



# Stop and Search: A Safeguarding Perspective

A joint project between the Metropolitan Police and the London Borough of Haringey's Children's Services – Sponsor Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services

September 2023

# Our aims



**Children safe and supported in their community**

**Voice of the child heard across all agencies**

**Children and parents aware of their rights and feel fairly treated**

**Improve practice across the partnership through the HCSP**

**Effective community engagement – rebuilding trust**

# Our aim: Disproportionality

High rate of exclusions

Serious youth violence - disproportionality

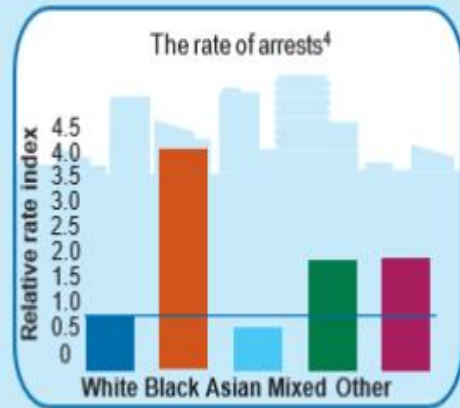
Good schools, but high variance

Compounded lack of investment - mental health services, SLT, GPs, adults and children

Systemic change

Pre court

Black children are over **four times** more likely to be arrested than white children<sup>4</sup>

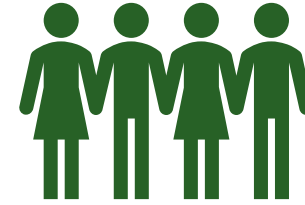




## Why we began this work: Haringey Community Context

- Intergenerational concerns from the community
- Young people telling us about their experience of stop and search
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zzEc5QqH8iOw7kRMzM4IZ4-cZLidRGiT/view?usp=sharing>
- Political & ethical imperatives for the community
- Young person tasered and other concerns regarding police responses
- Safeguarding and potential for trauma through stop and search
- [Youth Justice – the Black Experience Podcast](#)

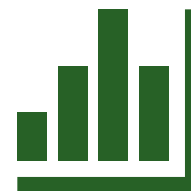
## Why we think this worked: Strong relationships



**Haringey**  
LONDON

- **Culture had to be right to start pilot – positive relationships with police are central to this work**
- Founded on **trust, commitment and willingness to work together** between senior leaders in North Area Unit and Children’s Services in Haringey.
- ‘Working together’ is at the core of our child protection activity.
- **This work has purposefully sought to place aside historical narratives on police use of stop and search**, instead working together on the common purpose of keeping children and young people safe.
- Mutual respect - **recognising the importance of stop and search, and any follow up activity, being conducted in a way that is respectful of the individuals affected**; legitimacy is key to confidence in policing and local authority safeguarding procedures.
- **We work under the HSCP** - Safeguarding is **everyone’s** business and therefore any interaction with a child or a young person should be reflected on strategically by police, for opportunities to protect children and young people across all agencies.
- **Going beyond culture and ethnicity – fostering a sense of belonging for children**

## Why we began this work: Data



- Phase 1 using data intelligently to inform the business case and solve the safeguarding ‘problem’
- Negotiating a specific data sharing agreement to access sensitive police information
- Using information from other agencies to deepen understanding of contextual factors, for example:
  - a) YJB focus on length of times for National Referral Mechanism - disparity in delays
  - b) Pre MACE intelligence
  - c) Black & Global Majority - inclusion

# **Findings from Audits February 2022 – March 2023**

# Findings



## Sample Stop and search *records* from February 2022 – March 2023

*Volume* estimated 7,484 total stop and searched conducted. 1,561 assessed as children under 18 years old.

**91** stop and search records were analysed by those involved in the pilot over the period February 2022 – March 2023

**6** stop and search records had no MERLIN report, and the children were not Haringey residents, but children stopped in ‘Haringey hot spot areas’. These were removed from the sample

**8** stop and search records had a linked MERLIN created after the stop and search

Age	Stop Records
10	1
11	3
12	2
13	8
14	15
15	18
16	27
17	11



# Findings



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**Haringey**  
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## **Stop and search *individual young people***

System issues from audits

- **3 Children in care to Haringey - LA not informed**
- **14 of the children lived in households where DA was an issue with 2 children reporting avoiding staying at home due to parental conflict and DA not previously reported . Of the 14, 3 previously known to MARAC**
- **6 children under the age of 15, resident in another LA but stopped and search in Haringey. 2 found in possession of cannabis and at risk of exploitation 1 was a looked after child**
- **16 experienced significant housing instability, temporary accommodation and cross borough mobility**
- **4 known to Education Welfare and a concern for Children Missing Education**
- **2 Children whose parents worked for the Council and the police**
- **2 Children, 16plus using the names of older adult siblings or declined to disclose ID**
- **Children and young people also known to Haringey Learning Partnership , Special Schools , diagnosis of autism, diabetes, epilepsy and other primary and secondary health care leads & SEND not notified**

## **Child TZ Subject to CDOP and SPR**

- **17 stop and searches not linked to a merlin – shot , stabbed and later died on 15/04/2023 in Tottenham.**
- **Not on ‘gangs’ matrix**
- **Mother Childminder , HMI involved**
- **Mother destroyed smart whip capsules & referred to GP who not appreciating the issues did not refer**
- **Post death community intelligence suggested– family home would be robbed to recover a debt**
- **T known to Youth service, but police youth link officer not notified of penalty notices**
- **Educational establishment not notified.**

# Recommendations

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## Advance to Phase 3:

- Pilot work with the MET police to extend to all BCU's in London to audit 10 stop & search with no linked merlin for children under 16 years old
- Feed the findings into the consultation for working together
- Focused work with SEN Schools, Neighbourhood Police & SEND
- Through CDOP & Safeguarding Partnerships Boards use data to examine system for Preventing child deaths.
- Information sharing for identified cohorts: adolescents on CP, Pre MACE, YJS, Rapid Reviews,

# HARINGEY CONTINUE – IMPLEMENTATION OF PRACTICE CHANGES



## Young People

- The Missing App – Go Wisely
- Parenting Education
- Development of Parent Champions trained to lead Family Network meeting for children absent or missing from home
- Child IDVA's
- School exclusion/use of reduced timetables
- Stop and search data shared at Pre Mace
- SLT needs and perceptions of behaviour and use of force



## Workforce

- HSCP Learning from audits
- HSCP – workforce focus on culture change – trauma informed and raising awareness on Speech and language skills , think family , think community



## System

- Increase community support services
- Continuing to work with the police on a data set to monitor impact
- MASH reporting to assist understanding where disparity at the point of referral
- Parent and carers to be informed
- Child Q Recommendations

## Stories from children



- C, aged 14, stopped and search 7 times, he was 13 the first time he was stopped and searched. C described feeling ashamed so did not disclose these instances to his new Social Worker, mentor or carer. C avoided spending time in the areas he was stopped and searched impacting school attendance and peer relationships. Recently, C was robbed but his lack of trust in the Police prevented police disclosure.

## Stories from the workforce

- We are senior officers within the Council, who experienced being stopped and search as a child referred to as: IC3 male. Decades later we recall the humiliation and trauma because of the **way** the stop and search was conducted. Complaints: we never received a response.



## Stories from parents / carers



- My son was killed by another young person near my home , his body laid on a dirty pavement ... I wanted the police to stop and search all children until I spoke to my sons, friends and those at his school. I then pleaded for a change so more young people would develop trust and reduce the perception of over policing, under protected.

## Exclusions – A different approach and better outcomes



# QUESTIONS

