Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

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

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE	PAPER NO: AP23/05

SUBMITTED TO:	ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – 13 JANUARY 2023

SUBJECT:	USE OF COERCIVE POWERS IN SUFFOLK – 1 OCTOBER 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

SUMMARY:

1.   This report provides analysis of stop and search, use of force and taser usage for the 12-month period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. During the reporting period there were 4,194 stop searches, 5,796 reported instances of use of force and within this 299 Conducted Energy Device (Taser) usages.

2.   There was a decrease of 0.5% in overall volume of stop searches when compared to the previous reporting period (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022). The average rate of searches resulting in No Further Action (NFA) was 62.7%; the positive outcome rate was 35.2% and the arrest rate was 17.3%.

3.   The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the Asian ethnicity group (47.8%), and positive outcome rates vary; amongst White they are 36.7%, Black are 29.7%, Mixed are 44.6% and Other are 32.1%. Arrest rates are highest amongst the Mixed ethnicity group (23.1%).

4.   938 subjects of stop search were under 18, accounting for 22.4% of stop search in the current reporting period. 74.9% (703) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group.

5.   85.1% (3,571) of subjects of stop search in the current reporting period were male. 14.6% were female and 0.3% were Other.

6.   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. 2,682 stop searches (64.0%) had drugs as the reason for the search. Offensive weapons were the next highest reason for searches at 10.5% (439). This is a slight increase in percentage of drugs and an increase since the last reporting period (an increase of 2.3p.p).

7.   305 stop searches (7.3%) were strip searches and of these, 294 (97.0%) were in relation to drugs. The second highest category was for Weapons.

8. 55 strip searches (18.0%) were undertaken on Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals, 233 (76.4%) were undertaken on persons of white ethnicity, with the remainder (5.6%) undertaken on people who have declined to define or have misunderstood the reason for providing their ethnicity.

9. The item(s) being searched for were found in 138 strip searches (33.4%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in 42 strip searches (13.8%).

10. The percentage of stop searches resulting in "Article found" has remained stable (decrease of 0.1p.p compared to the last reporting period). The most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for 62.7% of all outcomes.

11. The report provides analysis on the use of force where 5,796 reported instances were reported in the current reporting period. This is an increase of 20.0% compared to 4,830 in the 12 months ending 31 March 2022.

12. Over the 12-month reporting period Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage ("usage" meaning – Drawn, Aim, Red-dot, Arc or Fire) totalled 299, with an average of 25 usages a month. 82.1% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, 12.0% were Black and 2.4% were Asian.

13. 7.7% of all usages resulted in the C.E.D being fired and therefore 92.3% of usages resulted in the device not being fired. 40.0% of usages resulted in the red dot being used on the target and 43.1% involved the device being drawn by the officer.

Chief Officer Commentary (T/Assistant Chief Constable Eamonn Bridger):

The Constabulary has a developed understanding of the use of coercive policing powers in Suffolk. The following are key issues highlighted in this report:

- There are strong governance structures around the use of coercive powers and well-established methods of internal and external scrutiny to ensure the deepest understanding of compliance with expected practice.
- Use of Stop & Search (S&S) remains consistent and there are good rates of positive outcomes and arrests resulting from those policing activities. Many of the trends around use in Suffolk are consistent with those seen nationally.
- Evidence would suggest that S&S has a disproportionate level of use for some ethnic groups and age groups. These are similar trends to those seen on a national basis and in future reports all data will be reflective of the latest census data rather than that which is currently used (2011).
- The Constabulary seeks continuous improvement in its use of coercive powers and has incorporated external feedback into training delivery, considerations around system recording and methods of scrutiny. The greater use of BWV provides useful insight and will become a key feature of future panels.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is asked to consider the progress made by the Constabulary, and raise issues with Chief Constable as appropriate to the PCC's role in holding the Chief Constable to account.

1. INTRODUCTION - USE OF COERCIVE POWERS – 1 OCTOBER 2021 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

1.1.   Coercive Powers is overarching terminology to monitor the use of some Police Powers including Stop & Search, Taser, Use of Force and Custody related processes.

1.2.   It is monitored through Joint Norfolk and Suffolk Use of Police Powers Board (formally Coercive Powers Board), which is a quarterly meeting looking at areas of disproportionality, and where necessary Police complaints. This allows for additional scrutiny and early identification of issues. It is also the overarching board to manage recommendations from the College of Policing, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

1.3.   This report supports the Police and Crime Plan commitment in that the Constabulary will:

- Ensure ethics, integrity and appropriate professional standards in the way it delivers policing (including transparency regarding its use of coercive powers including stop and search).

1.4.   This report will predominantly focus on the use of stop and search and provide some detail around Use of Force and Taser. More detail will be available to include in future reporting.

1.5.   Stop & Search

- This 12-month period has seen a number of reports published including HMICFRS Disproportionality Report & IOPC Stop & Search Learning Report.
- Recommendations from these reports are captured and managed through the Use Of Police Powers Board.
- A review of the Joint Stop & Search Policy for 2022 is complete with the amended version about to be distributed for consultation.

1.6.   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.

1.7.   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.

1.8.   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.

1.9.   This report (and future reports) is based on data collected from stop and search records since then and covers the period between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 inclusive.

1.10. 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.

1.11. Use of Force

- Use Of Force is currently being reviewed as part of a bigger piece of work relating to Assaults, Force and Incidents (AFI) and looks to combine Use of Force, Health & Safety reporting and Operation Hampshire. As part of this work a new reporting form for Officers and Staff is being created which will enhance data collection and trend analysis leading to aid in identifying future training requirements.
- Operation Hampshire is an initiative managed by the National Wellbeing Service to recognise the impact of injuries and assaults on Police Officers and Staff on duty and how forces should provide wrap-around care.
- In Suffolk Op Hampshire will be extended to include verbal assaults and Hate Crime
- Work is currently underway to explore how External Scrutiny of Use of Force can be achieved similar to the current Stop & Search external scrutiny processes

1.12. Taser
- All incidents where Taser has been utilised are reviewed by the Lead Taser Instructor
- This includes where a Taser has been "Drawn", "Aimed", "Red-Dotted" and "Fired"
- A full review of Norfolk & Suffolk's Taser Capability began in June 2022 and a Business Case in relation to the findings is to be presented to Chief Officers at the end of January 2023.

2. OVERALL TRENDS[1] - STOP AND SEARCH
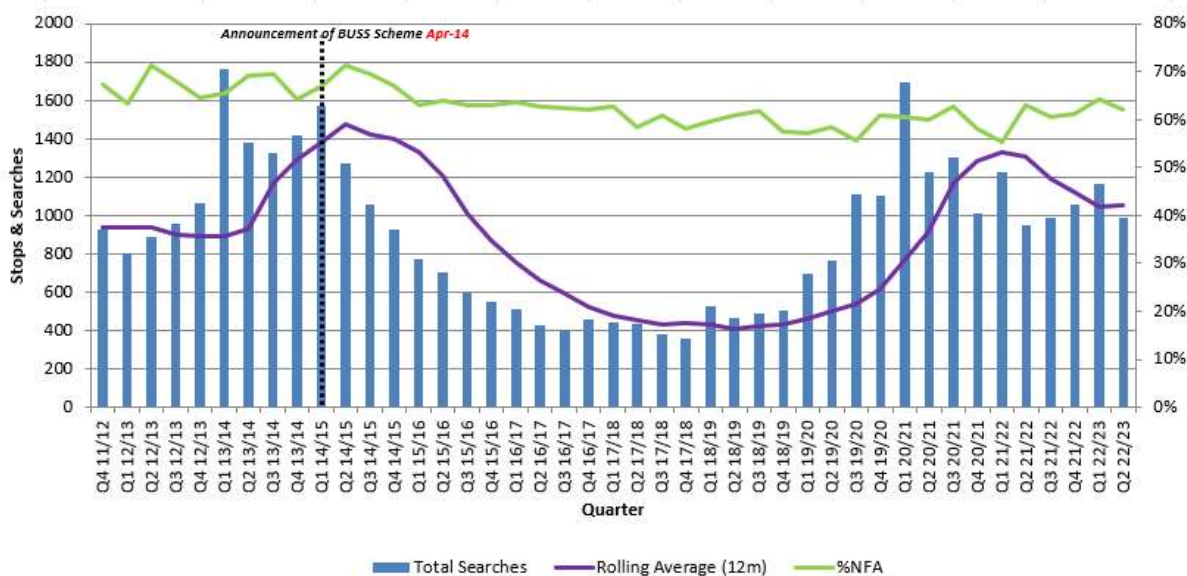
2.1. Use of stop and search

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

2.1.1. Figure 1 displays long-term trends in stop and search over time, from Q4 2011/12 to Q2 2022/23. Volumes peaked in early 2020 and despite some quarterly fluctuation, there has been a general downward trend in volume since then. High volumes in 2020 could be attributed to the impact of proactive policing at the start of lockdown and the general decrease since mid-

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

2020 is likely due to additional demands relating to the increase in Computer Aided Despatch (CADs) and crimes as social restrictions were gradually relaxed. However, rolling 12-monthly totals are still higher than those reported before 2020 (12 months ending Q2 22/23 shows an increase of 14.3% compared to 12 months ending Q4 2019/20).
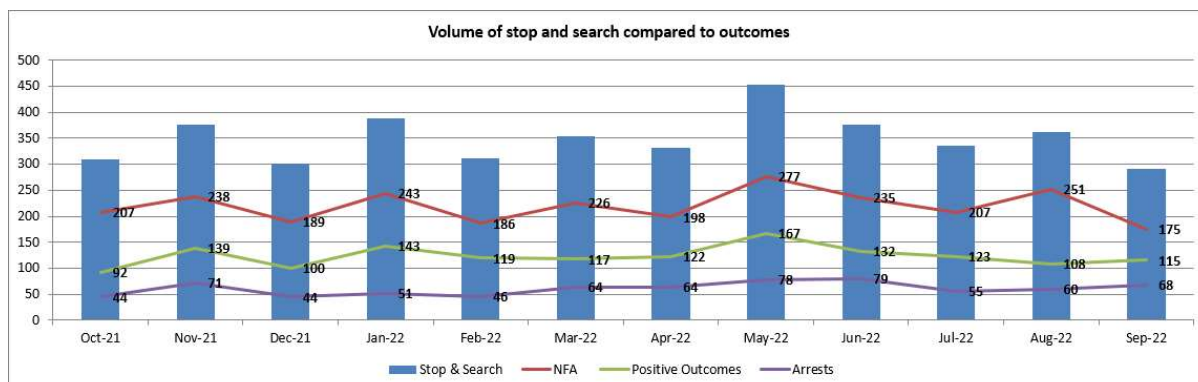

Figure 2: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes 01/10/2021 – 30/09/2022

2.1.2. 4,194 stop searches took place in the current reporting period (01/10/2021-30/09/2022). Figure 2 above displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk since the beginning of this reporting period, alongside the No Further Action (NFA), positive outcome and arrest rates. This shows a fluctuating trend in volume, with peaks in January and May 2022. There was a decrease of 0.5% in overall volume over the last twelve months compared to previous reporting period (01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022).

2.1.3. In the current reporting period, the average rate of searches resulting in NFA was 62.7%, the positive outcome rate was 35.2% and the arrest rate was 17.3%. The NFA rate in Suffolk has increased by 0.7p.p since the last reporting period. The positive outcome rate is the highest rate since financial year 2018/19 (35.2%) and there has been an increase in arrest rate 1.2p.p since the last reporting period. All rates have increased because "Blank" outcomes decreased to 1.7% in this current reporting period.

2.1.4. The positive outcome rate for white subjects is 36.7% compared to 35.1% for Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME). For subjects where ethnicity was not stated/declined, the positive outcome rate was 27.5%. Within the positive outcomes, the arrest rate for white subjects was 17.0% compared to 20.0% for BAME. The NFA outcomes rate for white subjects is 61.3% and for BAME it is 63.1%.

