

Brent Community Monitoring Group News



Introduction

Dear Reader,

My name is Roy Croasdaile and I am Chair of Brent Community Monitoring Group, welcome to this opening issue of our newsletter. Our purpose is to provide a local, borough based mechanism to monitor police use of stop and search powers.

Brent Community Monitoring Group is a combination of stakeholders, partners, professionals and members of our community that offer their services as volunteers to advance safety for all members of our community and beyond. We have been established since 2013 and we work in partnership with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, our Local Authority, Brent Police and our Community to monitor stop and search, feedback good practice and to resolve shortcomings.

The range of experience and skills that we bring to support the continuous development of stop and search monitoring has been, and is as follows; Community Representation including Young People; Health and Safety Advice; Legal Advice; Family Welfare; Safeguarding Young People and Vulnerable Adults; Brent Police Advice; Police Custody Suite Monitoring; Stop and Search Scrutiny of Body Worn Video and Redacted Data; and Further Education.

This newsletter has been proposed by me to report to our community on the progress of our activities and to encourage our community to improve awareness of the impact of stop and search powers. This includes our collective responsibility to ensure the safety of people stopped and searched, persons observing stop and search encounters and police officers performing stop and search duties.

Met officers engage with teens in stop and search summer camp

An August summer camp stop and search presentation at Newman Catholic College led by Roy Croasdaile MBE, Chair of the Brent Stop and Search Monitoring Group, explained the use of the practice, the relevant legislation, what to expect during an encounter and how to conduct ourselves when stopped before inviting the 50 students to share their experiences about encounters they may have had. This was followed by breakout role reversal stop and search exercises with police officers who had given up their holiday to attend.

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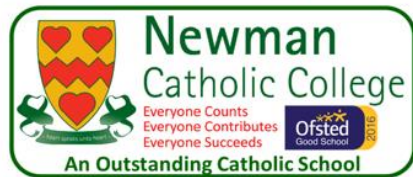
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Young People feedback on stop and search summer camp workshop



Brent CMG Chair led a stop as search interactive workshop with Brent Police officers at NCC in August 2020. Here is some feedback from young people that attended. "I learnt about how the police stop and search people and why. It was useful because I know I can stay calm when I am getting stop and searched". **Donell.**

"The stop and search was useful because if I got stopped I would know what to do if I got stopped I would be calm and I will understand why am getting stopped. I think it helped me understand why police do a

stop and search". **Tyrece.**

"I learnt that we should trust the police and don't act suspicious so the police doesn't approach you. Why would people carry drugs and knives on themselves they want money they should get a normal human being job". **Moktar.**

"It was fun we learned what we are supposed to do and the police have to show you card say name and what station they are from and look everywhere for weapons and drugs because in the summer camp we did a practice". **Adam.**

"The stop and search was useful because if I got stopped and searched I would know what to do, if I got stopped I would be calm and I will understand why am getting stopped. I think it helped me understand why the police do a stop and search".

Body Worn Video Scrutiny

On the 23/10/20 Brent CMG resumed viewing body worn video of Brent stop and search encounters. The resumption of body worn video scrutiny for community monitoring groups is a welcomed opportunity to advance and reconcile what constitutes the purpose and expectation of a stop and search encounter. So what are we looking for? What is our model of good practice and what would be inappropriate? Police must provide or explain: **Grounds for search. Object of the search. Warrant card if not in uniform. Identity of officer. Station police officer is attached to. Entitlement to a search record. Legal power used. You are being detained for a search stated. (GOWISELY).** So what happens when we find something we are not happy with and what are the next steps? A brief report from a randomly selected BWV footage will be published in future newsletters.

Brent Police Comment from Inspector Muneeb Ishtiaq

I'd like to start by saying thank you for the opportunity to have an input in the Brent Community Monitoring Group newsletter. As partnership Inspector I became the stop and search lead for Brent, Barnet and Harrow in May 2020.

Since then I have been trying to improve our working relationship with the Community Monitoring Groups (CMG's). I have been able to change the format of delivery to CMGs emphasising ethnicity of people searched when police use specific powers such as Section 60. This allows the CMG's to better understand the impact that this power has on different aspects of the community.

In line with that I have streamlined the communication route we use when authorising a Section 60 period. On the surface this may seem simple as this initial communication revolves around a WhatsApp group but this is important in facilitating our consultation with the public when we authorise these extra powers.

We have also restarted showing body worn video to our group for independent scrutiny. Brent was the first CMG in the MPS to take part in the new process and I was impressed with the feedback provided.

I cannot stress enough the importance of a having this independent scrutiny. As well as providing a window to allow the public to see how police stop and searches are conducted, we as a force benefit from the different perspectives that these viewings provide allowing us to view police actions from the public point of view as opposed to a policing one. I have taken the provided feedback back to our officers to show them the impact of their actions as well as give them a better understanding of what the public expects from them.



