

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 31st January 2019 Item 4 - Evidence gathering for review - trends in Stop and Search	Item No 4
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Outline

The Commission is coming to the end of evidence gathering for its review exploring the response of the Council and partners to an escalation in levels of serious violence. This occurred during a period starting in late 2017. The rise in Hackney was reflective of patterns across London (and the UK).

Around the time that the terms of reference for the review were being developed there was commentary by both the Mayor of London and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner around a stepping up of ‘targeted and intelligence led’ stop and searches, as one of the responses to the escalations in violence.

These announcements came after a period in which the Metropolitan Police made concerted efforts to reduce stop and search. Total numbers of stops and searches reduced by 42% between 2014 and 2017¹.

There had also been a re-emergence in the use of Section 60 orders, including those covering the whole of Hackney. Section 60 orders allow for searches to be carried out without suspicion. Hackney was subject to nine borough-wide Section 60 orders in the year up to the 15th May 2018, the third highest in London.

There have been long standing concerns around people from particular ethnic groups being much more likely to be stopped and searched than others. Currently, black individuals in London are more than four times more likely to be stopped and searched than white individuals².

The above considered, Members felt it timely for the review to receive an update on Stop and Search activity in Hackney. This is in terms of numbers, the profiles of those being stopped, and outcomes achieved from them. Within this, Members requested an update on Section 60 deployment in the borough.

The paper enclosed has been provided in support of the item.

Guest Expected:

- Sue Williams, Central East Commander, Metropolitan Police Service

¹ Review of the Metropolitan Police Service Gangs Matrix, 2018

² MPS Stop and Search Dashboard. Disproportionality is calculated on year projection population figures (source: London Data Store).

Action

The Commission is asked to review the paper enclosed in advance of the meeting. They are asked to hear any opening comments from the Central East Commander, Metropolitan Police Service, before asking questions on Stop and Search activity in the borough.