2.2. PROPORTIONALITY - ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	Population*
Asian	13,131
Black	6,854
Mixed	12,472
Other	2,511
White	693,195

Table 1: Suffolk population by ethnicity
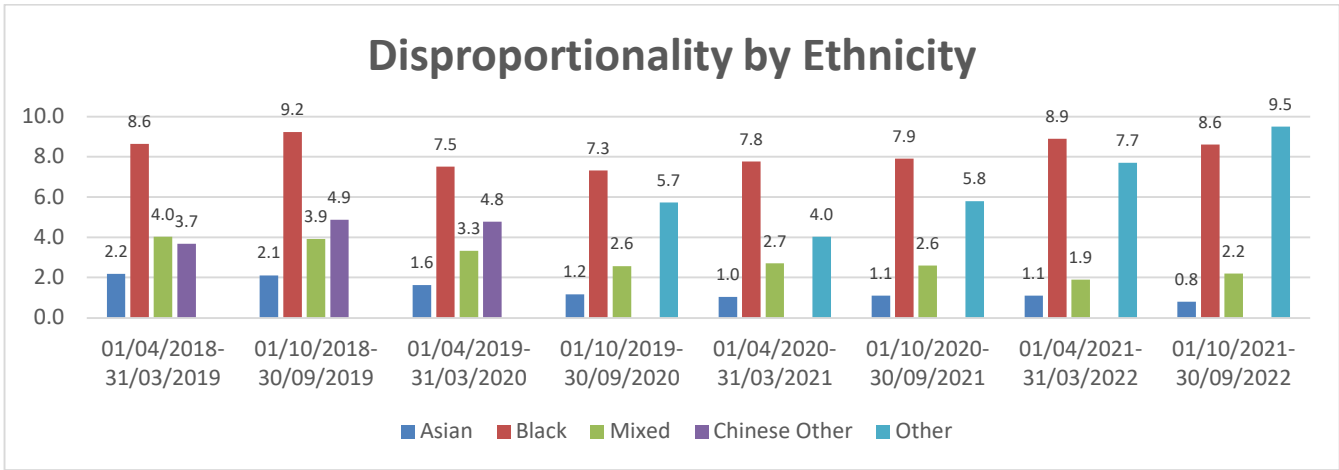** As per 2011 Census, ONS*

Figure 3: BAME disproportionality by reporting period, 01/04/2018 – 30/09/2022

2.2.1. Figure 3 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity in the current reporting period, compared to the previous seven reporting periods. This splits BAME grouping by specific ethnicity. 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. In the current reporting period, BAME individuals are 3.4 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts.

2.2.2. There had been a general downward trend in BAME disproportionality since 2018 but in both this reporting period and the one before it has increased slightly: from 3.3 to 3.4 last period and remaining at 3.4 this period. Since the last reporting period, there has been an increase in disproportionality amongst Mixed and Other ethnicities. Levels of disproportionality decreased slightly for Asian and Black ethnicities. Please note that from 01/10/2019 there was a reporting change. Chinese ethnicity was grouped in "Asian" ethnicity rather than "Chinese Other". As a result "Other" accounted for smaller numbers than "Chinese Other".

2.2.3. The 2011 census has been used to establish the ethnicity breakdown of persons within Suffolk. 2021 Census data is not yet available in full detail and will not be used in this report until the July 2023 report. There are limitations associated with using the 2011 census population data for disproportionality calculations as the demographic breakdown of Suffolk will have changed in this time. The impact of this is even greater on datasets with smaller numbers as even small changes in numbers can create noticeable fluctuation i.e. when the BAME is split into specific ethnicities. In addition to this, not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk will be resident in the county. In this reporting period, 10.7% (447) of persons subject to Stop and search were not Suffolk residents and 19.5% (818) did not have an address recorded. The rate of subjects residing outside of Suffolk was more prominent within the Black and Mixed ethnic groups, although not as much as seen in the previous reporting period. 17.5% of Black subjects and 14.0% of Mixed subjects recorded a home address outside of Suffolk, compared to 10.2% in the White ethnic group. When subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases for every ethnicity except Asian, which remains constant. The largest decrease is in the Black ethnic group (reduces to 7.9).
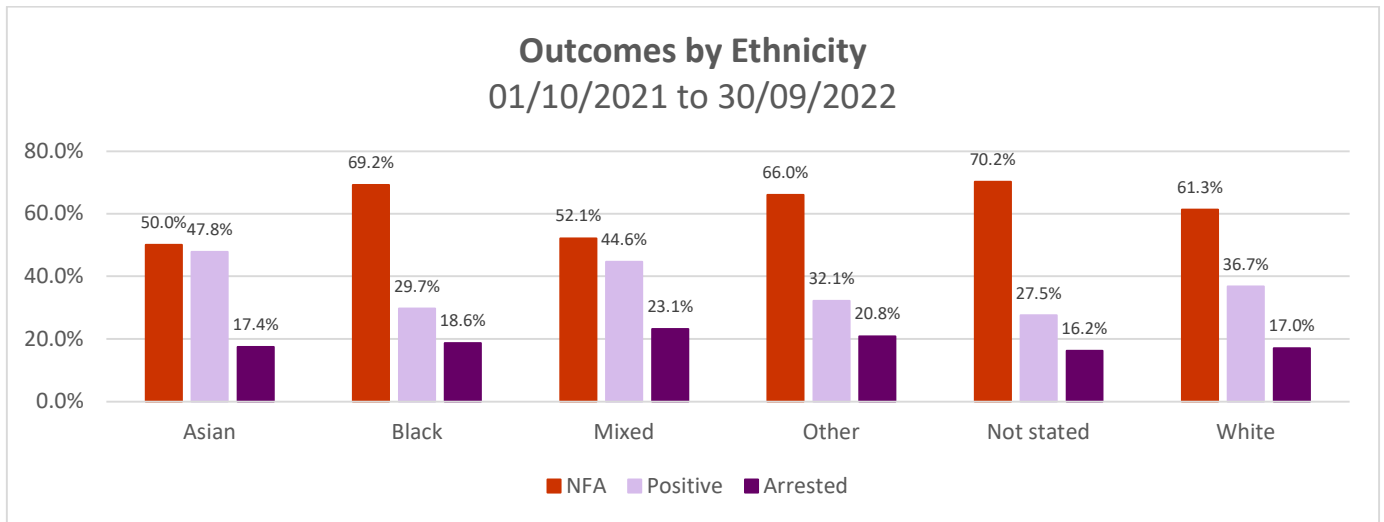
Outcomes by Ethnicity
01/10/2021 to 30/09/2022

Figure 4: NFA, positive and arrest outcomes by ethnicity 01/10/2021 – 30/09/2022

2.2.4. Figure 4 shows the rate of NFA outcomes, positive outcomes and arrests in the current reporting period, split by ethnicity.

2.2.5. The highest rate of NFA outcomes are amongst persons who do not state/decline to provide ethnicity. The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the Asian ethnicity group, and the lowest amongst persons who do not state/decline to provide ethnicity. Arrest rates are highest amongst the Mixed ethnicity group.

District	BAME Population*	Stop search count	BAME stop search count
Babergh	1,895	252	19
West Suffolk	9,234	1,026	80
Ipswich	14,788	1,783	364
Mid Suffolk	2,064	203	10
East Suffolk	6,987	901	62
Suffolk total	34,968	4165	535

Table 2: Suffolk BAME population and total number of stop searches by district
* As per 2011 Census, ONS

2.2.6. Suffolk is split by local authorities and do not precisely align with policing commands. The majority of stop search occurs in Ipswich and West Suffolk, the districts with higher populations and staffing levels.

Quarter	Babergh				West Suffolk				Ipswich				Mid Suffolk				East Suffolk			
	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other
Q3 2021/22	8.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.4	0.5	3.1	5.6	1.3	0.5	8.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	0.0	3.1	1.1	1.0	12.6
Q4 2021/22	5.2	3.3	0.0	30.1	4.1	0.5	0.7	2.8	7.4	0.8	0.6	4.2	0.0	0.0	3.2	22.1	8.1	4.9	1.0	0.0
Q1 2022/23	5.2	4.9	0.0	29.6	1.6	3.0	0.0	3.6	5.3	1.7	0.6	8.3	0.0	2.3	3.3	23.1	6.3	2.9	1.3	8.5
Q2 2022/23	13.8	0.0	0.0	26.5	2.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	9.3	1.7	0.4	8.1	18.9	3.7	0.0	0.0	16.8	0.5	0.4	7.5

Table 3: Disproportionality by ethnicity and District, 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

2.2.7. Table 3 displays the rates of disproportionality by ethnicity, district and quarter. As previously referenced, levels of disproportionality are more likely to fluctuate when looking at small numbers. This is more prevalent in districts with smaller population numbers as shown in Table 2 (Babergh, Mid Suffolk, East Suffolk), particularly relating to ethnic groups with the smallest numbers, such as Other and Black ethnic groups. The highest rate of disproportionality amongst Black ethnicity is seen in Mid Suffolk in Q2 2022/23, though this represents small numbers (two stop searches). The highest rates of disproportionality is seen amongst "Other" in Babergh and

these also relate to very small numbers – three in Q4 2021/22 and Q1 2022/23 and two in Q2 2022/23.

2.2.8. The majority (75.0%) of stop searches undertaken on subjects within Black ethnic group occurred in Ipswich. There were higher levels of disproportionality in the Black ethnic group in Ipswich, specifically in Q2 2022/23 and Q4 2021/22. In Q4 there were a number of gang-related violent offences involving weapons, resulting in a number of Section 60s in early 2022 and again in August 2022 and an operation was commissioned to monitor tensions between gangs. This operation has continued throughout this reporting period. If stop searches relating to section 60s are removed, overall BAME disproportionality for Suffolk decreases to 3.3. In Ipswich, disproportionality decreases the most amongst Black and Other ethnicities when stop searches relating to section 60s are removed.

District	Stop searches of subjects with non-Suffolk address
Babergh	53
East Suffolk	85
Ipswich	105
Mid Suffolk	20
West Suffolk	164
Total	**427**

Table 4: Stop searches of non-Suffolk residents by District, 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

2.2.9. Table 4 above shows that West Suffolk had the most stop searches of subjects who live outside of Suffolk, followed by Ipswich. Mid Suffolk district had the fewest.

2.3.   Proportionality - Age

Age group	Count of stop search	Percentage of all stop search
10 to 14	235	5.6%
15 to 17	703	16.8%
18 to 24	1,162	27.7%
25 and over	1,922	45.8%
Not known	172	4.1%

Table 5: Stop searches by age, 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

2.3.1. Table 5 displays all stop searches by subject age group. 938 subjects of stop search were under 18, accounting for 22.4% of stop search in the current reporting period. 74.9% (703/938) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group.
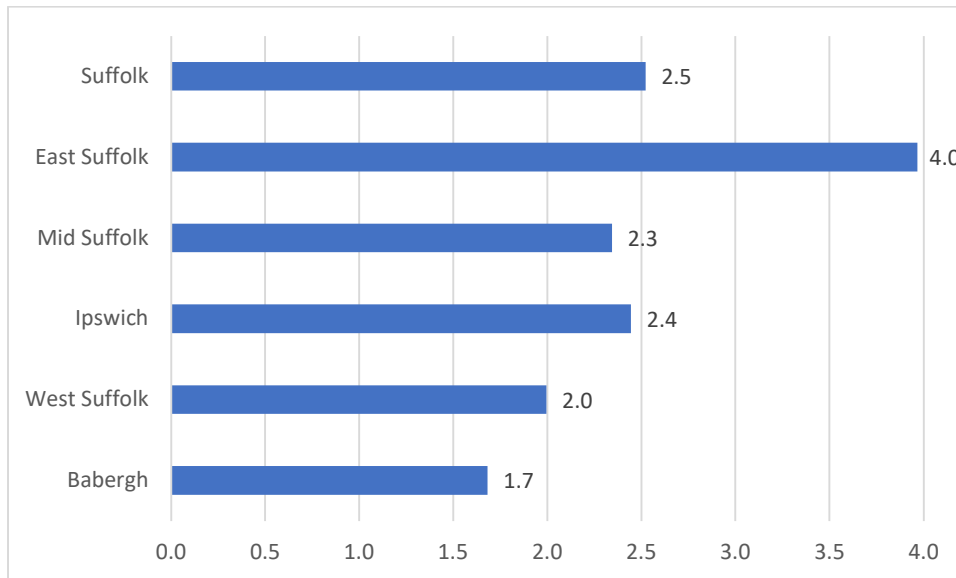
Figure 5: Under 18 Disproportionality by district, 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

2.3.2. Figure 5 shows the rate of disproportionality of under 18s being subject of stop and search, compared to over 18s, by district. For Suffolk, under 18s are 2.5 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their over 18 counterparts. This value has increased for all districts since the previous reporting period, except for Mid Suffolk which remains the same. This value ranges between 4.0 times more likely in East Suffolk and 1.7 times more likely in Babergh.

