

<b>Cardiff Stop and Search engagement report</b>
<b>BTEG, Coalition for Racial Justice and the Runnymede Trust (members of the Coalition for Race Equality) and StopWatch</b>
<b>Local partners: Race Equality First (REF) and South Riverside Community Development Centre (SRCDC)</b>
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### 1. The partners organising the event

The Stop and Search consultation in Cardiff was organised by Race Equality First in partnership with South Riverside Community Development Centre (SRCDC), CORE, BTEG and StopWatch.

### 2. Why the event was organised?

Race Equality First (REF) has championed race equality in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan for over 34 years. REF runs projects that aim to raise individual and community awareness of rights and other legislation that helps challenge discrimination. Their casework services provide advice support, advocacy, referrals and representation for individuals who have been victims of discrimination or harassment.

As a result of their policy, casework and community engagement work REF has an interest in stop and search and other policing issues that directly affect ethnic minority groups in the area. Through their casework service and through close ties with local youth projects, REF hears about the problems around stop and search and young people. In July last year, a young Muslim male approached REF to make a complaint against the police as he had been strip searched and he felt extremely violated and humiliated as a result. Although REF started to process his complaint he later withdrew it as he felt humiliated and did not want his community members to know what he had experienced.

REF believes that stop and search powers have the potential to be abused more than any other police power. They question the effectiveness of the power if most police encounters end up alienating law-abiding citizens. In March 2013, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) office issued its draft Police and Crime Reduction Plan for consultation. Stop and Search was raised as an additional priority area in that report.<sup>1</sup> In response, the PCC published his Police and Crime Reduction Plan acknowledging that young people needed to be informed of their rights as young people aged 18-25 were statistically most likely to be stopped and searched.<sup>2</sup> The document however does not discuss ethnic disproportionality.

In his response to the recent HMIC national review on the use of stop and search powers the PCC, Rt Hon Alun Michael, made a commitment to pay particular

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<sup>1</sup> *Police and Crime Reduction Plan Consultation Findings*, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, (2013), p.17, [www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/Document-Library/Consultation-Findings.pdf](http://www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/Document-Library/Consultation-Findings.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2013-17*, south Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (2013), p. 23 [www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/Document-Library/Police-and-Crime-Reduction-Plan-2013-17.pdf](http://www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/Document-Library/Police-and-Crime-Reduction-Plan-2013-17.pdf)

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attention to 5 key issues highlighted in the HMIC review for South Wales. These include:

- The need to ensure that the new mobile data system which is being used to record stop and search also enables an improvement in data quality and provides the means to monitor the effectiveness of stop and search with confidence.
- The need for improvement in the rates of completed stop and search forms that evidence sufficient grounds for search.
- The need for supervisors to monitor and where necessary challenge their officers in their use of stop and search to require compliance.
- The need for an on-going system of community engagement and community involvement in the oversight of stop and search, building on the previous oversight work of the Independent Advisory Group and Police Authority.
- The need for force information on stop and search to be easily accessible to the public on the force website, and for copies of stop and search records to be easily available.<sup>3</sup>

The disproportionality ratios produced by South Wales Police show that black people are 3.3 times more likely to be stopped and searched compared to their white counterparts. REF is well linked to police at a local level and regularly contributes to the community cohesion group meetings and to the multi-agency race forum. These interactions increase the opportunity for external scrutiny in relation to stop and search. For REF this consultation provided a good opportunity to discuss stop and search and its impact on young people from ethnic minorities in Cardiff.

### **3. The type of event or activities and when undertaken**

REF was asked to organise an event specifically targeting young people under the age of 25. REF arranged an event in partnership with South Riverside Community Development Centre (SRCDC). The event took place at the Butetown Youth Pavilion, Dumballs Road, on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The event was held from 6pm to 9.30pm to allow as many young people to attend. Aliya Mohammad, Chief Executive Officer of REF attended and opened the event explaining the importance of the event. REF also provided refreshments and drinks to young people. Nathan Evans and Roble Ahmed from SRCDC helped to get the young people to the room and also helped to facilitate the questions and scribe responses from the young people. Neena Samota, a StopWatch member, and member of CORE, provided the background, context and stop and search figures, following which the participants discussed the questions

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<sup>3</sup> Response to the HMIC review, available at [www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/Document-Library/Response-to-Stop-and-Search-report.pdf](http://www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk/Document-Library/Response-to-Stop-and-Search-report.pdf)

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with the help of a facilitator. Responses were recorded to each question and notes made on key issues and concerns.

