop and searches is South (Ipswich), where stop and searches have increased by 62.1% between the current reporting period and the last reporting period.

2.5.4.     Furthermore, table 5 (below) displays stop and search over the same period, showing the percentage of all stop and searches on persons of BME ethnicity, along with the proportionality ratio. With reference to Table 5, the overall disproportionality value for Suffolk has decreased over the last 12 months from 4.8 in Q1 and reducing to 3.2 in Q4.

*Table 5: Proportionality of Suffolk Stop and Search by district*

| Quarter | Suffolk % BME | Prop. | Babergh % BME | Prop. | West Suffolk % BME | Prop. | Ipswich % BME | Prop. | Mid Suffolk % BME | Prop. | East Suffolk % 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 | 6.3% | 2.2 |
| Q4 2019/20 | 13.7% | 3.2 | 4.3% | 2.0 | 13.8% | 2.8 | 19.1% | 1.9 | 10.8% | 5.6 | 5.5% | 1.9 |

2.5.5.     A potential limitation of using census population data on which to base proportionality calculations is that not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk will be resident in the county. Between April 2019 and March 2020 there was a total of 3,632 stop and searches – 2,625 were on Suffolk residents, 388 on individuals who are resident outside Suffolk and 619 where the address was not stated. Therefore, a further analysis was undertaken at a county level, looking at disproportionality of stops and searches only where the postal address of the subject is identified as within Suffolk, displayed in table 6.

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

|  | Total | White | BME | Ethnicity not stated | BME as percentage of total | Proportionality |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Postal address in Suffolk | 2625 | 1930 | 315 | 380 | 12.0% | 3.2 |
| Postal address outside Suffolk | 388 | 234 | 102 | 52 | 26.3% | 8.6 |
| Postal address not given | 619 | 353 | 67 | 199 | 10.8% | 3.8 |
| **Total** | 3632 | 2517 | 484 | 631 |  |  |

2.5.6. 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 2.5.5, 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*

|  | Total | White | BME | Ethnicity not stated | BME as percentage of total | Proportionality |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Postal address in Suffolk** | 1323 | 863 | 227 | 233 | 17.2% | 2.1 |
| **Postal address outside Suffolk** | 109 | 52 | 38 | 19 | 34.9% | 5.9 |
| **Postal address not given** | 354 | 182 | 48 | 124 | 13.6% | 2.1 |
| **Total** | 1786 | 1097 | 313 | 376 |  |  |

2.5.7. As in Table 6, the data in Table 7 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches, on persons who are resident outside Suffolk, has on overall figures. Table 7 is an assessment of stop and searches in South Suffolk (Ipswich). 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?*

|  | Total | Male | Female | Asian | Black | Chinese/Other | Mixed | White |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Didn't answer** | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| **No** | 18% | 18% | 14% | 8% | 12% | 6% | 15% | 15% |
| **Yes** | 82% | 82% | 86% | 92% | 88% | 94% | 85% | 85% |

2.6.1. Table 8 displays the 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 (82%) with 18% 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?*

|  | Total | Male | Female | Asian | Black | Chinese/Other | Mixed | White |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Didn't answer** | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| **No** | 20% | 21% | 17% | 9% | 17% | 10% | 17% | 17% |
| **Yes** | 80% | 79% | 83% | 91% | 83% | 90% | 83% | 83% |

2.6.2. Table 9 displays responses to the question 'Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?' Responses are similar to the previous question, with 80% of respondents answering that they did and 20% saying they did not.

2.6.3.   In terms of public satisfaction, it can be seen that eight out of ten stop search subjects were satisfied with the way in which they were treated by officers.


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

3.1    The information for this section has not been provided by ISCRE.


**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.   The Sentinel Team (East) is now fully embedded and together with the Scorpion Team (East) in support of proactivity by the Eastern Area SNTs. We have seen some significant results in relation to work targeting the supply of Class A Drugs, as well as local level ASB, particularly within the Halesworth sector.

4.2.2.   The success against "County Lines" in the Eastern Area continues, with there being no identifiable County Lines businesses currently operating within the East. Where businesses have sought to become established, proactive work by Sentinel and Scorpion Teams, in support of SNT, have seen these businesses disrupted and rapidly dismantled prior to gaining a foothold within the local towns. The effective use of Intelligence led Stop and Search powers have been an integral part of the Team's success, with particular examples of this including:

4.2.3   In October 2019, a vehicle spotted in suspicious circumstances in Lowestoft with active efforts to avoid Police attention. Vehicle eventually located parked and attended, in company with a second vehicle, six occupants in total. Vehicles and occupants searched – significant quantity of drugs (Cannabis) and cash recovered. All six arrested on suspicion of being concerned in sale/supply. Four of the six were immediately deported on Immigration offences, one was jailed for three months for driving offences and then deported. Investigation around the drug supply continues.