Ethnicity	Population* (under 18s only)
Asian	1,547
Black	592
Mixed	2,471
Other	205
White	62,862

Table 6: Suffolk population of Under 18s
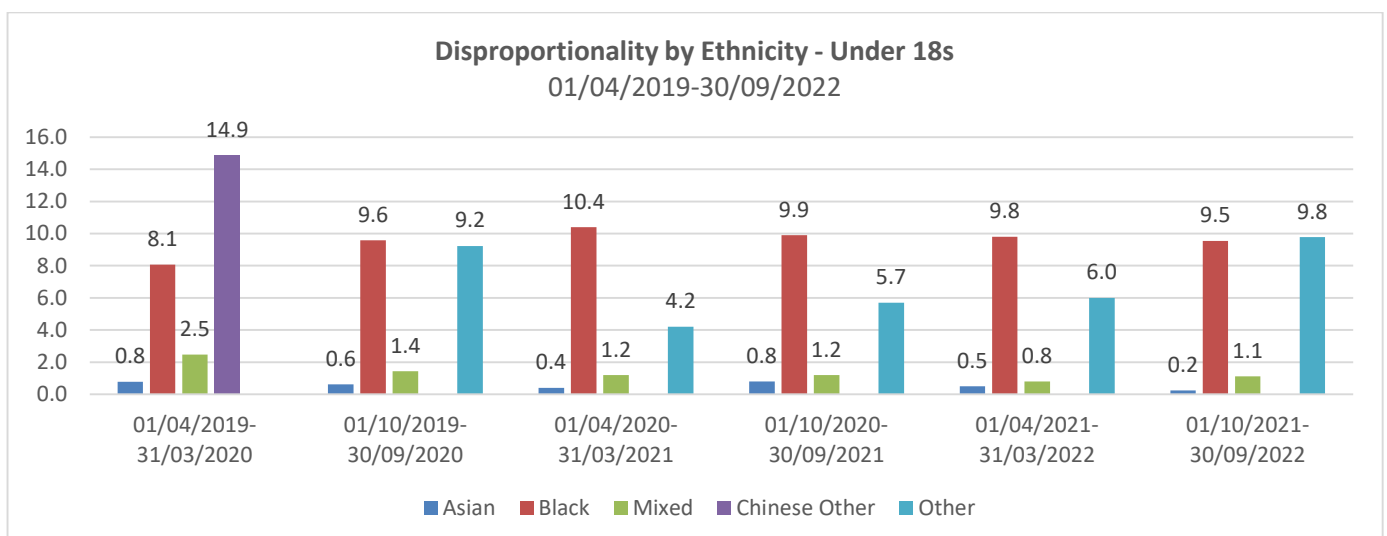** As per 2011 Census, ONS*

Figure 6: Disproportionality amongst under 18s by ethnicity

2.3.3   In the current reporting period, amongst under 18s, BAME individuals are 2.2 times as likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts, showing that disproportionality between BAME and White is less for under 18s compared to all age groups.

2.3.4   Figure 6 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity amongst under 18s in the current reporting period, compared to the previous five reporting periods. This splits BAME ethnicity grouping by specific ethnicity.

2.3.5   As previously referenced, any shifts in demographics since the 2011 census would have more of a significant impact on smaller subsets of data. This is particularly pronounced when reviewing under 18s as this relates to ages 10-17 only and these are relatively small numbers, as shown in Table 6. The highest rate of disproportionality is seen amongst the Other ethnic group (9.8), followed by the Black ethnic group (9.5). A smaller percentage of under 18s have a home address outside of Suffolk when compared to all ages reviewed together. This happens most frequently within the Black ethic group: for example, 14.5% (9/62) of under 18 subjects within the Black ethnic group had a home address outside of Suffolk. This compares to 4.5% in Other, 4.1% in White, and 3.3% in the Mixed ethnic group. None of the under 18s from the Asian ethnic group stopped in this reporting period had a home address outside Suffolk.

2.3.6   When subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases for both the Black ethnic group (reduces to 8.1) and the Other ethnic group (reduces to 8.8). The disproportionality rate increases for the Mixed ethnic group (up to 2.4) and has little change within the Asian ethnic group (to 0.3).
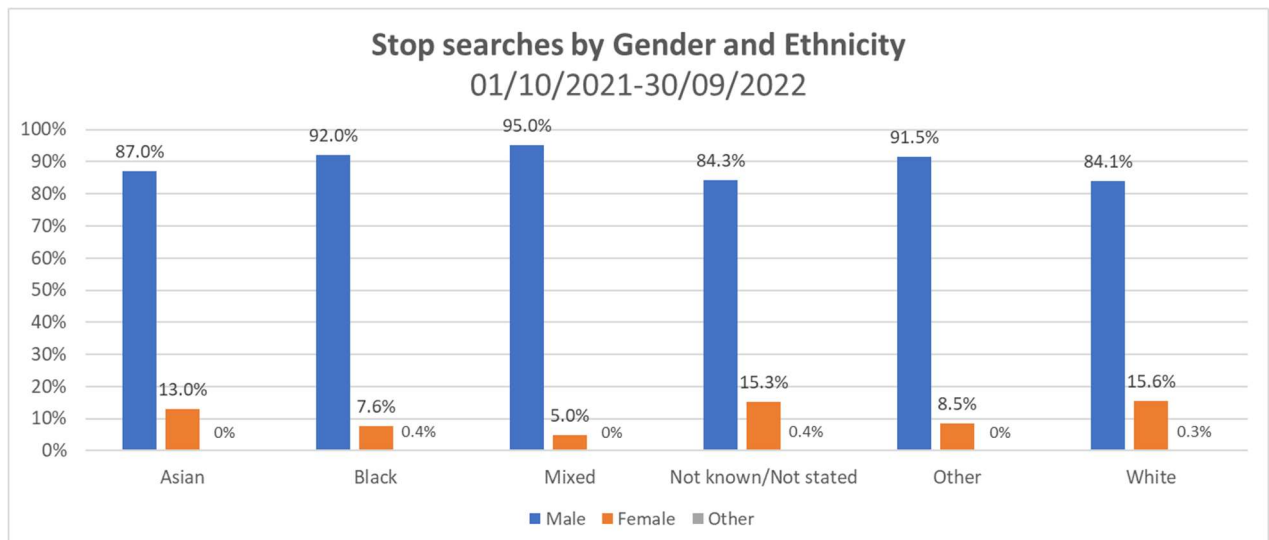

Figure 7: Stop searches by gender and ethnicity, 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

Age group	Male		Female		Other	
	Count	Percentage of all ages	Count	Percentage of all ages	Count	Percentage of all ages
10 to 14	200	5.6%	35	5.7%	0	0.0%
15 to 17	619	17.3%	84	13.7%	0	0.0%
18 to 24	981	27.5%	177	29.0%	4	40.0%
25 and over	1610	45.1%	305	49.9%	6	60.0%
Not known	161	4.5%	10	1.6%	0	0.0%

Table 7: Gender by age group, 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

2.3.7   85.1% of subjects of stop search in the current reporting period were male and this has remained stable since the last reporting period (84.9%). 14.6% were female and 0.3% were Other. Figure 7 displays the rates by ethnicity.

2.3.8 As shown in Table 7, the majority of under 18s were aged between 15-17 years, for all genders.
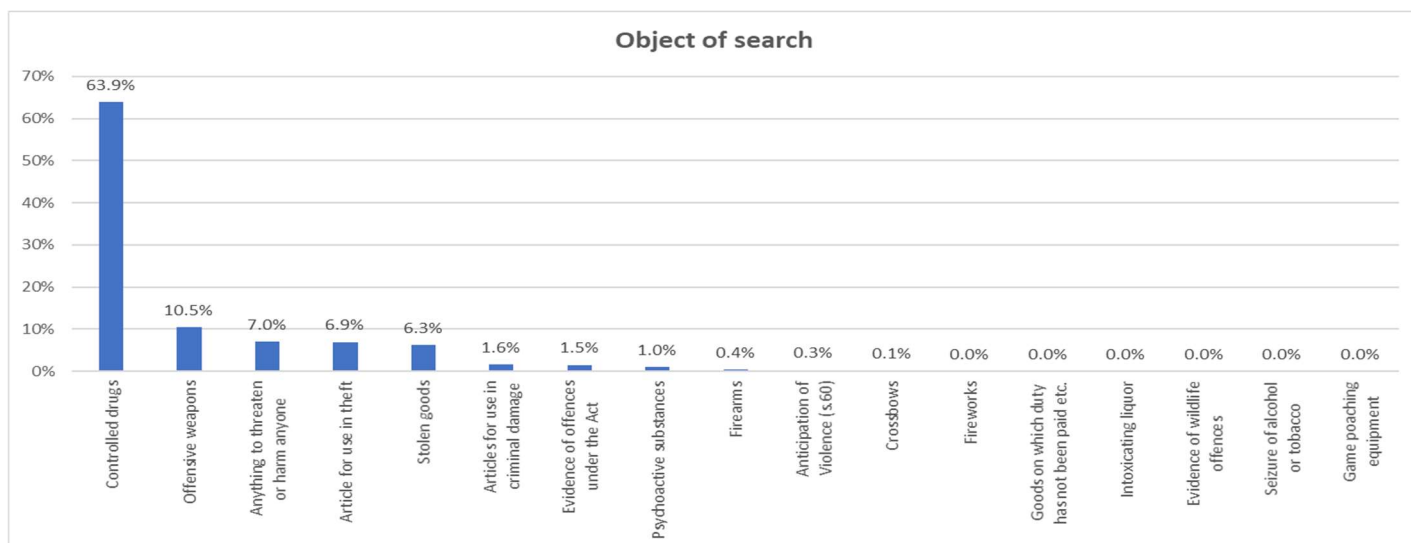
2.4 Object of search

Figure 8: Percentage breakdown of Object of Search

2.4.1 Figure 10 displays the object of searches undertaken in Suffolk during this reporting period. In the majority of stop searches (2,682, 63.9%) controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in two of the lesser populated areas in Suffolk – Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts. This would suggest a more targeted approach to stop searches in these districts. Controlled Drug related stop and searches accounted for 75.4% of the total number of stop searches in Babergh, with a similar rate (72.9%) in Mid Suffolk.

District	White	BME	Not stated/ declined
Babergh	86.8%	6.3%	6.8%
East Suffolk	82.7%	7.8%	9.5%
Ipswich	62.7%	21.6%	15.8%
Mid Suffolk	75.0%	4.7%	20.3%
West Suffolk	84.2%	7.9%	7.9%
OOF	89.5%	5.3%	5.3%
Grand total	**74.8%**	**13.2%**	**12.0%**

Table 8: Controlled drug searches by district and ethnicity

2.4.2 In terms of ethnicity, 354 (13.2%) of these searches (Controlled drugs) were on those of black or minority ethnicities, 2,005 (74.8%) on those of white ethnicity and 323 (12.0%) on people for whom the ethnicity is not known or not stated.
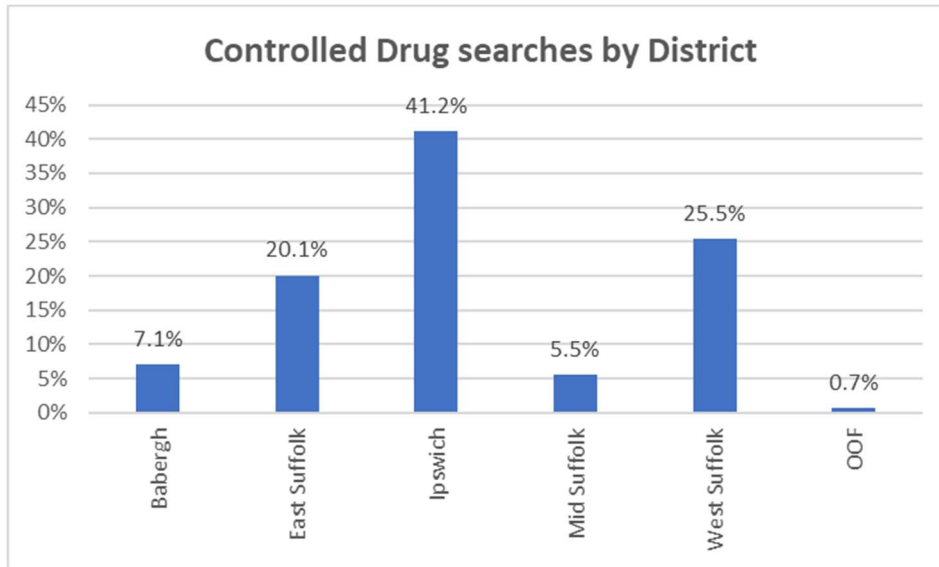
Figure 9: Percentage of controlled drug related searches by district

2.4.3 Analysis of these controlled drugs searches shows that 41.2% occurred in the Ipswich district.

District	Male	Female	Other
Babergh	84.2%	15.8%	0.0%
East Suffolk	85.3%	14.7%	0.0%
Ipswich	87.7%	12.3%	0.0%
Mid Suffolk	78.4%	20.9%	0.7%
West Suffolk	86.8%	12.4%	0.7%
OOF	78.9%	15.8%	5.3%
Grand total	**86.2%**	**13.6%**	**0.2%**

Table 9: Controlled drug related searches by location and gender

2.4.4 86.2% of Controlled drug searches involved a male subject.