### 4. Numbers who attended and summary of the key monitoring information

In total **30** individuals participated in this consultation from Cardiff:

- of the total participants **24** (80%) were male and **6** (20%) female;
- **15** participants were aged 10-16 (50%) and **9** (30%) aged 16-24 and **6 (20%)** participants were over the age of 25;
- **20 (67%)** participants were Black African or Caribbean<sup>4</sup>, **2 (7%)** were Asian and 'Other' ethnic group **6 (20%)** were from a Mixed background, **1** (3%) was White and **1 (3%)** did not respond;
- **27 of the 30 (90%)** participants were Muslim.

### 5. Questions – summary answers

#### 1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the use of police powers of stop and search is effective in preventing and detecting crime and anti-social behaviour?

Young people who attended the event had experienced a lot of police contact but were uncertain whether it was a stop and search or stop and account. The starting point for discussion was an explanation of the three powers and under what circumstances they can be used. Once this was explained young people recalled their encounters with the police and recognized that they had been stopped and searched. Since the changes brought in March 2011 South Wales decided to continue recording stop and account.

Young people used terms such as, 'violated', 'upset', 'stereotyped', 'alarmed', 'frustration', 'anger' and 'harassed', to express how they felt after being stopped and searched. It was clear from the discussion around the tables that they lacked knowledge of police protocols and had no knowledge about their rights. They did not know, like most young people, that if stopped and searched they should get a copy of the form.

However young people also accepted that at times of crisis or danger they had to seek police protection and therefore it was right for the police to stop and search criminals. Another young person then pointed out that many

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<sup>4</sup> Mostly Somali.

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Somali young people in the area had no trust in the police. Others recalled how they were stopped and searched even when they had done nothing wrong. Some said the police took their photographs and threatened arrest without offering any explanation for their actions. Others were of the view that stop and search should not be used. Young women who attended were keen to learn about the powers of stop and search to understand why this form of racism was targeted at black people.

Some participants said they had been stopped and searched many times and that nothing was ever found. This did not perturb or concern the police; to them it was just another wrongful stop and search. Some participants, who work with young people, were concerned that Somali and Yemeni youth were easy targets for the police. Some concern was expressed about the growing number of young Somalis not in education, training or employment. Many young people got bored at school, dropped out of college with no real prospects of employment. Although they have done nothing wrong they are considered 'prime targets' for stop and search activity. In the summer this year there was a period of sustained tension between the Somali community and police. A respectable older Somali gentleman was wrongly accused of inappropriate behavior by a woman at a local shop. This was a case of mistaken identity but the harsh treatment of the older Somali male was considered wrongful, inappropriate and fuelled much anger. The situation was finally diffused by identifying the correct suspect and by youth workers working closely and consistently with police to mitigate any concerns/stereotypes relating to the Somali community.

The use of sniffer dogs to conduct searches without apparent reason was also considered to be wrong and was discussed at the tables. A common perception was police used their powers simply because they could. Young people also remarked how police encounters always increased around festivals and other events such as Halloween and bonfire night. Young people believed that police take advantage of their power.

The majority of participants **strongly disagreed** that stop and search is effective in preventing and detecting crime and anti-social behavior. Young women in the group felt the powers were very intrusive and when wrongly used could damage community relations. They were also of the view that there was ultimately no point to stop and search as potential criminals would always lie, find another way and avoid police scrutiny.

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Participants agreed that crime and anti-social behaviour in local areas needed to be tackled but they also were of the view that behaviour problems in young people should not be criminalised as that would push them further into the justice system. It was pointed out that a high proportion of locally reported crime in Cardiff was for anti-social behaviour; in August 2013 there were 1364 crimes reported in Cardiff of which 379 were for anti-social behaviour.

### **2. What are, in your view, the types of crime and anti-social behaviour that can be tackled effectively through the application of stop and search powers?**

Continuing the discussion from the previous question participants believed that the police did not use their existing powers effectively enough. Maybe there was a place for stop and search powers to be exercised but only in circumstances where there was very specific/ pointing evidence that a crime was about to be committed. *“If a person is carrying a weapon to assault somebody or is seen carrying drugs then there is a purpose to that stop and search.”* Other knife related crimes and robbery were instances where stop and search powers could be usefully used to prevent crime.