4.2.4   In Lowestoft in November 2019 a male was found in possession of Cocaine to value of £3000 – Convicted and sentenced to 32 months imprisonment.

4.2.5   In January 2020, Officers patrolling Leiston spotted two males leaving a premises which was connected with drugs supply. The males departed in a vehicle which is followed by officers and a short pursuit ensued and was brought to a swift conclusion. Males searched and 120 wraps of crack Cocaine and heroin located within vehicle, plus significant quantity of cash. Both males arrested and remanded in custody. One male had only just been released on licence following lengthy sentence for firearms offences. Both males from London area and County Lines related.

4.2.6   In March 2020, a vehicle was spotted by officers in Lowestoft who then attempted to stop it. The driver and vehicle searched and were found in possession of small amount of MDMA. The driver was arrested and enquiries revealed this was his third stop / possession in three weeks. Phone work revealed he was actively dealing drugs. A Sec 18 premises search was

subsequently authorised and 500 Ecstasy tablets (street value £1500) recovered. The suspect was remanded and awaits trial.

4.3.7 In Lowestoft in March 2020 a male was found in the company of two juveniles and in possession £3300 worth of Cocaine and £800 cannabis. He was arrested for possession with intent to supply, and this awaits a CPS decision.

### 4.3. West Suffolk

4.3.1. Stop and Search continues to be an essential crime prevention and detection tool for County Policing Command officers in the West. Its relevance can be seen in relation to numerous commissioned crime series during the past 12 months such as domestic burglaries in Stowmarket, Theft from Motor Vehicle in Red Lodge, drug related ASB in Newmarket and County Lines and knife crime in Haverhill.

4.3.2. Furthermore, "County Lines" continue to disproportionately impact the West of the County, and stop search remains an effective option when used as part of the suite of tactics available.

4.3.3. Use of Stop and Search is monitored at the West's daily performance review, weekly performance summary, monthly Performance meeting and the Operation Velocity monthly review meeting (specifically aimed at County Lines). This means that there is excellent leadership oversight as to the use of the tactic ensuring police usage retains legitimacy as it is directed at current crime series and towards those that are causing the most harm within our communities.

4.3.4. It is important to note that there continue to be no performance targets set for officers use of stop search in the West, or indeed the rest of the County.

4.3.5. Over the past 12 months the use of stop and search in the West has steadily increased from an average of approximately 75 stop searches per month to 150 per month. The increased use is a result of the ongoing drive to promote effective, targeted proactivity within County Policing and is in line with the Chief Constable's key operational imperative to arrest, catch and convict.

4.3.6. It is noticeable that within the overall increased use, there was a drop during January and February, but that this recovered during March. This is consistent with historical reduced use over the Christmas and New Year period as policing temporarily re-focusses on the more traditional Night-time economy policing operation during the festive period. It remains to be seen what the impact of COVID 19 will be for the next reporting period. While the Western Area has significantly increased its use of the power, the positive outcome rate remains extremely healthy over the relevant 12-month period at almost 30%. However, it should be noted that as use has increased, the positive outcomes rate has dropped in some localities. For instance, Bury St Edmunds locality has decreased from 31% in the third quarter of 2019/20 to 22% in the last quarter. Whilst this is a very high positive outcome when judged against historical data, it will need to be closely monitored over the next accounting period.

4.3.7. Overall, the positive outcome rate provides a strong indication that: stop search is mainly intelligence based; the West has an effective briefing system providing focus for local staff; there are good links between the Western Area intelligence unit and local officers using the power so that officers are targeting their time effectively, and there is good officer awareness of local priority crime series.

4.3.8. Operational examples (a snapshot of activity during March 2020)

- Intelligence suggested a Class A drug supplier was supplying drugs in Stowmarket on a specific evening. The subject was located by NRT officers working with intelligence unit and British Transport Police. They were found in possession of approx. £200 of heroin and crack cocaine, £350 cash and multiple mobile telephones. Arrested.

- Three males were located in the entrance way to a train station by officers and a strong smell of cannabis was emanating from the area. Subject searched and found to have cannabis deal bags and a quantity of cannabis on him along with two phones. It was believed to be linked to a current County Line. Arrested.

