

**PROTOCOL DRUG DETECTION
DOGS IN
EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS**

DYFED POWYS POLICE



**&
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

CARMARTHENSHIRE



CEREDIGION



PEMBROKESHIRE



POWYS



Parties to this agreement

The parties to this agreement are:

Dyfed Powys Police

Local Authorities of:

Carmarthenshire

Ceredigion

Pembrokeshire

Powys

The protocol deals with arrangements and procedures for carrying out searches with Police drug detection dogs in educational establishments in the Counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

This protocol has been drawn up in accordance with guidance on the use of drug detection dogs, and drug testing in schools set out in the DfES (Department of Education and Skills) document and ACPO guidelines.

This protocol is meant to complement any drugs policy already in existence within educational establishments.

General Principles

This protocol has been developed to ensure that

- i. There is a clear understanding between the Police, and all educational establishments within the four Counties.
- ii. The deployment of Police drug detection dogs is seen to be both a suitable and appropriate exercise, if it is reasonably suspected that drugs are prevalent in a school.

Dyfed Powys Police will **NOT** respond to the use of drugs detection dogs solely as a deterrent in any schools/colleges.

This protocol does not cover the use of private companies for drug dog detection operations.

A Police drug dog will only be utilised at the request of a school if:

- the school/college has an active Drugs Policy in place,
- the policy incorporates the use of Police drugs detection dogs, and
- the policy is in accordance with DfES Drugs Guidance for Schools and Welsh Assembly Government Guidance.

All operations will be warrant led **ONLY**, in accordance with advice from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). Any indication of illegal drugs is to be considered as evidence and can result in arrest and be investigated further by the Police.

All searches will be carried out in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Quality of Information

The request for a drug detection dog to attend must be based on a reasonable suspicion that drugs are being sold or used on school premises. When schools have information that suggests this, they should try to assess the quality of the information by addressing the following factors:-

- Is the source of information thought to be reliable?
- Are there any other motives for giving this information?
- Is the source of information prepared to pass on the information without remaining anonymous?
- Is the information based on direct observation or hearsay?

Note it is only necessary for the information to appear to be reliable. It does not need to be proven in advance.

Contact with Parents

There should be a reasonable attempt to contact parents/guardians in advance to inform them that a drug dog search will take place.

Parents do not have the right to prevent such a search nor to delay it unduly.

Scope of Search

It is likely that drug detection dogs will be used to search a limited number of individuals who are directly suspected of possession or use of drugs. Dogs will not be used for random searches of large numbers of people.

Aims of the Protocol

The aims of this protocol are as follows:

To provide a framework and coordinated approach towards the use of Police drug detection dogs which ensures consistency and best practice for Police involvement in schools and colleges.

To provide guidance as to what is expected of the Police, School Governors and Headteachers/Principals as to what will need to be considered by individual educational establishments and the local Police Inspector.

Procedures

Headteachers and College Principals are within their rights to invite the Police to bring drugs detection dogs onto school/college premises but before doing so should consider the following factors.

- Is there reasonable evidence of possession or supply of suspected illegal drugs on school/college premises? (Refer to "Quality of Information" section under the heading "General Principles")
- Has he/she done everything in their power in accordance with the educational establishments substance misuse policy before committing to the use of drugs dogs?
- Have parents/guardians been notified in advance, and been given a reasonable opportunity to object to the use of drug dogs?

When educational establishments consider that it is appropriate to request Police dogs to carry out drug searches in accordance with the above, they should liaise with the local Police. The Inspector is responsible for authorising any operation following an evaluation of the intelligence and/or evidence available.

Once an operation has been authorised, the following issues must be considered by the Police:

- Dogs are considered unclean in some cultures, for example Muslims and Buddhists. Pupils and staff of these religious backgrounds should be withdrawn from any contact with the dogs and searched by a Police Officer only.
- Any member of the educational establishment who has an overwhelming or irrational fear of dogs or is allergic to the same should be withdrawn from any contact with them and searched by Police Officers only.

- Measures are in place to support individuals who are subsequently identified by the drugs detection dog as being in possession of controlled drugs. Identification is likely to take place in public, unlike other searches.
- Is the school able to identify a room/area for personal searches to be carried out following an indication by the drug detection dog?

The school/college must ensure that:

- Plans are in place to deal with potential media interest in such operations. (Refer to Appendix 2.)
- Post operation plans have been prepared to re-enforce drugs awareness to the whole school/college community.
- Appropriate information is prepared to inform parents of the incident and - if appropriate – outcomes.

I hereby agree the terms of this protocol on behalf of Pembrokeshire Local Authority

Signature **Date.....**

Position

I hereby agree the terms of this protocol on behalf of Powys Local Authority

Signature **Date.....**

Position