Visibility and knowledge about something about to take place were also discussed. Young people made it clear that the powers were not a good deterrent either. The encounter itself made situations worse and made young people defiant. The encounters and subsequent behaviours progressed in a vicious cycle creating them vs us situation. The only way to reverse the tide was to have more community youth workers who have proved instrumental in preventing crime.

Participants agreed that crime and anti-social behavior should be tackled by working on alternative solutions to petty criminal activity; this involved better education to young people, information and awareness about creative opportunities for young people and engaging youth workers to tackle youth deprivation and disengagement in certain communities.

### **3. To what extent do you agree that the arrest rate following stop and search events is a useful measure of the power’s effectiveness?**

Participants found this question very difficult to answer and had to read it several times only to conclude that it was misleading. Young people could not adequately distinguish between the different (police) powers and how

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they are used let alone understand arrest rates as a measure of effectiveness. By articulating the dilemma as a numbers problem they were asked to reconsider if police were deemed to be doing their job successfully if they were arresting only 1 person among the 10 they stopped and searched. The majority response was '**strongly disagree**'. One young person said, "*you never see any black or Asian police officers on the streets*" and another responded, "*when I was young I wanted to become a police officer but then I grew up (referring to a negative experience of police)*". There was strong agreement based on the discussion that excessive stop and search creates more conflict.

Reading the briefing materials provided young people concluded that the stop and search was not an effective power and it was not a good use of police time. Without any understanding about the criminal justice process it was difficult for participants to question the outcomes following arrest. Not all of those arrested were then convicted. With this background it was clarified that more than an arrest rate was required to measure effectiveness.

#### 4. **In your view, what other things, beyond the number of resulting arrests, should be considered when assessing how effective the powers of stop and search are?**

Some young people could not answer this question as they felt there wasn't enough information to base their views on. However suggestions included:

- the number of those charged as a result of stop and search was a better measure of effectiveness;
- improving the quality of the encounter was fundamental to any discussion on assessing effectiveness

Participants had other suggestions:

- police should gather intelligence and constantly engage with youth workers, youth centres and communities;
- engage with victims from these groups;
- improve the complaints system;
- provide safe spaces for young people to share their experiences and learn about how complaints are registered and processed;

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- assist community development workers and youth workers to raise awareness about the different (police stop and search) powers, who uses them, when, how and why seemed a better investment.

Participants also were of the view that rather than assessing effectiveness the Home Office should consider the impact of powers such as Schedule 7 about which communities had little or no understanding.

### 5. **To what extent do you agree or disagree that the ‘with reasonable grounds’ stop and search powers, described in the paragraphs above, are used by police in a way which effectively balances public protection with individual freedoms? .**

‘With reasonable grounds’ was interpreted differently in the groups however the majority strongly disagreed. While one group strongly agreed that when used with good intelligence and with respect stop and search powers could be used effectively to balance public protection with individual freedoms. This was the view of the women who had personally never experienced a stop and search. In contrast another group (all male) ‘strongly disagreed’ as they had all experienced stop and search and felt they were stopped and searched without reason. *“We all look the same to the police, they mistook the older Somali gentleman with a suspect who was of Caribbean origin.”*

None of the groups had heard of the police code of practice which lays clear guidelines about reasonable grounds of suspicion. After understanding the concept of reasonable suspicion young people concluded that they were repeatedly targeted and that stop and search was simply a tool to target them as they “fit the description”. If they had done nothing wrong and the police never found anything on them it was a clear case of unlawful stop and searches. Another young person said, *“they feel like they are protecting public but they are stereotyping groups, e.g. hoodies. They don’t strip search people in suits.”* The code of practice clearly prohibits targeting, *“reasonable suspicion cannot be based on generalisations or stereotypical images of certain groups or categories of people as more likely to be involved in criminal activity.”*

Having these facts explained to young people emerged as a clear need. One young person said, *“On one occasion I was pushed into the back of a car and they took my photo and did not tell me why they were doing it. I don’t know whether they are allowed to do this.”* These issues resonated with the PCCs

crime reduction plan which acknowledged the need to educate young people aged 18-25 about their rights in relation to stop and search.