District	10 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	25 and over	Not known
Babergh	5.3%	8.4%	43.2%	39.5%	3.7%
East Suffolk	4.3%	19.9%	26.6%	44.1%	5.2%
Ipswich	0.5%	16.4%	30.5%	48.5%	4.1%
Mid Suffolk	2.0%	14.2%	39.9%	38.5%	5.4%
West Suffolk	2.0%	9.7%	31.0%	55.3%	1.9%
OOF	0.0%	0.0%	21.1%	78.9%	0.0%
Grand Total	**2.1%**	**14.6%**	**31.2%**	**48.4%**	**3.8%**

Table 10: Controlled drug related searches by location and age grouping

2.4.5 The 25 and over age grouping had the highest percentage share in each district with the exceptions of Babergh and Mid Suffolk where the 18 to 24 age group had the largest numbers.

District	White	BME	Not stated/ declined
Babergh	64.3%	7.1%	28.6%
East Suffolk	73.5%	6.9%	19.6%
Ipswich	58.3%	20.3%	21.4%
Mid Suffolk	63.6%	9.1%	27.3%
West Suffolk	74.8%	7.0%	18.3%
OOF	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Grand total	67.0%	12.8%	20.3%

Table 11: Offensive weapon searches by district and ethnicity

2.4.6 In terms of ethnicity, 56 (12.8%) of these searches (Offensive weapons) were on those of black or minority ethnicities, 294 (67.0) on those of white ethnicity and 89 (20.3%) on people for whom the ethnicity is not known or not stated.
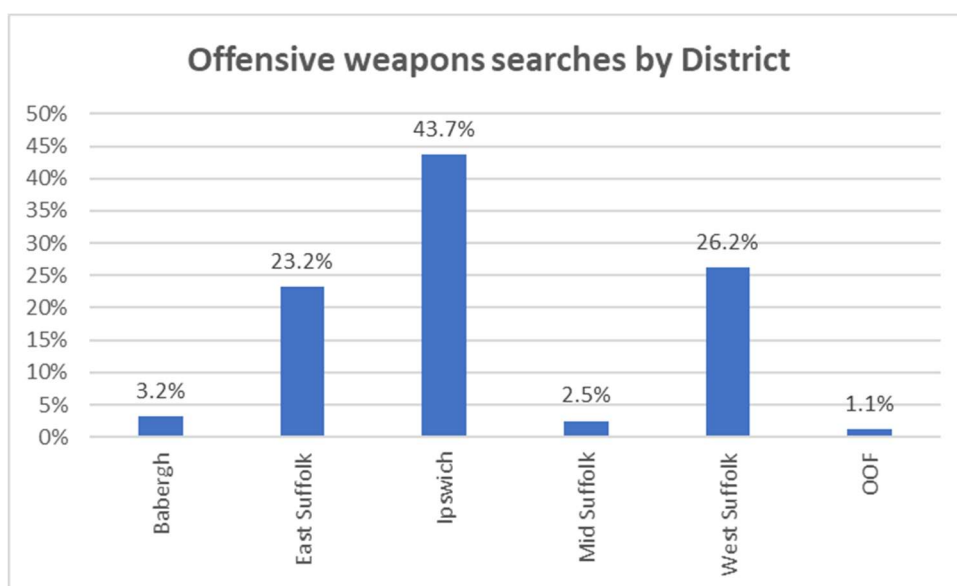

Figure 10: Percentage of offensive weapon related searches by district

2.4.7 During the reporting period, 429 stop and searches (10.5%) were conducted where the object searched for was an offensive weapon. This is an increase of 2.3p.p since the last reporting period. Analysis of these searches shows that 43.7% occurred in the Ipswich district.

District	Male	Female	Other
Babergh	78.6%	21.4%	0.0%
East Suffolk	79.4%	19.6%	1.0%
Ipswich	87.0%	13.0%	0.0%
Mid Suffolk	72.7%	27.3%	0.0%
West Suffolk	92.2%	7.8%	0.0%
OOF	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	85.9%	13.9%	0.2%

Table 12: Offensive weapon related searches by district and gender

2.4.8 Overall, 85.9% of the searches involved a male subject.

District	10 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	25 and over	Not stated
Babergh	14.3%	21.4%	28.6%	28.6%	7.1%
East Suffolk	15.7%	32.4%	21.6%	25.5%	4.9%
Ipswich	9.4%	27.1%	25.5%	31.3%	6.8%
Mid Suffolk	9.1%	27.3%	9.1%	45.5%	9.1%
West Suffolk	22.6%	23.5%	17.4%	34.8%	1.7%
OOF	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	**14.4%**	**26.9%**	**21.9%**	**31.9%**	**5.0%**

Table 13: Offensive Weapon related searches by location and age grouping

2.4.9 The 25 and over age grouping had the highest percentage share in each district except East Suffolk where the 15 to 17 age group was the most common.
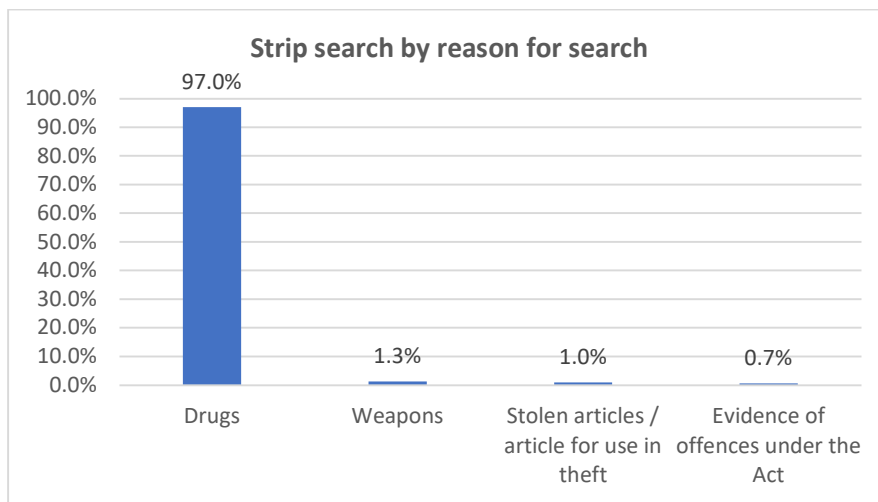
2.5 Use of strip search

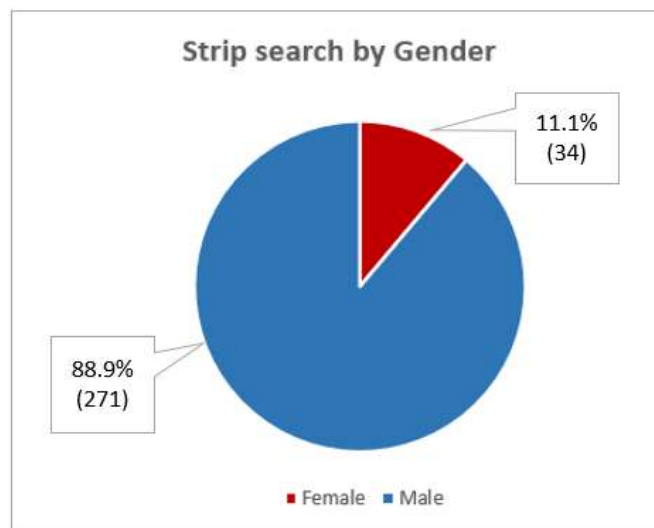*Figure 11: Suffolk strip search by reason for search*

Figure 12: Suffolk strip search by gender

Strip search by age grouping

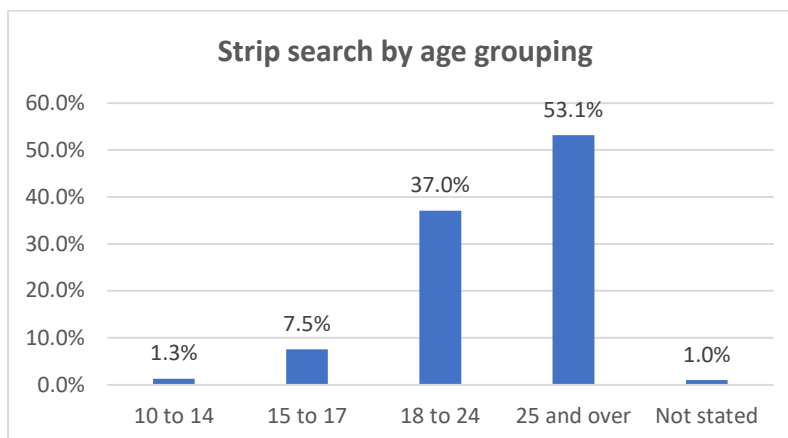| Age group	Percentage
10 to 14	1.3%
15 to 17	7.5%
18 to 24	37.0%
25 and over	53.1%
Not stated	1.0%

Figure 13: Suffolk strip search by age grouping

2.5.1 Strip search volumes reflect both non-Optik and Optik records. Between October 2021 and September 2022, there were 305 strip searches, a reduction from 349 between April 2021 and March 2022. This accounts for 7.3% of all stop searches, which is 1 percentage point lower than in the previous report (covering April 2021 to March 2022). Figure 11 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 296 (97.0%) 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. 88.9% of strip searches are conducted on males and the 25 and over age group is the most prevalent. One strip search was conducted on an individual under the age of 14 during this reporting period – an 11 year old found to have drugs.

Ethnicity	Number of strip searches	%	Items searched for found	Find Rate	Items NOT searched for found	Find rate
BAME	55	18.0%	15	27.3%	10	18.2%
White	233	76.4%	78	33.5%	29	12.4%
Not stated	17	5.6%	9	52.9%	3	17.6%
Total	**305**	**100%**	**102**	**33.4%**	**42**	**13.8%**

Table 14: Suffolk strip search by ethnicity

2.5.2 Table 14 highlights some of the key Strip Search figures focusing on the subjects ethnicity. During the reporting period, 55 of the strip searches (18.0%) were undertaken on BAME individuals, which compares to 12.8% of stop searches undertaken on individuals of the same background. This is a decrease from the previous reporting period where 23.5% of persons subject to strip search were BAME individuals. 233 strip searches (76.4%) were undertaken on persons of white ethnicity, with that group making up 73.7% of stop searches. The remaining 5.6% of strip searches were undertaken on people who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for was/were found in 102 strip searches (33.4%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in 42 strip searches (13.8%). The rate of items searched for that are subsequently found has decreased by 6.1p.p since the last reporting period, and items that were not searched for but were found also decreased by 3.7p.p.

Strip search reason for search	Total Count	Total %	Asian Count	Asian % total	Black Count	Black % total	Mixed Count	Mixed % total	Not stated Count	Not stated % total	Other Count	Other % total	White Count	White % total
Controlled Drugs	296	97.0%	2	100%	33	94.3%	14	100%	17	100%	4	100%	226	97.0%
Offensive Weapons	4	1.3%	0	0%	1	2.9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1.3%
Stolen articles / article for use in theft	3	1.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1.3%
Evidence of offences under the Act	2	0.7%	0	0%	1	2.9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.4%
Total	**305**	**100%**	**2**	**100%**	**35**	**100%**	**14**	**100%**	**17**	**100%**	**4**	**100%**	**233**	**100%**

Table 15: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

2.5.3 Table 15 above 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. The majority of strip search are conducted for drugs-related reasons, for every ethnicity group.