- Suspect was seen in a public place and recent intelligence suggested had strong links to drug dealing. Section 23 MDA search followed by a strip search at custody which resulted in 28 wraps of suspected class A drugs been found on his possession. It was believed to be linked to a County Line. Arrested.

- A male was approached by police in plain clothes while conducting proactive patrols. When Police identified themselves, the male attempted to run from officers and then resisted arrest. Following a search, the male was found in possession of 15 wraps, cash and a phone.

- A male was observed by PCSOs to be acting in an anti-social manner. When he was approached and spoken to he supplied a suspected false name and home address. He was searched under section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. Suspected drugs were located on the man, as a well as a bladed article and he was arrested for possession of a bladed article, possession of class A and then later arrested for being involved in the supply of drugs.

4.4. **South Suffolk**

4.4.1. The effective and legitimate use of stop and search continues to be actively used within the Southern Area's high crime areas. Use is monitored via the Area's monthly performance meeting and feedback from the Stop and Search Accountability forum is cascaded to Inspectors and Sergeants to brief Officers. There has been an increase in the use of Stop and Search within the Southern Area during this period and Officers are being encouraged to 'stop and engage' - to stop and talk to members of the public in the first instance.

4.4.2. Due to an increase in violence with injury offences (including robberies, and knife-related crime) the Area saw dedicated patrols within the Town Centre Area predominantly during the late evening. Patrol areas were reviewed daily and a dedicated team of officers were placed on foot patrol in the identified areas.

4.4.3. Operation Shere was launched in February 2020, Operation Shere is tackling issues being raised by local residents and businesses in respect of community confidence, visibility, prolific offenders, ASB and crime in the centre of Ipswich. Alongside work being undertaken by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, CID and Response teams a dedicated team, a sergeant and six police constables, have been carrying out patrols, making arrests and targeting criminality in the town centre. To date, over 90 arrests for offences such as common assault, possession of cannabis, affray, theft from motor vehicles, theft from the person and fraud, among other offences have been made. The operation also involves working with partners in the town such as Ipswich Borough Council, Immigration Enforcement Teams and Trading Standards. The operation has included engagement work with the community and local partners. For example, Community Engagement Officers and the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams supported Ipswich Borough Council during February half term when a comprehensive sports and physical activity programme was held in Maple Park. A multi-agency engagement stand was also held and run by the community engagement officers and SNT in Austin Street with support from local councillors and housing teams.

4.4.4. In late 2019, Officers responded to an incident of violent disorder in an area of Ipswich. A number of witnesses and CCTV have confirmed that persons involved were armed with weapons including knives during this incident. A dedicated investigation team was put in place following the incident and a number of persons have since been charged in connection with disorder. It is now currently at trial. Immediately following the incident, a Section 60 authority was put in place in the area around for a period of 24 hours. A Community Impact Assessment was put in place and engagement took place with ISCRE.

4.4.5. Operation Sceptre is a national week of action to tackle knife crime and was run in September 2019. The operation includes a number of tactics which forces can utilise, choosing those that best fit the local crime profile and needs. Plans were in place for proactive policing and school's engagement across the County however, due to COVID19 the operational activity was postponed.

4.4.6. Officers work closely with young people and families to try and prevent offending before it happens. Police deliver knife awareness sessions into schools across the county as part of our revitalised programme of educational inputs to support young people and children. Schools Liaison Officers and Community Engagement Officers continue to work with partners in delivering effective messaging and information into schools across Suffolk on Knife Crime, County Lines and Gangs.

4.4.7. Officers work with Suffolk County Council and local councils: Courses have been delivered to officers to develop their understanding of how they can engage effectively with young people in their roles. This has delivered Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines awareness raising sessions for parents and carers across Suffolk. Over 15,000 pupils have attended high school performances of the Alterego Creative Solutions Theatre Play 'County Lines'.

4.4.8 The South Area a dedicated Youth Engagement Team (formally referred to as the Gang's Team). They work with individuals aged 10 to 17 years to pro-actively engage them and focus on prevention and early intervention to deter continued association with gangs, violence or crime.

4.5. **Operation Velocity**

4.5.1. Operation Velocity is an initiative focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk. During the reporting period, 119 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to these operations with South (Ipswich) reporting 68 and West Suffolk reporting 43 equating to 93% of the overall stop and searches attributed to Operation Velocity. In Ipswich there were 41 stops on subjects from a White background and 24 stops on those from a BME background, compared to West Suffolk where 38 stops were on those from a White background compared to three from a BME background.