**6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the ‘without reasonable grounds’ stop and search powers described in the paragraphs above are used by police in a way which effectively balances public protection with individual freedoms?**

Yet again there was a difference in the response of young women and men however the majority strongly disagreed. In considering ‘without reasonable grounds’ women simply felt the powers existed to protect and keep them safe. This view sharply contrasted with a more cynical view of the young men that stop and search based on ‘without reasonable grounds’ were unfair, unjust and unlawful. They did little to achieve the balance between public protection and individual freedom. In the name of public protection police powers infringed individual freedom especially when it was the individual freedom of young people from ethnic minorities.

Some concern was expressed around the lack of protections available to young people when such intrusive powers were being used. The police could just stop you and escalate the encounter into anything. In some ways this power was more likely to be abused. Based on this participants said that police should not be able to exercise their power ‘without reasonable grounds’. Another youth worker was concerned about parental lack of education about these issues that affected their young people.

**7. To what extent do you agree that it is right that the police are under a national requirement to record the information set out above in respect of each stop and search?**

All participants tended to agree for a national requirement to record information. This would help authorities and independent bodies to monitor and compare stop and search trends.

There was also a view that the national requirement of recording information should also include amongst other things data on number of times powers used lawfully and some basic information on where and how to complain. There was no information about complaints and this was another sore point for the community. Local data from August 2013 show there were 648 complaints made against the police in 2011-12 which fell by 3% to 629 complaints in 2012-13. While 1.6% complainants were Asian, 2.2%

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were Black, Other 2% and White 49%, the ethnicity of complainants was not known in 45.2% cases. Young people said they would not complain against the police as they would know and come back and give them more grief.

### 8. In your view, should government require police forces to record stop and search events in a certain way (for example, using particular technology) or are individual forces better placed to make this decision?

South Wales Police use the Blackberry device to record the stop and search. Many participants did not know this. If using other technology such as apps, ipads and other smart phones the participants were of the view that all forces should use the same technology. This would make it easier to compare and contrast experiences and outcomes in different areas.

The South Wales Strategic Equality Plan<sup>5</sup> states that:

- it is exploring community perceptions of stop and search which will be used to raise police awareness about the necessary ground for stop and search;
- the force is using other innovative ways such as review of psychometric aspects that affect how police officers conduct stops and searches;
- the overall findings suggest that officers did not lean towards disproportionality;
- bespoke training delivery to all sergeants across the BCU which includes learning around impact of stop and search on different communities;
- Blackberry phones will continue to be used to record stop and search<sup>6</sup>;
- a 'know how'<sup>7</sup> video that explains appropriate grounds of stop and search;
- officer awareness is being improved through an internal mobile data solution which allows the officer to record the grounds for the stop and

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<sup>5</sup> Strategic Equality Plan 2012 – 2016 Annual Monitoring Report 2013, South Wales Police, pp13-14. Available at [www.south-wales.police.uk/more-about-us/equality-and-diversity/](http://www.south-wales.police.uk/more-about-us/equality-and-diversity/)

<sup>6</sup> 'The role out of the use of blackberry devices to complete stop search recording has continued. This ensures officers complete the record in a timely fashion in the presence, where possible, of the person being stopped and searched. New processes have been introduced to ensure those members of the public wishing for a record of their stop search can apply either on line, by attending at a police station or by ringing 101.' pp13-14 (see above)

<sup>7</sup> 'The Force is also producing a "know how" video which is scenario based and combines both knowledge about the powers that are exercised and the use of blackberry to record the stop search. There is a significant input about what constitutes appropriate grounds for stop search and about the importance of how we treat those we stop and search.' The video was expected to go live in April 2013' pp13-14 (see above)

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search<sup>8</sup> - this also continuously refreshes officers' knowledge on stop and search and lawful use of powers.

In discussion with participants it emerged they did not know about these initiatives and claims that officers did not lean towards disproportionality seemed contrary to the majority of experiences.

The discussion on technology was equally interesting as the young people mainly supported the use of technology but the lack of trust and confidence prevailed. Following the roll out of blackberry devices to record stop and search, young people were not too keen to get a record of their stop and search by applying online, going to the police station or by ringing 101. At the same time young people were unsure if they could record police conducting a stop and search on the street. They felt this may require specific guidance and legal training. None of the young people were aware of the 'know how' video which went live in April 2013.

