



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR  
**CHILDREN**

**Chair:** Baroness Massey of Darwen

**Vice-Chairmen:** Jessica Lee MP, Baroness Walmsley, Baroness Blood, Bill Esterson MP, Tim Loughton MP

**Secretary:** Baroness Howarth of Breckland **Treasurer:** Earl of Listowel

**Clerk:** Heather Ransom

There was a meeting of the  
**All Party Parliamentary Group for Children on:**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014**  
**4:30-6:00pm, Committee Room 4A, House of Lords**  
(booked in the name of Baroness Massey)

**APPG for Children Annual General Meeting  
with launch of 'Children and the Police' inquiry police force data report**

To inform the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children's 'Children and the Police' inquiry, all 43 police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police were invited to provide data recorded on children and young people under 18 in relation to the use of stop and search and police detention facilities. This information informed a short report which was presented at this meeting. The Association of Chief Police Officers provided an official response. Prior to the launch of the report, the APPG for Children held its Annual General Meeting and Parliamentarians stood for re-election as Officers of the Group.

**Members in attendance:** Baroness Howarth, Earl of Listowel, Baroness Blood, Baroness Walmsley, Baroness Linklater, Jessica Lee MP

**Speakers:** Enver Solomon (National Children's Bureau), Caroline Adams (Staff Officer to DCC Pinkney) and Chief Inspector Lee Russell (Kent Police), both representing the Association of Chief Police Officers' Children and Young Person Portfolio

**Voluntary and community sector in attendance:** Lucy Dawes (YJB), Mary O'Shaughnessy (SCYJ), Phil Turner (Second Wave), Ben Estep (nef), Paula Uccellari (CRAE), Andy Briers (Metropolitan Police), Lazslo Olah (College of European Policing), Maggie Atkinson (Office of the Children's Commissioner), John Metcalfe and Sarah Smith (BASW), Heidi Farr (Lambeth Children's Services), Frances Perrow (Association for Young People's Health), Ayesha Javed, Natasha Slater and Hannah Ram (Barnardo's), Sarah Grady (NCVYS), Elaine Arnold (Caspari Foundation), Georgina Wade (ACPO), Kadra Abdinasir (The Children's Society), Mary-Rachel McCabe (Just for Kids Law), Anna Feuchtwang, Annamarie Hassall, Zoe Renton, Heather Ransom and Rosie Eatwell-White (NCB)

**Apologies:** Baroness Massey, Bishop of Leicester, Lord Judd, George Freeman MP, Tim Loughton MP, Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney (ACPO/Sussex Police), Amanda Henshall (University of Greenwich), Assistant Chief Constable Dawn Copley (Greater Manchester Police), Jayne Kirkham (APPG for Children's Media and the Arts), Wendy Scott (TACTYC), Marion Sandwell (YJB), Fiona Smith (Royal College of Nursing), Nick Wilkinson (Kent County Council/Association of YOT Managers), PC Elizabeth Stanton (Cheshire Police), Dominic Weinberg (NCVYS), Andy Day (Metropolitan Police)

Baroness Howarth chaired the meeting in Baroness Massey's absence.

Baroness Howarth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Baroness Howarth:** extended her best wishes to Baroness Massey on behalf of the APPG for Children and all attendees. She summarised the APPG's successes over the last year, including the current inquiry into 'Children and the Police' and the work on the Children and Families Act. She then paid tribute to all the hard work of Baroness Massey, Chair of the APPG for Children.

The following parliamentarians were re-elected as Officers of the Group:

**Chair:** Baroness Massey of Darwen  
**Vice-Chairs:** Baroness Blood, Baroness Walmsley, Tim Loughton MP, Jessica Lee MP, Bill Esterson MP  
**Secretary:** Baroness Howarth of Breckland  
**Treasurer:** Earl of Listowel

The meeting then moved on to focus on the launch of the police force data report.

**Enver Solomon:** presented the key findings of the data request and the recommendations arising from the report (see embedded PowerPoint presentation).



**Caroline Adams and Lee Russell:** passed on apologies from Deputy Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney, Children and Young People lead at the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and presented the ACPO response to the report in DCC Pinkney's absence. They addressed the report's five recommendations.

**Recommendation 1:** Regarding data on under-10s, the accuracy of the data collection is a problem here and there are errors in recording. In some forces, if no date of birth is entered then the age defaults to zero. In Sussex, for example, where the figure was high, an in-depth look at the data showed that mistakes were made in recording incorrect dates of birth. Work needs to be done on minimising mistakes. Regarding the principal of stopping and searching young children, this is an important and necessary power as adults sometimes use children to hide drugs or stolen goods, but this power should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

**Recommendation 2:** Regarding recording date of birth at the point of a search, this is considered good practice in all forces but it would be problematic if it became a legal requirement. If the person stopped refuses to give their date of birth, this could put the police in the position of having to arrest them. ACPO would welcome extra guidance and training in this area in relation to children and young people.

