Public Treatment Group (PTG) Meeting Minutes

7th September 2026

Attendees ***Names have been redacted to initials for confidentiality***

- RGH
- BM
- RSS
- SM (Chair)
- RW
- AL
- JW
- PS JC
- PC AB
- Insp MC

Opening Remarks

SM welcomed attendees and reiterated the confidentiality agreement. The importance of maintaining confidentiality in relation to police practice and promoting organisational learning for the Police was emphasised.

Introductions were conducted around the room.

The panel were advised that five Body Worn Video (BWV) recordings would be reviewed during the meeting, time dependant.

Video 2

Incident Summary:
A suspect, found in possession of stolen property, attempted to headbutt an officer. The individual was detained, transported to custody, and subsequently subject to a cell extraction.

Panel Discussion

SM invited the panel's views on the footage.

BM queried whether specific protocols exist for dealing with threats made towards police officers.

Insp MC provided an explanation regarding the relevant procedures.

Insp MC sought the panel's views regarding handcuff placement (subject had been handcuffed in the 'front stack' position).

BM commented that the handcuffs should have been repositioned behind the suspect's back upon entering the cell as it delayed the extraction to reposition them.

Insp MC explained the operational considerations and importance of appropriate handcuff placement.

SM asked for feedback to be given regarding one officer's communication and professionalism throughout the incident.

RW commented that the incident appeared challenging and exhausting to manage.

RGH observed that communication improved throughout the encounter, both between officers and with the detained individual.

SM agreed and highlighted one officer's strong de-escalation skills.

BM felt that whilst one officer was successfully calming the situation, another appeared to agitate matters unnecessarily.

*** Action ***

Action 1: Feedback to be provided regarding the importance of ensuring BWV equipment is fully charged prior to deployment. It was noted one officer saying their camera was not working and the group asked how this could happen when BWV is so importance for best evidence.

Further Discussion

SM praised the officer speaking with the detainee in the transport van, noting their calm, professional manner and refusal to react to provocation.

BM commented that the detainee appeared intent on antagonising the officer.

RGH praised the officer's clear explanations regarding police actions and decision-making.

SM noted that, whilst there were effective examples of leadership and communication, there were occasions when multiple officers appeared to speak simultaneously. Overall, he considered it to be a well-managed arrest. Steve also queried apparent delays at custody.

Insp MC provided an explanation regarding custody processes and delays.

RGH asked whether officers could simply disengage when subjected to abusive behaviour.

PC AB explained the importance of maintaining communication whilst balancing professional boundaries.

SM commented that communication with compliant detainees remains important; however, where abuse continues, disengagement may be appropriate.

RGH felt communication around the cell extraction phase could have been clearer to the subject.

*** Action ***

Action 2: Positive feedback to be provided to the female officer featured in the footage for her communication and professionalism.

Video 1

Incident Summary:
A vehicle stop search involving three individuals following officers detecting a strong smell of cannabis emanating from the vehicle.

Panel Discussion

SM invited observations from the panel.

RGH felt the encounter was well managed but suggested the grounds for the search could have been explained more clearly.

BM felt the instructions provided by officers were clear.

RW agreed that a clearer warning prior to commencement of the search would have been beneficial.

SM concluded that the stop search was conducted positively overall and suggested positive feedback be provided to the officers involved. He queried why officers were holding handcuffs during the search.

Insp MC explained the rationale surrounding the potential use of handcuffs during stop and search encounters.

RGH noted there appeared to be familiarity between one officer and the individual being searched and questioned whether the interaction would have differed had the person been unknown to the officer.

SM felt the officer was attempting to establish rapport and common ground.

BM asked whether the smell of cannabis alone justified a stop search.

Insp MC sought the panel's views on searches conducted where cannabis odour forms part of the grounds.

RGH commented that the smell of cannabis alone does not indicate supply offences.

SM stated that when combined with location, intelligence, and contextual factors, a stop search appeared appropriate.

JW highlighted that the individual was in control of a motor vehicle, which added further considerations.

Video 5

Incident Summary:
An individual had absconded from the Bradgate Unit and was required to return for further treatment.

Panel Discussion

Insp MC provided an overview of police powers under Section 138.

BM felt officers handled a difficult situation well.

RW questioned whether additional officers should have attended from the outset.

RSH asked how additional officers, or a police van would have improved the situation.

RW suggested that, once officers identified the individual's reluctance to return, additional resources may have been appropriate.

SM responded that officers could not simply disengage from a vulnerable person once contact had been established, given the associated risks.

BM felt officers clearly communicated that the individual would be returning with them and provided numerous opportunities for voluntary compliance.

Steve praised the calm and consistent approach adopted throughout the encounter.

RGH felt officers explained the situation clearly but believed additional time could have been given to allow engagement with a person potentially experiencing a mental health crisis.

SM noted that officers needed to balance communication with the need to safely detain the individual when necessary.

BM questioned whether more background information could have been obtained before attendance, noting that one officer had to disengage to gather information during the

incident. He suggested greater involvement from mental health professionals would have been beneficial given the circumstances and where appropriate.

*** Action ***

Action 3: Establish current deployment protocols and resource allocation arrangements for police attendance at mental health-related incidents.

Meeting Closure

The Chair thanked attendees for their contributions and constructive feedback.

The meeting concluded at **20:00 hrs**.

Summary of Agreed Actions

Ref	Action
1	Reinforce the importance of BWV devices being fully charged before deployment.
2	Provide positive feedback to the female officer featured in Video 2 regarding her communication and professionalism.
3	Review and clarify officer deployment arrangements for mental health-related incidents.