Overall the view was that the requirement to regulate stop and search should be national. All the initiatives introduced by the force locally, good as they are, were not known to the young people in the room.

**9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I am confident that the police use stop and search powers fairly to prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour?"**

All participants strongly disagreed with the statement. They were simply not confident that police use their powers fairly. Young people also found this question confusing, "haven't we already answered this?" Participants gave reasons of targeting, stereotyping, prejudice and making assumptions for disagreeing.

REF received the following letter from a man in July last year. His complaint letter has been reproduced here with permission of REF.

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<sup>8</sup> *'The Force Inspection Team developed an item for the Force intranet to advertise the launch of a mobile data solution to help improve officer awareness on the grounds of stop and negate the requirement for hard copy forms to be submitted. It has been reiterated to officers that recording of stop and search activity needs to happen every time a stop search is carried out. With the drop down menu for the grounds of search and a renewed focus on stop search and additional training on NCALT, this may continuously refresh officers' knowledge on stop search and lawful use of powers.'* Strategic Equality Plan 2012 – 2016 Annual Monitoring Report 2013, South Wales Police, pp13-14. Available at [www.south-wales.police.uk/more-about-us/equality-and-diversity/](http://www.south-wales.police.uk/more-about-us/equality-and-diversity/)

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*'I want to make a complaint about the way I was treated by the Police a few months ago.*

*I was walking along a road in Butetown to meet my brother when I saw him being arrested by the Police. My brother had been given a lift by a friend in his car. The Police stopped and searched the car and my brother and the driver. The Police found an illegal weapon in the glove compartment of the car and he was arrested. My brother said he was innocent and told the two Police Officers that he had just been given a lift by a friend in his car and had no other involvement with the driver or knew about the weapon.*

*The Police Officer asked my brother what he had been smoking and my brother told him it was just quat. When they searched my brother they found that it was only quat. I went over and explained that he was my brother and why he was being arrested. They said, 'He's your brother?' I said yes and then they arrested me too. I asked why and what crime I had committed but they ignored my questions.*

*I was taken to the Police station. I was strip searched. All the time I kept asking what I had done and wanted an explanation for why I had been arrested. They kept ignoring me and put me in a cell. Every time I asked an Officer why I was there and when they would let me go they laughed in my face.*

*I told them I had borrowed a friend's car to get to a job interview that day. I had left it parked by the road and needed to get it back to my friend. They laughed and told me I wouldn't be going anywhere soon but wouldn't tell me why I had even been arrested and put in a cell. I have no family – me and my brother came to Cardiff from Somalia six years ago to find work and I was so happy that my mother couldn't see me now.*

*I felt humiliated and ashamed – I am a Muslim man and to be strip searched and treated like this would shame my family. They released me after three days with no explanation about why they had even arrested me. I still don't know what I did wrong. They took me to my house and searched my whole house but they didn't find anything. They even threw my prayer mat on the floor and I was very upset by this but didn't say anything – I just wanted them to go and leave me alone.*

*When I went to find my friend's car which I left parked in the road the day I was arrested, it was gone and I found that it had been towed away and I*

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*needed to pay £200 to have it released. This is a lot of money for me – I am still looking for a job so how could I pay that much money. I told my friend and he was really angry with me.*

*Please help me to do something. I am still really upset about this. Can I complain about the Police?’*

The REF caseworker wanted to proceed on his behalf but he refused to come back to pursue his complaint as he did not want it to be known in the community that he had been strip searched.

This account clearly reflects other experiences in the room that police officers need to demonstrate respect for people being searched and deploy their powers fairly.

### **10. What would give you greater confidence in the police’s use of stop and search powers?**

Participants said that they would be more confident in the police use of stop and search powers if they began by speaking nicely as politeness did not cost them anything. Other participants were of the view that the onus to prove they were behaving fairly was on the police. So for instance they should prove they do not target certain groups. Also, what proportion of stop and searches lead to criminals being charged not innocent people.