London Community Monitoring Groups Engage, Explain and Educate

Working in partnership with Inspectors Lucky and Charlotte Singh, police officers and police volunteers including experienced Notting Hill Carnival stop and search monitors from Brent, Haringey, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Waltham Forest CMG Chairs led by Roy Croasdaile we collaborated to support community engagement and stop and search monitoring as part of Operation Minorca in Notting Hill 28th to 31st August.

This initiative was in response to community concerns regarding an increase in 'block party' unlicensed music events, criminal gang violence, COVID-19 risk and BAME high mortality rates.

Our brief to engage, explain and educate followed strict COVID-19 risk assessment and personal protective equipment allocation; we explained COVID-19 safety legislation; Unlicensed music events (UMEs); Stop and search know your rights; Coronavirus and the police for under 18s; BAME high mortality; Section (35) ASB Dispersal; Section (50) ASB Name and address; shared 528 stop and search know your rights booklets and clarified the role Community Monitoring Groups.

The weekend was without serious disorder, our CMG team monitored stop and search and worked alongside an exceptionally talented community engagement police team. We engaged with and were engaged by young people, adults and visitors to the area.

On the 30/08/20 at 15:00 we observed 72 seconds silence for the 72 people lost at Grenfell Tower.

Community Comment

"The work that Brent Stop and Search CMG do is second to none, without it young people, mothers, fathers and the community would not know what to do or where to go as the local authority or other agencies do not do this work, which is why this work is second to none. Also, Brent CMG Section 60 stop and search WhatsApp alerts helps so much, as parents are forewarned and if their children are stopped and searched they know why".

Trevor White. AFC Wembley Football Club Co-founder and Coach.



Dawn Butler MP hosts stop and search round table meeting

Dawn Butler MP invited Brent CMG Chair to a round table stop and search meeting to discuss issues specific to Brent CMG and on-going Section 163 road traffic stop concerns 14/09/20.

Roy Croasdaile asked Borough Commander Roy Smith what he will be doing to protect Brent Central's MP from the death threats she has been receiving as we do not want another Jo Cox MP incident.

Roy Smith condemned the threats sent to Dawn and assured all present that the MPS was taking the safety of our Brent Central MP very seriously.

Brent CMG Chair presented 52 Section 60 authorities specific to Brent, Harrow and Barnet since 15/04/18 some 487 stop and searches; arrests: 19 is 4% of 487; drugs 6 is 1.23% of 487; weapons 11 is 2.3% of 487. Stating this is why the BAME community complain of being over policed and feel they are treated like soldiers behind enemy lines.

Roy Smith responded to say Section 60's are not just about arrests or seizure it is also a deterrent and to disrupt criminal activity.

Roy Croasdaile raised the lack of and importance of on-going equality impact assessment of stop and search particular to the new codes since Theresa May's 2014 Home Office Consultation.

Dawn Butler MP's Round Table ACTION:

Roy Smith stated Brent will trial how it records Section 163 traffic stop impacts in response to the Liberty and Stopwatch report that identified the need for evidence of an accountability mechanism to clarify whether there may be a breach of individual human rights.

Brent CMG Newsletter

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Information Noticeboard

- How to complain about a stop and search encounter - The Independent Office of Police Conduct website www.policeconduct.gov.uk Tel: 030 0020 0096
- IOPC Email: enquires@policeconduct.gov.uk
- Contact them via twitter [@IOPC_Helppoliceconduct.gov.uk](https://twitter.com/IOPC_Helppoliceconduct.gov.uk)
- Met Police Stop and Search Stats and Data Dash Board - Ctrl + Click to follow this link <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/stop-and-search->

Brent CMG Chair’s Comment

The lingering and unprecedented sharp shock of COVID-19 has had its 2020 impact on the work of London’s stop and search community monitoring groups, this included the suspension of face to face meetings, viewing body worn video and redacted stop and search data scrutiny. Nevertheless, due to the unstinting efforts of several CMG Stop and Search Chairs, Insp Fiona Partridge, Commander Jane Connors, Natasha Plummer MOPAC and our Communities we have resumed the fundamentally crucial viewing of body worn video. Thank you to all of you for your on-going support and for helping to keep our communities safe at this time; our journey continues. Forward together, advancing an inclusive and safe community.

Editor Roy Croasdaile MBE - Brent CMG Chair; Vice Chair MOPAC CMN
Co -Producer Susan Grace – Brent CMG Vice Chair



Brent CMG Newsletter

Join Us:

Brent CMG Meeting Dates.

9th February 2021

4th May 2021

13th July 2021

12th October 2021

At a Brent venue to be confirmed and or by conference call. Telephone or email to attend. Limited places are available.

Summary of EqlA; Brent CMG meetings; Body worn video scrutiny; Redacted data scrutiny; & Brent Section 60 alerts. **It’s what we do, and will be updated every 3 months.**