Age category	Total Count	Total %	Asian Count	Asian % total	Black Count	Black % total	Mixed Count	Mixed % total	Not stated Count	Not stated % total	Other Count	Other % total	White Count	White % total
10 to 14	4	1.3%	0	0%	1	2.9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1.3%
15 to 17	23	7.5%	0	0%	4	11.4%	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	18	7.7%
18 to 24	113	37.0%	1	50%	13	37.1%	7	50%	11	64.7%	1	25%	80	34.3%
25 and over	162	53.1%	1	50%	17	48.6%	7	50%	5	29.4%	2	50%	130	55.8%
Not known	3	1.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	5.9%	0	0%	2	0.9%
Total	305	100%	2	100%	35	100%	14	100%	17	100%	4	100%	233	100%

Table 16: Age breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

2.5.4 During the reporting period, the age category for which there were the most strip searches was 25 years and over, accounting for 53.1% of all strip searches, irrespective of ethnicity. This was consistent within the Black, Other, and White ethnicities. However, within the people who have declined to define their ethnicity, the 18-24 age group saw the most strip searches. In the Asian and Mixed groups, strip searches were equally split between the 18-24 age group and the 25 and over group.

Outcome	Total Count	Total %	Asian Count	Asian % total	Black Count	Black % total	Mixed Count	Mixed % total	Not stated Count	Not stated % total	Other Count	Other % total	White Count	White % total
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	256	6.1%	4	8.7%	8	3.0%	4	3.3%	27	4.8%	3	2.8%	210	6.8%
Community resolution	28	0.7%	0	0%	1	0.4%	2	1.7%	3	0.5%	0	0%	22	0.7%
Khat or Cannabis warning	3	0.1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.9%	2	0.1%
Local resolution	201	4.8%	2	4.3%	13	4.9%	7	5.8%	17	3.0%	2	1.9%	160	5.2%
No Category	72	1.7%	1	2.2%	3	1.1%	4	3.3%	11	1.9%	2	1.9%	51	1.6%
No further action	2,632	62.8%	23	50.0%	182	69.2%	63	52.1%	398	70.2%	70	66.0%	1,896	61.3%
Offender cautioned	27	0.6%	0	0%	0	0%	2	1.7%	4	0.7%	0	0%	21	0.7%
Offender given drugs possession warning	142	3.4%	7	15.2%	5	1.9%	7	5.8%	9	1.6%	4	3.8%	110	3.6%
Offender given penalty notice	19	0.5%	1	2.2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.9%	17	0.5%
Other action	10	0.2%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.8%	1	0.2%	0	0%	8	0.3%
Seizure of property	3	0.1%	0	0%	1	0.4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0.1%
Suspect arrested	724	17.3%	8	17.4%	49	18.6%	28	23.1%	92	16.2%	22	20.8%	525	17.0%
Suspect summonsed to court	48	1.1%	0	0%	0	0%	3	2.5%	2	0.4%	1	0.9%	42	1.4%
Suspected psychoactive substances seized – NFA	13	0.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0.4%	0	0%	11	0.4%
Verbal warning / words of advice	8	0.2%	0	0%	1	0.4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	7	0.2%
Voluntary attendance	8	0.2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.2%	0	0%	7	0.2%
Total	4,194	100%	46	100%	263	100%	121	100%	567	100%	106	100%	3,091	100%

Table 17: Outcome breakdown and ethnicity of people who were stop searched

2.5.5 The percentage of stop searches resulting in "Article found" has decreased by 0.1p.p compared to the last reporting period, at 6.1%. "No Further Action" was the most common outcome for all ethnicities, with the percentage resulting in "No Further Action" increasing by 0.9p.p. to account for 62.8% of all outcomes. Looking at specific ethnicities, the NFA rate has increased for those of a Black ethnicity (increasing by 6.7p.p. to 69.2%), for Mixed ethnicity (increasing 3.5p.p. to 52.1%), for Other ethnicity (increasing by 3.9p.p. to 66%), and for those who did not wish to define their ethnicity (increasing 4.3p.p. to 70.2%). There were decreases in the NFA rate for those of Asian ethnicity (decreasing 6.7p.p. to 50%) and for White ethnicity (decreasing 0.4p.p. to 61.3%).

2.5.6 A further 1.7% of searches did not have an outcome recorded, as displayed in Table 17. This has decreased by 1.4p.p. when compared to the last reporting period (01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022).

Outcome	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		OOF	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	16	6.3%	54	6.0%	90	5.0%	14	6.9%	81	7.9%	1	3.4%
Community resolution	0	0%	4	0.4%	9	0.5%	8	3.9%	7	0.7%	0	0%
Khat or Cannabis warning	0	0%	0	0%	2	0.1%	1	0.5%	0	0%	0	0%
Local resolution	10	4.0%	72	8.0%	75	4.2%	12	5.9%	32	3.1%	0	0%
No Category	1	0.4%	17	1.9%	15	0.8%	11	5.4%	28	2.7%	0	0%
No further action	147	58.3%	585	64.9%	1174	65.8%	111	54.7%	595	58.0%	20	69.0%
Offender cautioned	2	0.8%	7	0.8%	6	0.3%	4	2.0%	7	0.7%	1	3.4%
Offender given drugs possession warning	16	6.3%	25	2.8%	65	3.6%	7	3.4%	29	2.8%	0	0%
Offender given penalty notice	0	0%	2	0.2%	12	0.7%	0	0%	4	0.4%	1	3.4%
Other action	0	0%	3	0.3%	2	0.1%	1	0.5%	4	0.4%	0	0%
Seizure of property	0	0%	0	0%	3	0.2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Suspect arrested	57	22.6%	108	12.0%	307	17.2%	31	15.3%	217	21.2%	4	13.8%
Suspect summonsed to court	3	1.2%	14	1.6%	11	0.6%	2	1.0%	17	1.7%	1	3.4%
Suspected psychoactive substances seized – NFA	0	0%	0	0%	9	0.5%	1	0.5%	3	0.3%	0	0%
Verbal warning / words of advice	0	0%	7	0.8%	1	0.1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Voluntary attendance	0	0%	3	0.3%	2	0.1%	0	0%	2	0.2%	1	3.4%
Grand Total	252	100%	901	100%	1783	100%	203	100%	1026	100%	29	100%

Table 18: Stop Search outcome breakdown by district

2.5.7   Table 18 above shows the breakdown of outcomes across the districts. The proportion of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome varies from district to district, ranging from 54.7% in Mid Suffolk, to 69% for stop searches occurring outside of Suffolk (OOF = Out Of Force). Stop searches where articles were found vary between 7.9% in West Suffolk and 3.4% outside of Suffolk.

2.6   Operational Activity

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

2.6.2   East Suffolk

2.6.3   Proactivity within the CPC, the 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.

2.6.4   The "Kestrel - East" Team continues to deploy across the East Area, predominantly in an engagement role, particularly within the rural and market towns and villages, but also in support of local policing priorities and problem-solving initiatives. Stop and search remains a significant tactic across all the proactive teams, which is regularly demonstrated to be used to good effect.

2.6.5   The local intelligence picture in relation to County Lines remains very positive across the east area, with County Lines activity remaining significantly absent in terms of an established presence within the towns across both Lowestoft and Halesworth Localities. However, we continue to liaise closely and work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and colleagues from Norfolk Constabulary regarding particular operations and maximising all opportunities to deter and disrupt County Lines from gaining a foothold in the area.

2.6.6   As an area, we also continue 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. Effective use of Intelligence-led Stop and Search powers remains an integral part of the successful deployments across the Eastern Area.

2.6.7   Operational Examples:

- On 11th February 2022, Officers from the Kestrel (East) Team were deployed on foot within the north side of Lowestoft, in support of the local SNT priority targeting Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) particularly around the areas of London Road North, Lowestoft High Street and Sparrow's Nest. The officers, deployed in full uniform and undertaking overt patrols, engaged with several individuals across the named locations. During three such independent interactions with members of the public, the officers formed the necessary grounds to conduct a stop search, all of which achieved positive outcomes. As a result, one subject was found with herbal cannabis (personal use), one subject was found in possession of a selection of "Cannabis Edibles" and the third subject was found in possession of a small quantity of herbal cannabis but was also found in possession of a bladed article (knife) in a public place.

- On 12th July 2022, Officers from the Scorpion (East) team, on mobile patrol within the area of Cathcart Street, Lowestoft, observed two known drug users loitering, in a suspicious manner, in the general area of the carwash. As the officers took up watch from a discreet distance, they noticed a third male (again, known to the officers) approach the original two males. The officers formed a suspicion (from the interactions of all three) that a drug deal was about to be made. As the officers moved to intercept all three suspects, the third male made off on foot, discarding two wraps of what was believed to be Class A drugs, into a nearby garden. He was located shortly afterwards and after a brief but violent struggle, where an officer was grabbed around the throat, the suspect was successfully detained. A subsequent search resulted in a mobile phone, a sum of cash (believed proceeds of crime) and 2 further wraps of Class A drugs discovered on the suspect's person, and he was arrested on suspicion of possession, of Class A drugs, with intents to supply.

2.6.8   <u>West Suffolk</u>

2.6.9   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 and dynamic intelligence. Over the last 12 months it has been effectively used to combat drug dealing and possession, county lines, offensive weapons possession, knife crime, burglaries, and theft.

2.6.10   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.

2.6.11   There is continued strong oversight at a local level, enabling commanders to respond quickly to use of the tactic, to embed learning across teams and to ensure its legitimacy as a policing tool and police accountability to our communities to minimise any negative impact on trust and confidence. The positive outcome rate in the West is an indication of the continued use of intelligence when using the tactic.

2.6.12   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.

Operational Examples:

- Sudbury – Kestrel
  During a police patrol in Sudbury, a vehicle containing two males was seen to park close to an address linked to County Lines drug supply, recent intelligence reports also linked the vehicle to drugs supply. All three occupants were detained under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act. Rear seat passenger was from Manchester with no links to Suffolk and was found in possession of 31 wraps of cocaine, a kitchen knife, cash, and a mobile phone. The front seat passenger was found in possession of a credit card knife, cash and 40 grams of cannabis and driver was found in possession of two wraps of cocaine. All parties were arrested for being concerned in supply of Class A/B, possession of pointed/bladed article and possession of offensive weapon. Currently at CPS for charging advice following forensic work and phone downloads.

- Bury St Edmunds – Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Police were called to a male who was reported as being in possession of a knife in public car park. A male was located and detained for search under S1 PACE. A knife was not recovered but he was found to be in possession of small amount of cocaine. He was arrested and dealt with via out of court disposal.

- Bury St Edmunds – Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT). A suspect linked to known drug line was seen by uniform patrol in alleyway identified through intelligence as an active dealing location. The suspect was detained for a Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) search, and a large quantity of cash and drug paraphernalia and a burner phone was recovered. The suspect was taken to the Police Investigation Centre (PIC) for a strip search, and a golf ball sized wrap of believed class A drugs was recovered. The suspect was released under investigation awaiting forensics on recovered substance and phone downloads.

- Stowmarket - Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) Police were called to report from member of the public of a male acting suspiciously in public. Current intelligence linked the location to street level drug dealing. Male matching description given was found hiding from Police and rucksack was located with him. He was then detained for a Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) search, which revealed a large amount of herbal cannabis and cannabis edibles along with scales. He was arrested and currently released under investigation awaiting phone downloads.

South Suffolk

2.6.13 Stop and Search is monitored locally through the Southern Area performance meeting and tasking meetings, with attention 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.

2.6.14 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 officer's reasonable grounds in future interactions.

2.6.15 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.

2.6.16   The Southern area Kestrel Team has a strong focus on proactive engagement and visibility within the command area. The team has recently been trained under Project Servator, which is a policing tactic that aims to disrupt a range of criminal activity, while providing a reassuring presence for the public.