In the transition period to mobile recording the quality of data on stop and searches worsened. The total number of stop and searches in 2011-12 was 14,263 and in 2012-13 the number fell down to 11,943. Despite the 1,296 stop and searches that were not included young people aged 18-24 were stopped and searched at a much higher rate than other age groups (36.4 in 2011-12 and 29.3 in 2012-13 per 1000 population). Rates of stop and search by ethnicity per 1000 of the population were much higher for black people (34.6 in 2011-12 and 21 in 2012-13).<sup>9</sup> These figures did not restore trust and confidence in the young participants who reflected those key demographics.

The force published some data on outcomes of stop and searches by ethnicity and age group but this data had not been seen by the group. Some participants suggested they meet regularly to go through some of this

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<sup>9</sup> South Wales *Equality information*, June 2013, pp. 21-23, available at [www.south-wales.police.uk/more-about-us/equality-and-diversity/](http://www.south-wales.police.uk/more-about-us/equality-and-diversity/)

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information, decoded with some help, and discuss their implications. This was something that the older age group were keen to do.

### **11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current requirement to explain the reasons for the stop and search make the use of the power more fair and transparent?**

Response to this question was split; one group agreed that the current requirement was adequate. The reason was that when people are told about the process they feel more comfortable and would not feel unduly targeted. This was good in theory as practice was inconsistent in this regard.

Another group strongly disagreed as they knew that people were never told why they were being subjected to a stop and search. Young people endured in silence as any attempt to question led to provocation and further incidents. Young people resented being in that situation.

To demonstrate fairness and transparency people who had numerous experiences of stop and search should regularly attend the Community Cohesion Group meetings to discuss stop and search and its impact. The figures were important but there was a real fear that police officers just worked with numbers rather than individual people.

### **12. Before today, had you heard of the police.uk website?**

Most participants (90%) had not heard of the website. 10% (3) who knew about it had not actually used it.

### **13. To what extent do you agree or disagree that police.uk should contain information on stop and search in your local area?**

The majority view was to agree and that more information was a good thing. At the same time participants also discussed how it could also be misused to create fear of certain communities. Information format was also important as ordinary people did not have the time or the interest and expertise to read data.

Local independent organisations should do this and then hold discussions with the most impacted groups was suggested as a positive outcome from the consultation session.

**14. To what extent do you agree or disagree that local communities should have direct involvement in deciding how the police use their stop and search powers?**

The overwhelming response was to strongly agree. Participants felt all local communities should be involved and have a say in how initiatives on stop and search are developed and implemented. Recording and monitoring were key for getting good quality and accurate data.

It was also suggested that youth centres should be regarded as third party centres where young people come and report their experiences and lodge their complaint if necessary. However the big challenge for youth service providers in the area was cuts in funding and they were already envisaging fewer staff from next year. This was highlighted as a real shame because the youth workers play a vital role in keeping young people safe and active. At the same time they act as a bridge between the community and the police. A recent example from this summer demonstrated how the youth workers prevented a situation with police from escalating into something big with harmful consequences for the young people. Their aim is to keep young people as far as possible from police contact.

The PCC office will also be monitoring the use of stop and search through a dedicated member of staff. It was suggested that REF and SRCDC work together to assist the PCC in the oversight of stop and search powers.

**15. & 16. In your view, how might local communities be directly involved in decisions concerning the use of stop and search powers?**

**Are there any other views or comments that you would like to add in relation to stop and search powers that were not covered by the other questions in this consultation?**

In response to both questions participants felt the duty to involve and also deliver on the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 was the responsibility of the police. If South Wales Police wanted to they could involve local communities through consultations that are conducted at youth centres, information sharing events, drama/theatre, sports tournaments. This would be the basis for a sustained way of working with different communities. It would build trust and confidence and gradually turn into better intelligence sharing and receiving arrangements. Also different groups of people needed to be involved, including the older generation and women.

## **6. Conclusions**

The event generated interest among the young people to know more about their rights and get some basic understanding of the law.

The role of youth workers from the community was a vital link to young people at risk and those not in education training or employment. Given that 50% of arrests in South Wales were for drugs some youth workers were of the view that more prevention work needed to be done to engage young men from the community who may be involved in drug related crime. This consultation gave the opportunity to put some of that picture together so targeted work can be undertaken from the grassroots.

The role of independent advocacy groups to help scrutinize police stop and search powers on a regular basis was also highlighted as a necessary measure of accountability and fairness.