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

*Table 10: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocity.*

| District | Count | BME count | White count | Strip searches | NFA Outcome | Suffolk Resident | Non-Suffolk Resident |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Babergh | 2 (2%) | 1 (50%) | 1 (50%) | 1 (50%) | 2 (100%) | 1 (50%) | 0 (0%) |
| Ipswich | 68 (57%) | 24 (35%) | 41 (60%) | 20 (29%) | 43 (63%) | 43 (63%) | 8 (12%) |
| Mid Suffolk | 1 (1%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (100%) | 1 (100%) | 1 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| East Suffolk | 5 (4%) | 0 (0%) | 5 (100%) | 3 (60%) | 5 (100%) | 3 (60%) | 0 (0%) |
| West Suffolk | 43 (36%) | 3 (7%) | 38 (88%) | 14 (33%) | 29 (67%) | 28 (65%) | 3 (7%) |
| Total | 119 (100%) | 28 (24%) | 86 (72%) | 39 (33%) | 80 (67%) | 75 (63%) | 11 ( 9%) |

4.5.3.  In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity, 75 (63%) were Suffolk addresses, 11 (9%) were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 33 (28%) 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 April 2019 and March 2020:

| District | Number of disruptions | Confirmed quantity of drugs seized | Cash seized |
|---|---|---|---|
| East | 19 | Approx 10 wraps, 1.2g Class A | Approx £1,350 |
| South | 104 | Approx 1,420 wraps, predominantly Class A | Approx £9,600 |
| West | 75 | Approx 3,660 wraps, predominantly Class A | Approx £20,000 |

4.6. **Ride-Along Scheme**

4.6.1  As referenced in the last report, an ICT recording solution has been adopted to manage the scheme, following initial feedback from Officers & Supervisors using the system. This is supported by an online feedback form, which is automatically emailed to the person undertaking the Ride-Along on its conclusion. The scheme continues to be an internal referral only, whilst a review takes place of the Ride-Alongs that have occurred to date to identify any key areas that need addressing prior to a public-facing launch.

4.6.2  While there are plans to publicise this scheme on our website and provide an online portal that will allow members of the public to apply for the scheme, there has been some delay to providing this element due to Covid-19.

4.6.3  Over this reporting period (01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020), the scheme has been well utilised across the force and departments by referral, with officers and staff referring members of the public to the scheme (community leaders, partners, volunteers & complainants) and the feedback has been positive.

5. **NATIONAL COMPARISON**

5.1  The latest national stop search data was published to March 2019[6] (National Stop Search data for year ending March 2020 is likely to be released in October this year). In the year ending March 2019 there were 370,454 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales including the British Transport Police under section 1 of PACE, an increase of 32.4% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk (April 2018 to March 2019) there was a reduction in all stops of 10%.  Between the year ending March 2019 and the year ending March 2020 the number of stops increased from 1,971 to 3,632 (84.3%) in Suffolk. National data for this reporting period will not be published until October 2020.

5.2  The latest national data are for the financial year 2018/2019. This data shows that Suffolk conducted up to three stops per 1,000 of population compared to two stops per 1,000 of population in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were six searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2019.

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[6] Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales Year Ending 31 March 2019

5.3 In the year ending 31ˢᵗ March 2019, 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. The difference between the two groups narrowed to twice as likely between the years ending March 2013 and 2015, rising to three times as likely in the year ending March 2016 and rising again to four times as likely in the year ending March 2018 and just over four times as likely in year ending March 2019. This is likely to be because, as mentioned above, the number of overall searches has increased but the stop searches per 1000 amongst the White group has remained relatively steady since year ending March 2017 and has increased among BME groups in year ending March 2019.

5.4 A similar pattern was seen for the Black Ethnic Group (a subset of BME covering Black, Black African, Black Caribbean and other Black backgrounds) which fell from six times as likely to just over four times as likely between the years ending March 2012 and 2015, before rising to six and a half times as likely in the year ending March 2016 and rising again to over eight times as likely in the year ending March 2017 and then nine and a half times as likely in the year ending March 2018. This remained stable in the year ending March 2019, with those who considered themselves to be Black nine and a half times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White.

5.5 In Suffolk, for the year ending 31ˢᵗ March 2020, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were 3.8 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. These statistics show a slight decrease in disproportionality in Suffolk as at the end of the year ending March 2019 those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over four 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 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

## 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.