2.6.17   Project Servator is used to target people based on their behaviour. If someone is displaying a number of "tell-tale" signs which suggests that police presence is making them particularly nervous, they may be stopped and spoken to. If after grounds are found for a search after police engagement with the member of public, this will take place. If no further suspicion is found, the officers will explain more about the project or give wider police messaging.

2.6.18   An important part of any Project Servator deployment is engagement with the public. Officers talk to passers-by about what the police are doing in the area and how they can help by being vigilant and reporting anything unusual. Officers distribute leaflets explaining what Project Servator is and how the public can report suspicious activity.

2.6.19   A key focus during this reporting period has been Operation Hull. This operation seeks to target those in possession of Offensive weapons, particularly those involved in "gang" related violence. This seeks to address the offending which creates the highest harm and risk to the community. There are strong links between those targeted under Op Hull and the supply of drugs within the South.

2.6.20   Searches under Section 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. Under the banner of Op Velocity, (the southern areas operations to target the supply of Class A drugs) dedicated resources in the form of a uniform and plain clothes officers respond to current and actionable intelligence regarding county lines and local drug suppliers.

2.6.21   Section 60 stop search authority has been used on three occasions in the last six months in response to significant incidents of violence. In these instances, the authority has been overseen by a NPCC officer, with proportionality / use reviewed afterwards and scrutinised. As part of this oversight local community groups are informed and consulted.

2.6.22   Operational Examples:

-   CCTV control put out a call on the radio that a male was suspected of dealing drugs in a location in Hadleigh. A description was provided and upon arrival (fifteen minutes after the broadcast), officers saw a male matching that description in that area and detained him under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act (S23 MDA). Herbal cannabis weighing 84.42g was found.

-   Vehicle stopped near to the Essex border, which had been making regular short journeys into Suffolk, with quick turnarounds. Upon stop, member of public could not explain why. Male detained under S23 MDA and evidence within the vehicle led officers to a disused shop in Ipswich. Keys within the male's vehicle opened the door to the property. S18 authorised and an established cannabis grow found within. Calculated yield of £75,000. 34-month custodial sentence given.

-   Vehicle stopped and the driver admitted to having a single wrap of cocaine within the vehicle. Male detained under Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act (S23 MDA and evidence found showing the male had been dealing drugs for six days, selling a total of £25,200 of cocaine in Ipswich. Male also found with fraudulent identity documents. Remanded and later received 32 months imprisonment.

- A Cuckoo address check was made on a male who is vulnerable to exploitation to county-lines drug dealers. Suspect was located in the bathroom of the property and they were about to dispose of items from his belt-line. He was from London (a known key-location for county-lines to originate from) and smell of cannabis was detected. Heroin, £500 in cash, a mobile phone and a large knife were located within the address. Male was charged with supply Heroin and remanded.

- During evening hours in residential street within Ipswich male was stop and searched following a report that a male fitting his description was in that area in possession of a package and was drug dealing. Officers arrived and following a stop search 11 Vials were located – 10 contained white rock substance believed to be cocaine. His phone was seized and his bike was located nearby, as was a large amount of cash which was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

- Officers were on foot patrol as part of Op Hull through an area linked to recent intelligence relating to drug supply and ASB. Whilst patrolling this area there was strong smell of cannabis, and when police walked towards the direction of a male he started walking away from officers in a suspicious manner. Officers asked him to stop and the male surrendered a joint of Cannabis to officers. Grounds for search was explained to the male and when searching a further three plastic bags were found containing cannabis.

2.7   Operation Velocity

2.7.1   Operation Velocity is an initiative focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk. During the reporting period, 38 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to these operations with Ipswich reporting 25 (65.8%), West Suffolk reporting 10 (26.3%), East Suffolk 2 (5.3%) and Mid Suffolk 1 (2.6%). None were recorded in Babergh. In the Ipswich district there were 16 stops of subjects from a white background and 5 on those from a BAME background and in West Suffolk there were 8 stops on subjects from a white background and 2 stops on those from a BAME background.

2.7.2   The countywide statistics are shown in the table below:-

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 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
East Suffolk	2 (5.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (25.0%)
Ipswich	25 (65.8%)	16 (66.7%)	5 (83.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (50.0%)	23 (67.6%)	17 (65.4%)	2 (50.0%)
Mid Suffolk	1 (2.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.9%)	1 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)
West Suffolk	10 (26.3%)	8 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (66.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (50.0%)	8 (23.5%)	8 (30.8%)	1 (25.0%)
Total	38 (100.0%)	24 (100.0%)	6 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)	34 (100.0%)	26 (100.0%)	4 (100.0%)

Table 19: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocity

2.7.3   In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity, 68.4% were Suffolk addresses, 10.5% were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 21.1% of cases. The NFA rate for Operation Velocity is 89.5%.

2.7.3   According to the County Lines Disruptions Log, the following statistics have been recorded between October 2021 and September 2022.

No. disruptions	Quantity of drugs seized	Cash seized
158	Class A: Not confirmed Cannabis: Approx. 2.7kg Cocaine: Approx 0.5kg	Approx £27,000

Table 20: Countywide Disruptions.

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

3.   NATIONAL COMPARISON

3.1 The latest national stop search data was published to March 2022. In the year ending March 2022 there were 526,024 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, a decrease of 25% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk (April 2021 to March 2022) the number of stops decreased from 5,231 to 4,216 (-19.4%) in Suffolk.

3.2 The latest national data are for the financial year 2021/22. This data shows that Suffolk conducted six stops per 1,000 of population compared to seven stops per 1,000 of population in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were nine searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2022.

3.3 In the year ending 31st March 2022, those who considered themselves to be from BAME groups (Black, Mixed Race, Asian and Minority Ethnic) were approximately 3.6 as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. In Suffolk, for the year ending 30th September 2022, those who considered themselves to be from BAME groups were 3.5 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 BAME groups were 3.4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be from a White background.

3.4 A similar pattern was seen for the Black Ethnic Group (a subset of BAME covering Black, Black African, Black Caribbean and other Black backgrounds) which fell from 6 times as likely to just over 4 times as likely between the years ending March 2012 and 2015, before rising to 6.5 times as likely in the year ending March 2016. This rose again to over 8 times as likely in the year ending March 2017 and then 9.5 times as likely in the year ending March 2018. This remained stable in the year ending March 2019 and March 2020, with those who considered themselves to be Black just under 9.5 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. In the year ending 31st March 2022, in England and Wales people who identify as Black or Black British were searched at a rate 7.4 times higher than those identifying as being from a White Ethnic Group.
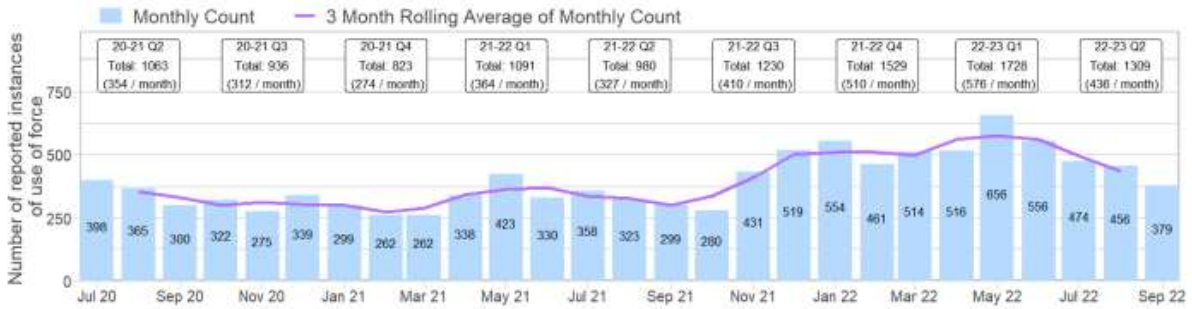
4.   OVERALL TRENDS – USE OF FORCE

Figure 14: Volume of Use of force instances, 01/07/2020-30/09/2022

4.1 5,796 reported instances of use of force were reported in the current reporting period. This is an increase of 20.0% compared to 4,830 in the last reporting period (12 months ending March 2022). There has been an upward trend, with Q1 2022-23 showing the highest volume in the last eight quarters. This increase in reporting is likely a result of the messaging that is being reinforced to officers. At the beginning of January 2023, the AFI (Assaults, Force and Injury) app is due to go live (subject to sign-off).
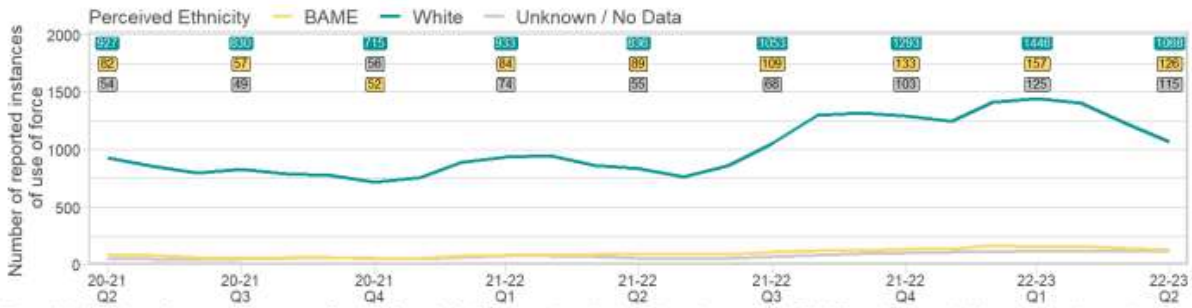
Figure 15: Volume of Use of force instances by ethnicity, 01/07/2020-30/09/2022
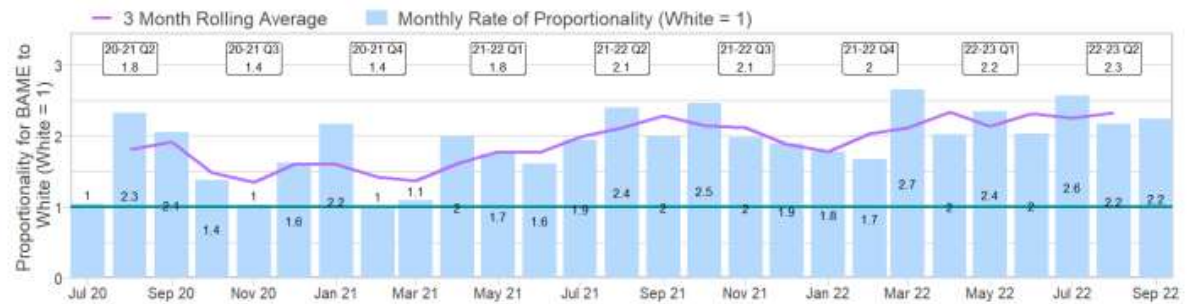
Figure 16: Disproportionality in Use of force instances, 01/07/2020-30/07/2022

4.1.1 There has been an upward trend, with Q1 2022-23 showing the highest volume in the last eight quarters. The rate of disproportionality for BAME was 2.3 in Q2 2022-23 and this rate of disproportionality of 2.0 in 21-22 Q4 was relatively high compared to the eight previous quarters. There were operations commissioned around gang rivalries and youth violence in Q4 2021/22 and there were violent offences which resulted in a series of section 60s in Q2 2022-23. These factors have likely impacted these levels of disproportionality.

