

Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Notes & Actions



Thursday 25th August 2022

The Leadon, HQ

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Attendees - Carl Bourne, Paul Stickler, Amanda Dearlove, Adam Stevens, Alan Bartholomew, Paul Lane, Paresh Bhadesia, Rich Croston, Victoria Bishop, Andy Kilmurray.

Apologies – Becky Beard, Jeni Rawes, Ben Rollins, Andy Baldwin, Jane Harris, Atira Burton.

The Chair opened the meeting, introductions were made around the room and apologies noted.

2. Minutes & Actions from last meeting

These were sent out to all attendee's and would be noted as correct unless anyone came back with any points to raise. Outstanding actions were discussed and also closed during the meeting.

Action 85 – Use of Body Worn Video in hospital – CLOSED

Agenda item to be added at next meeting – custody updates.

3. Quarterly Use of Force figures & PowerPoint

The PowerPoint was discussed. It was noted in the charts that 9 cases were showing for under 11years of age. Can we have a look at them and report back to the chair.

New Action 86 – Look in to reports of 9 under 11years Use of Force reports and report back to chair.

Update- It would appear that the 9 reports are actually 4 incidents where by multiple staff have put in forms after putting hands on 4 young persons. The highest level of force applied was "Hands on persons". All forms have been saved and reviewed and are lawful and proportionate.

One form is incorrect, and the officer has inputted the DOB wrong. We will attempt to alter the DOB in order that records are correct.

4. Professional Standards Department

Not in attendance. The figures were provided by the department but they were found to be lacking in detail.

New Action 87- Ask PSD to give a breakdown of their figures to get a better understanding of the complaints that come in.

5. Learning & Development (Training) Update

No further updates to report. Training is going well and the new training package for OST starting in January 2023 where the course is 2 days long scenario based with an extra 1 day for First Aid. Force communication will be sent out in Oct 2022.

6. Review of Use of Force incidents.

All of the cases will be categorised as either:

BLACK- Failed to agree

RED- Inappropriate

AMBER- Appropriate with comments

GREEN- Appropriate

The panel reviewed 8 cases, all of which involved female subjects.

Case 1- Forest of Dean area

Summary:

999 call made to police from a resident in Cinderford regarding her next door neighbour who is shouting threats to kill her through the walls and banging on them.

The crisis team had previously attended the property but since they left the situation has escalated.

Police arrived and went straight to the caller and once details were obtained they attended at the neighbour's property.

They had to scale a garden fence to gain entry to the garden as the female refused to unlock a garden gate.

Female was arrested and taken to the custody suite.

Use of Force submitted for use of handcuffs upon arrest.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 2 - Cotswolds

Summary

This case involves the police attending at the address in relation to a report of a domestic incident and also the children can be heard screaming in the property.

Police attended and arrested the female in the property for an assault on her partner and also for neglect of the children in the house. The male was also arrested for both offences.

Use of Force submitted for use of handcuffs upon arrest.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 3 – Cotswolds

Summary

Member of the public called in to report a road traffic accident and one driver was thought to be drunk.

By the time police got to the scene they were informed the offending vehicle had left and both occupants were believed to be drunk.

Police found a female who matched the description of the driver walking down the road and the vehicle abandoned with extensive damage.

She was arrested and handcuffed due to her demeanour at the scene.

Use of Force submitted for use of handcuffs upon arrest.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 4 – Cheltenham

Summary

999 call made from a carer to say (12 year old) had run off from him and wouldn't come back.

Police attended to assist in the search for the young person, who had a history of mental health problems.

Person was found by police and stopped from walking away again.

Use of Force was used to assist the person back into the car with a carer so she could return to her placement address.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 5 - GloucesterSummary

999 call made from female reporting that her daughter had damaged her car.

Offender was at the property and arrested upon police attendance.

Use of Force – handcuffs

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 6 - StroudSummary

999 call made from female reporting that she had assaulted her boyfriend to stop him smashing the TV up.

Upon arrival at the premises police arrested the caller for the assault.

Use of Force – handcuffs

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 7 – Learning & DevelopmentSummary

999 call made from member of the public reporting the occupants of a vehicle were seen to be doing balloons and have driven off.

Vehicle stopped by police driving away from the location, driver arrested as she refused to give details. Upon further investigation it was found she was a provisional driving licence holder only. Vehicle was recovered as no insurance.

Female was restrained when the vehicle was stopped as she was non-compliant. She was later de arrested and reported for the driving offences.

Use of Force – restrained.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

Case 8 - StroudSummary

Call from ambulance staff to say they are at an address and the female is trying to assault them. They are concerned as she has taken an overdose and they require back up.

Upon police arrival the female is detained under the mental health act and escorted into the ambulance. Once inside she became abusive trying to kick out at staff.

Handcuffs used to stop her hurting herself and the ambulance crew.

She was conveyed to GRH for an assessment

Use of Force – handcuffs.

Panel Decision: **GREEN**

7. AOB

The group discussed the parameters for the next meeting and it was decided that we would look at all Use of Force reports made by PCSO's.

8. Date of next meeting - TBC