The importance of youth clubs/centres, safe spaces, was paramount to help young people keep a safe distance from the police. Frequency of contact with police would ultimately be damaging for the young people. It was important that the 15-16 year olds understand something about stop and search but it was equally important not to burden them with legal processes when they should be doing school work and being their age. It was felt that such early preparation of young people to be aware of ethnic disproportionality and other criminal justice outcomes for their peer group could also have a negative impact on them. It was suggested that young people know basic things about how to contact the police in case of an emergency and what to do if they or a friend were victimized inside or outside school.

## Appendix 1: South Wales facts and figures on stop and search

Police use of stop and search in South Wales increased from a total of 13,974 stops and searches, under section 1 of PACE, in 2010/11 to 14,287 in 2011/12. The number of arrests made in 2010/11 dropped from 1172 to 1082 in 2011/12. The arrest rate across all stops and searches has remained stable at 8% for both years. Searches conducted per 1,000 of the population have also remained consistent at 11 for both years.<sup>10</sup> The recent census data show the BME population for South Wales at 6.6% with 15.3% of the population in Cardiff from ethnic minorities. The disproportionality ratio of white to black is higher and should be monitored; 3.3 for black people and 0.9 for Asians. The Somali and Yemeni populations are most likely to be stopped and searched.

### How many searches do police do?<sup>11</sup>

#### June 2011 - June 2012

The police conducted 14,287 stop and searches under PACE Section 1 across the area covered by South Wales Police. This is an increase of 2% from the previous year.

There were 0 stop and searches under Section 60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act, a power which doesn't require individual reasonable suspicion.

South Wales Police do record stop and accounts.

The last available data showed that black people were stopped at a rate of 2.4 that of white people Across South Wales (2008-09)

What are searches targeted at?			
Target	% of searches	Target	% of searches
Drugs	50%	Offensive weapons	7%
Stolen property	19%	Other	6%
Going equipped	15%	Criminal damage	3%
Firearms	1%		

### How effective are police stop and searches?

8% of stop and searches lead to an arrest.

<sup>10</sup> *Police powers and procedures England and Wales 2011/12*, Home Office, April 2013. Available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-powers-and-procedures-in-england-and-wales-201112](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-powers-and-procedures-in-england-and-wales-201112)

<sup>11</sup> This information has been taken from the StopWatch website [www.stop-watch.org/your-area/area/south-wales](http://www.stop-watch.org/your-area/area/south-wales)

## **Cardiff Stop and search engagement report and submission**

### **Who is getting searched?**

Black people are stopped and searched at a rate of 3.3 times that of white people across South Wales.

People of Mixed background are stopped and searched at a rate of 1.1 times that of white people across South Wales.

### **PACE disproportionality ratios**

Disproportionality rates for Asian people are 0.9 times likely to be stopped and searched than their White counterparts. For Black people this was 3.3 times more likely. For mixed and 'Other' groups it was 1.1 times.

<b>Appendix 2: 30 people</b>						
	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Tend to agree</b>	<b>Neither agree or disagree</b>	<b>Tend to disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>Question No. 1</b>						
Group 1					✓	
Group 2					✓	
Group 3					✓	
<b>Question No. 3</b>						
Group 1					✓	
Group 2					✓	
Group 3					✓	
<b>Question No. 5</b>						
Group 1	6✓					
Group 2					✓	
Group 3					✓	
<b>Question No. 6</b>						
Group 1	6✓					
Group 2					✓	
Group 3					✓	
<b>Question No. 7</b>						
Group 1		✓				
Group 2		✓				
Group 3		✓				
<b>Question No. 9</b>						
Group 1					✓	
Group 2					✓	
Group 3					✓	

<b>Appendix 2: 30 people</b>						
	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Tend to agree</b>	<b>Neither agree or disagree</b>	<b>Tend to disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>Question No. 11</b>						
Group 1					✓	
Group 2		✓				
Group 3					✓	
<b>Question No. 12</b>	<b>Yes, I have visited the site</b>	<b>Yes, but I haven't visited the site</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>		
Group 1		1		90%		
Group 2		1		90%		
Group 3		1		90%		
<b>Question No. 13</b>						
Group 1		✓				
Group 2		✓				
Group 3		✓				
<b>Question No. 14</b>						
Group 1	✓					
Group 2	✓					
Group 3	✓					