5. OVERALL TRENDS – CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE (C.E.D) – TASER USAGE
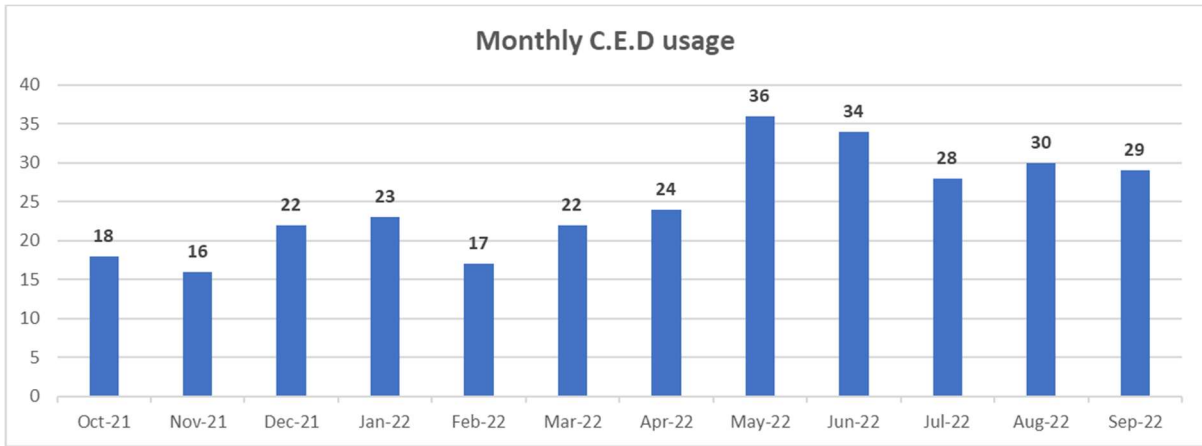
Figure 17: Monthly Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage 01/10/2021 to 30/09/2022

5.1   The use of tasers makes up one element of the police's use of force tactical options. Over the 12-month reporting period Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage totalled 299, with an average of 25 usages a month. There has been a general upward trend over the reporting period with monthly volumes peaking in May and June 2022.
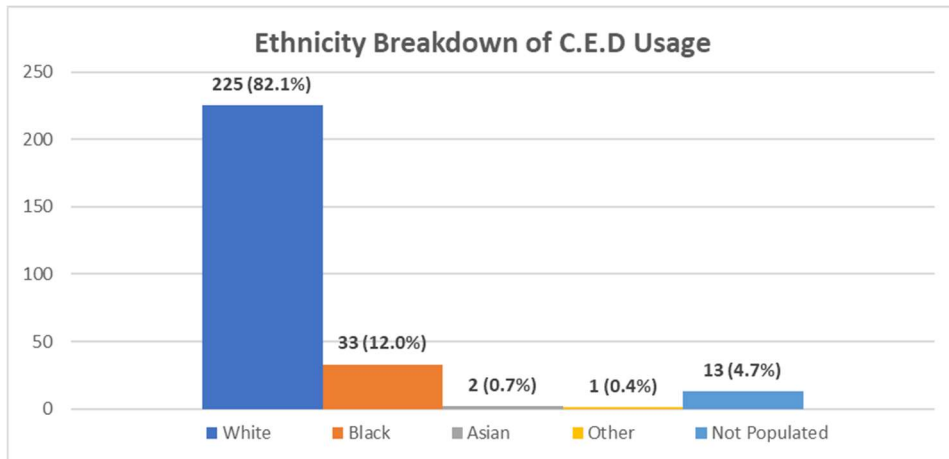

Figure 18: Ethnicity breakdown of C.E.D usage 01/10/2021 to 30/09/2022

5.1.1   Figure 20 above highlights that 82.1% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, 12.0% were Black, 0.7% were Asian and 0.4% were Other.
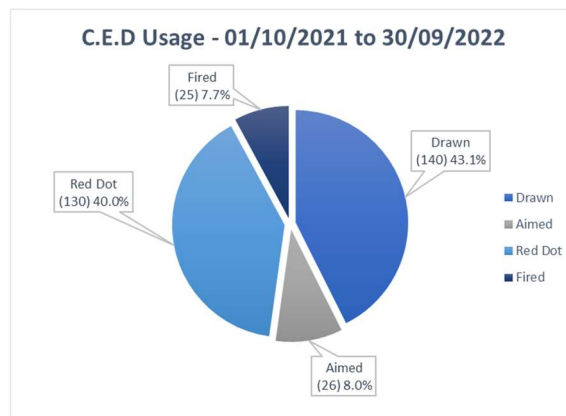
Figure 19: C.E.D usage breakdown 01/10/2021-30/09/2022

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

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 Appendix A displays the latest statistics in respect of the Proportionality of Stop and Search Use in Suffolk in respect of BAME and Age, for the period 1 October 2021 to 29 September 2022. Please note this was produced for internal scrutiny purposes in October 2022 but has been included as it provides further information on proportionality with regards to ethnicity and young people, in an accessible format.

7. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ISCRE ON REGARDING THE WORK OF THE STOP AND SEARCH REFERENCE GROUP (SSRG)

7.1. A report compiled by ISCRE detailing the work and findings of the Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) is attached at Appendix B.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.
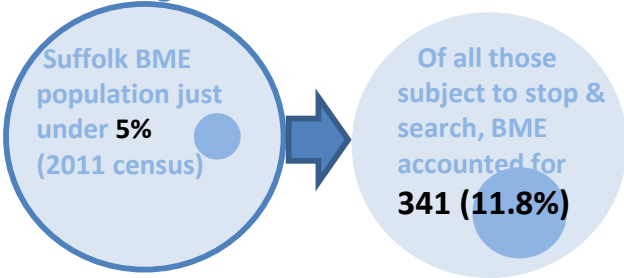
9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

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

PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - BME

Date Range 01/10/2021 to 29/09/2022

Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk
Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 2895 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 (11.8%)**

Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
All addresses	0.8	7.9	2.1	8.4
Suffolk addresses	0.8	8.6	2.2	9.0

Since the last reporting period, disproportionality has decreased slightly for Asian and Mixed ethnicities and increased for Black and Other ethnicities.

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 over **3.0** times more likely to be subject of stop/search than white counterparts, increasing to **3.4** times when including all subjects. For Suffolk only, disproportionality is higher amongst males with males 3.1 more likely compared to females 1.8 times more likely to be subject of stop search .
- Similar to the previous reporting period, the highest disproportionality was seen in Mid Suffolk for Suffolk only addresses.
- Searches in West Suffolk were the least disproportionate.
- Overall disproportionality for Suffolk only has increased slightly since the last reporting period, and remained the same for all addresses.


--- Stop & Search parity

The majority of persons subject to stop search are male (83.9%). **Males are 5.4 times more likely to be subject of stop search than female counterparts.**

Disproportionality amongst Under 18s.........

- Of all U18s subject to stop search BME = **11.1%**.
- Reviewing the under 18 population, BME subjects **2.0** times more likely to be stop searched than white peers (Suffolk only). This is a small increase since the last reporting period.
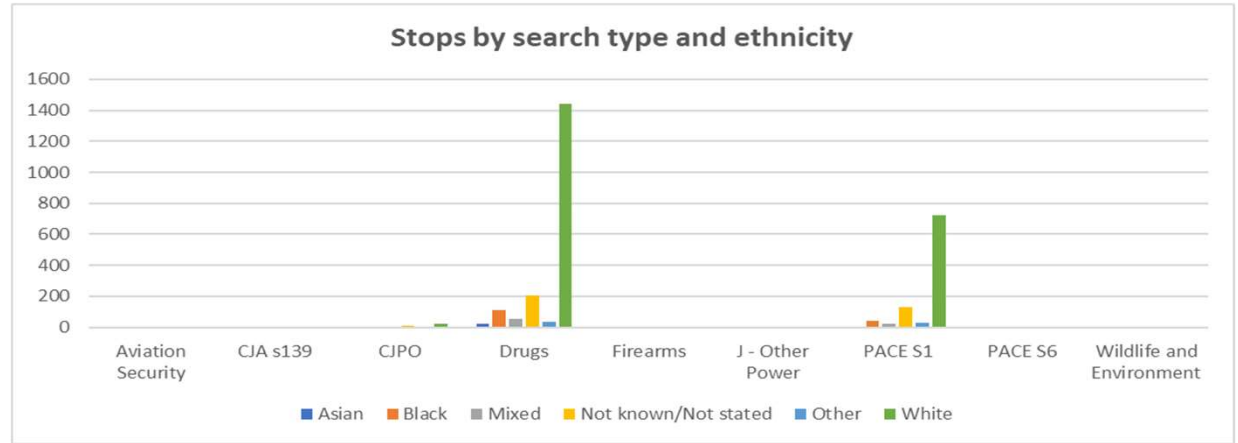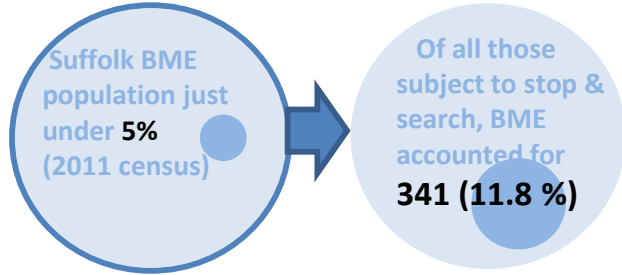

Disproportionality by ethnicity Suffolk Only

Disproportionality by ethnicity All addresses
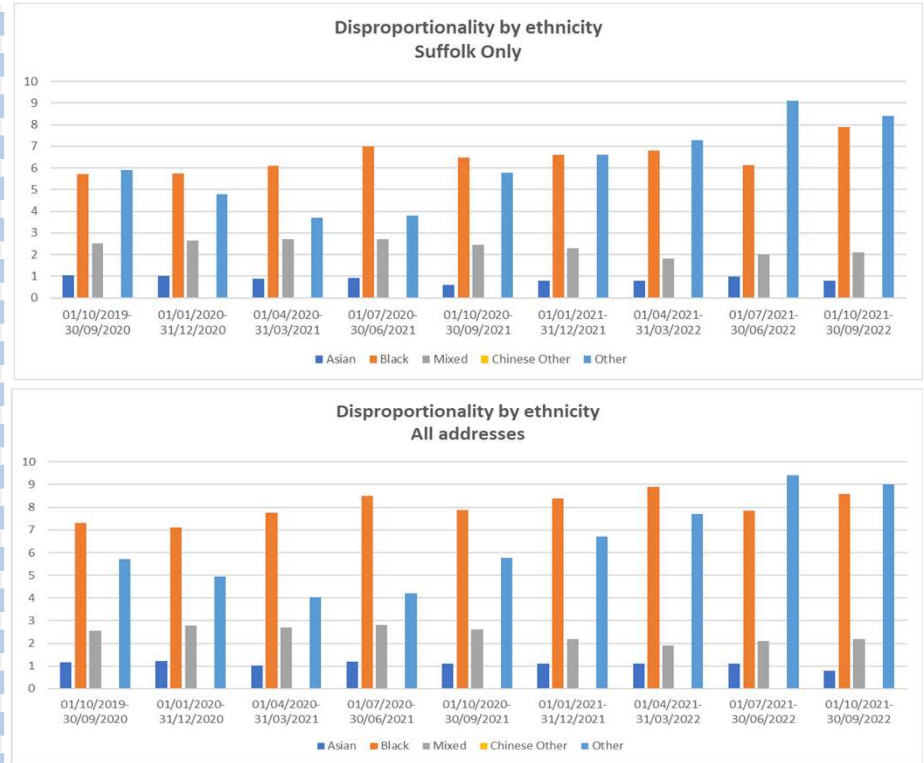
District	Suffolk addresses		All addresses	
	BME	White	BME	White
All	341	2202	525	3032
East Suffolk	39	541	60	734
Mid Suffolk	7	117	10	153
Ipswich	245	815	356	1102
West Suffolk	43	586	80	841
Babergh	7	143	19	202

The table to the left displays the counts of stop searches conducted on persons split by White/BME and District.