**Recommendation 3:** ACPO welcome and accept this recommendation regarding HMIC reviewing the proportion of stop and searches on under-18s in relation to ethnicity. Most forces already do this but there is still work to be done in this area. In particular, work needs to be done on how officers communicate effectively with young people.

**Recommendation 4:** Regarding data on looked after children, ACPO acknowledges that there is a complete gap in this area and welcomes this recommendation. This is a priority area of focus for ACPO and there is a lot of work being done in the South East region on reducing the criminalisation of looked after children.

**Recommendation 5:** Regarding separate custody suites for children, ACPO considers this recommendation to be more aspirational than the other recommendations as it would be more difficult to achieve. The physical space in custody suites would be difficult to split up.

**Baroness Howarth:** took questions from Officers and the wider audience, including:

- Did the stop and search data sent by police forces cover stops that occurred in schools?

**Enver Solomon:** stated that the data did not indicate where the stop took place and so it was not possible to know whether stops in schools were included.

- In Scotland, the rate of stop and search of young people is higher than in England and Wales. Are there ideas or information on these issues which could be passed on to colleagues in Scotland?

**Baroness Walmsley:** confirmed that Officers would pass copies of the report to relevant contacts.

**Enver Solomon:** added that there are moves in Scotland to make improvements in this area. A scheme in Fife is being piloted which requires the police to inform a parent or guardian if a stop and search on their child takes place (currently the police do not have to do this).

- Under what circumstances would a child under five be stopped and searched?

**Enver Solomon:** explained that children are sometimes used to conceal drugs or stolen items, which in itself raises safeguarding concerns. There are questions over the lack of guidance for police on this issue. He added that under the Children Act 2004 police have a duty to ensure the well-being of children, but that this needs to be married up with the PACE Code of Practice which currently lacks guidance on this.

- Do the police make sure that they always consider the safety of children in police operations?

**Caroline Adams and Lee Russell:** explained that in pre-planned operations the police consider any children who may be affected and they work closely with children's services. However, in spontaneous incidents such as stop and search they are not able to do this in the same way. Guidelines for police on considering the needs of children would be welcome, although this should not remove from police the power to stop and search children and young people if necessary.

- Should it be up to individual police forces to embed the protocol regarding looked after children in their practice?

**Caroline Adams:** stated that it would be very helpful for the police if the protocol was endorsed by the Home Office. If the protocol is not endorsed, this could lead to inconsistent practice nationally. One of DCC Pinkney's ambitions in her role is to get the protocol rolled out nationally.

**Lee Russell:** added that when the equivalent protocol was introduced for schools, this was endorsed by the Department for Education. The South East is at an advanced stage of implementing the protocol, and have all local authorities signed up. It would be very useful to have a similar approach adopted across the country.

- What is the connection between the police and Youth Offending Teams?

**Caroline Adams and Lee Russell:** confirmed that every police force works closely with YOTs and with the Youth Justice Board. If a stop and search ended in arrest, and a subsequent disposal, then the YOT would get involved.

- Did the report ask for data on what happened after the stop and search and is this data collected?

**Enver Solomon:** confirmed that the APPGC request did not ask for this information.

**Caroline Adams:** explained that the police did not collect data on this when it came to under-18s. It would be a challenge to collect this but it still needs to be done in order to inform the police as to whether searches are being used correctly and proportionately.

- Regarding Recommendation 4, how hopeful are ACPO that the police will be able to collect data on looked after children?

**Caroline Adams:** stated that this information is currently not collected. The practicalities of how this data can be collected needs to be looked at.

**Lee Russell:** explained that this data can be captured but it is a question of whether officers prioritise this. Baroness Howarth then asked for concluding remarks.

**Caroline Adams:** concluded by thanking the APPG for Children for focusing on the relationship between children and the police. Work in this area has been going on for a long time and having the support of APPG for Children was really helpful in making improvements.

**Lee Russell:** added that most police officers do not see young people just as offenders but they try to look beyond this, although there is still work to do in this area. ACPO are asking these kinds of questions and find it helpful that the APPG for Children are pushing them to continue to do this.

**Baroness Howarth:** concluded the meeting in stating that the report had had the desired outcome of highlighting these issues. She acknowledged the positive relationship the APPG for Children had with the police over the course of the inquiry. She highlighted particular concerns about children in care and said that when recording the age of a person who was stopped and searched, then an approximate age must be better than nothing. She added that the final report of the inquiry into 'Children and the Police' would be published in October.

Baroness Howarth thanked the speakers and everyone who had attended.