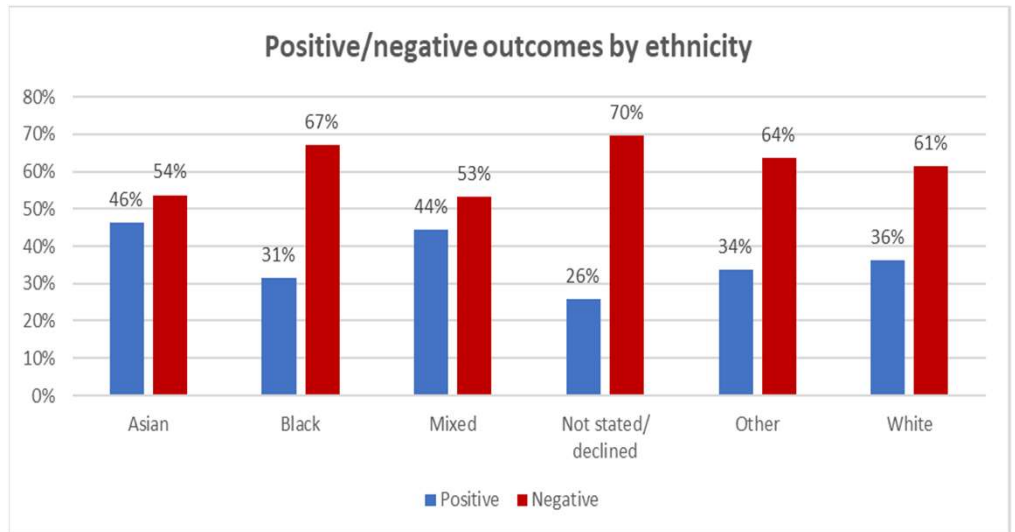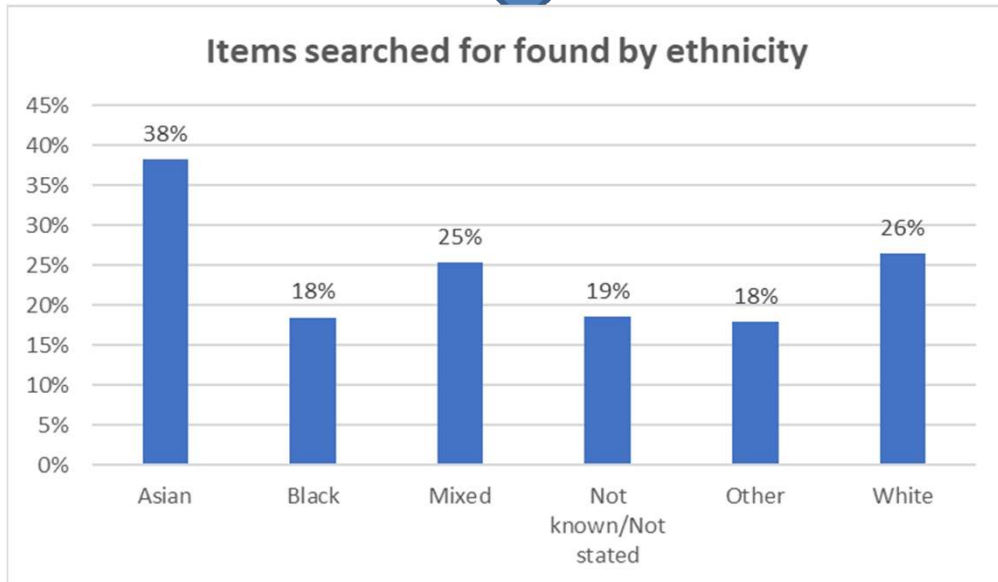# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK – BME

Date Range 01/10/2021 to 29/09/2022

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

Of all those subject to stop & search, BME accounted for **341 (11.8 %)**

Stops by search type and ethnicity

Aviation Security | CJA s139 | CJPO | Drugs | Firearms | J - Other Power | PACE S1 | PACE S6 | Wildlife and Environment

■ Asian ■ Black ■ Mixed ■ Not known/Not stated ■ 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 irrespective of ethnicity have slightly decreased by 0.7p.p (25.0%). Find rates have only increased for Not known/Not stated and decreased slightly for all others.

Find rate is slightly higher for females (26.8%) than males (24.6%).

Items searched for found by ethnicity

Ethnicity	%
Asian	38%
Black	18%
Mixed	25%
Not known/Not stated	19%
Other	18%
White	26%

Positive/negative outcomes by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Positive	Negative
Asian	46%	54%
Black	31%	67%
Mixed	44%	53%
Not stated/ declined	26%	70%
Other	34%	64%
White	36%	61%

■ Positive ■ Negative

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

Positive outcome rate is slightly lower across all ethnicities apart from White and Asian, where there was an increase.

Overall positive outcome rate has remained stable since last reporting period and is 35.2%. Positive outcomes were higher amongst females (38.1%) than males (34.6%).

PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - AGE

Date Range 01/10/2021 to 29/09/2022

Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk
*Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 2895 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.*

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

→ **Under 18s accounted for 817 (28.4%) of stop searches**
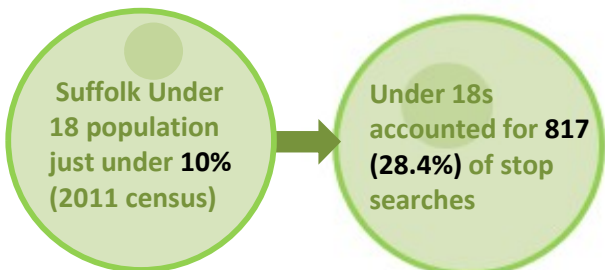
Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk for Under 18s

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.2	7.4	1.2	8.5
All addresses	0.2	9.4	1.1	9.4

Amongst U18s, all ethnicities experience lower disproportionality then when all ages are reviewed together with the exception of Black, which is slightly higher. Disproportionality for U18s has increased slightly for Black and Mixed and decreased slightly for Asian and Other.
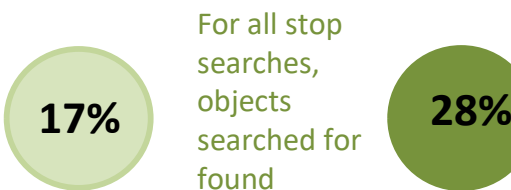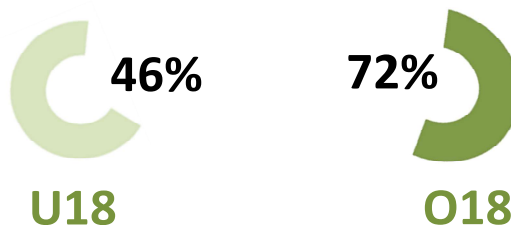
Disproportionality by District

Stop & Search parity

- Disproportionality
- Suffolk only
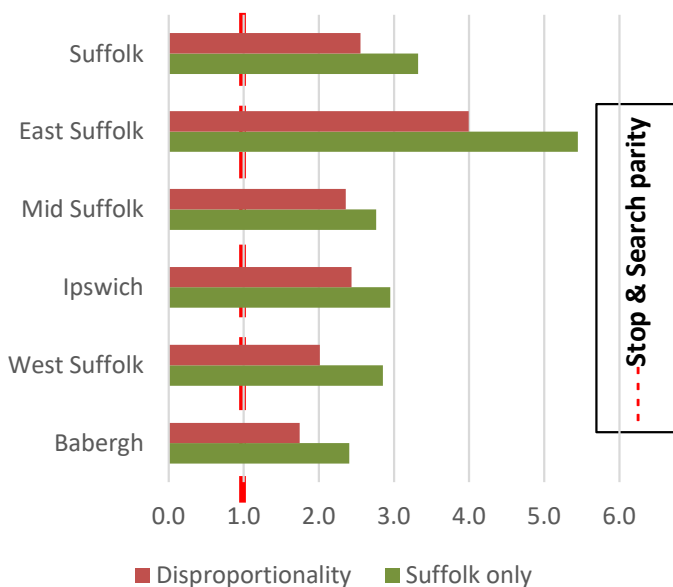
- The Suffolk U18 community is just under **3.3** times more likely to be subject of stop/search than over 18 counterparts, decreasing to **2.6** times when including all subjects indicating that the majority of external subjects are aged over 18.
- This disproportionality is slightly higher amongst males (3.3) compared to females (2.8).
- Disproportionality has increased for all subjects and 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 18 and over and Under 18s.

46% U18   **72%** O18

17% / For all stop searches, objects searched for found / **28%**

The percentage of objects searched for found has decreased slightly for under 18s and increased slightly for over 18s since the last reporting period.

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 **1.8.** This has increased by 0.4pp since the last reporting period.

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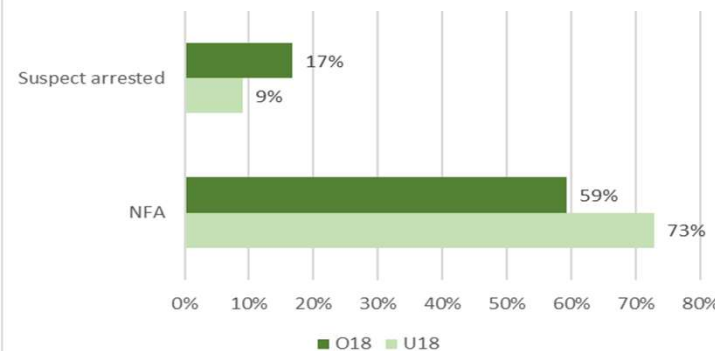
- Following stop search under 18s are subject to NFA more often than over 18s
- Under 18s are subject to arrest less than over 18s

Stop by search type and age
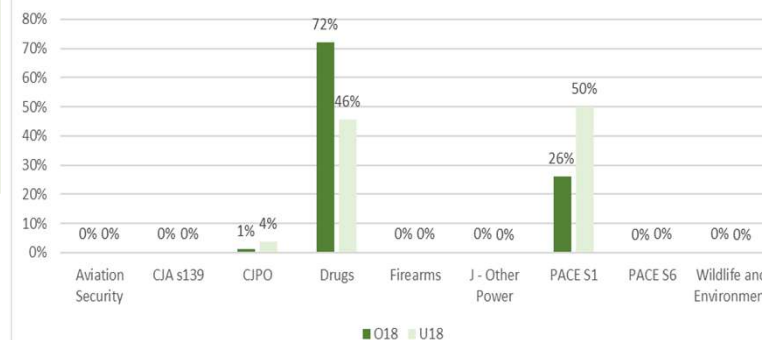
Drugs and Pace S1 are the most common reason for stop searches. Higher rates of Pace S1 are seeing for both under 18s and 18s and over since the last reporting period.

ISCRE's Report on the work of the Stop and Search Reference Group– June to December 2022

The aim of the Stop and Search Reference Group is 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.

For the **27 July 2022** meeting, we received a total of 674 stop and search forms. Out of that, the following were selected, to audit:
- W1 – 49 out of 492 forms
- BAME – 30 out of 64 forms
- White Other – 39 out of 118 forms

For the **28 September 2022** meeting, we received a total of 773 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit:
- W1 – 57 out of 577 forms
- BAME – 25 out of 77 forms
- White Other – 39 out of 119 forms

For the **30 November 2022** meeting, we received a total of 671 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit:

- W1 – 30 out of 303 forms
- BAME – 34 out of 104 forms
- White other – 51 out of 155 forms
- Not stated – 36 out of 139 forms

Body Worn Video

Community scrutiny of body worn video resumed on 18 November with a new approach that allows the process to take place online. ISCRE scrutinised 2 separate incidents and provided feedback on good practice.

Main issues arising:

Concerns continue to be raised regarding the lack of detail on the grounds that formed the police's reasonable suspicion.

Issues regarding younger in service officers making mistakes during stop and search seem to be a constant feature of the scrutiny process, with community concerns about the impact on the public.

Body worn video was not activated on several instances. Body worn video helps both the police and members of the public, the scrutiny group encourages its consistent use.

Things not always picked up by supervisors and some bad practices being allowed to seep through due to lack of/poor oversight.

There was an increase in the use of Section 60 in the summer, raising community concern. This now seems to have receded.

Concerns were also raised with challenges of information not being uploaded to Athena records. Officers conducting stop and search are being encouraged to make use of Optik correctly.

There continues to be inconsistencies in the use of handcuffs as different officers are dealing with similar situations differently. This is being looked at as part of the scrutiny of use of force exercise.

Dates for 2023 Stop and Search Reference Group meetings:
- 25 January
- 29 March
- 31 May
- 26 July
- 27 September
- 29 November

Other activity to support community understanding of Stop and Search

Youth Project

The SSRG and Suffolk Police collaborated on a youth social action conference at the University of Suffolk, on 14th July 2022 organised by Volunteering Matters for young people across Suffolk. It was well attended by primary schools across Suffolk. We delivered a joint session on rights and use of stop and search which was well received by the teachers and students. The SSRG created physical cards for the children that cover GOWISLEY. It was felt that this is something that could be rolled out in our schools across Suffolk. It is

particularly important that all young people know their own rights especially when dealing with the police.

Know Your Rights Workshop @ The Hold

ISCRE and Suffolk Police collaborated within these workshops to help members of the public to understand the Stop and Search police powers. The aim of the workshop was for individuals to receive information to 'Know Your Rights' in a stop and search situation. ISCRE and Suffolk Police conducted a stop and search role play exercise for students from West Suffolk College & Psychology students from Suffolk One which brought to life the experiences of young people subjected to the use of police stop and search powers.
At the request of the young people attending, the November 2022 Stop and Search Reference Group meeting was held at West Suffolk College, with attendance from the students, members of the public, the police and representative from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

Sharon Lee
ISCRE