



Drug Concealment Policy

OFFICIAL

Information	Details
Publication Scheme Y/N	Policy section can be published on Force Website. Procedure should be withheld
Department of Origin	Criminal Justice – Custody
Policy Holder	Ch. Supt - Head of Criminal Justice
Author	Sgt 4925 Sean Harrison
Related Information	Authorised Professional Practice: Detention and Custody PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) Code C The Royal College of Physicians: Intimate Searches in Police Custody Flow Chart Approved Professional Practice: National Decision Model Royal College of Emergency Medicine protocol: Caring for adult patients suspected of having concealed illicit drug Death and Serious Injury (non-firearms) Policy CPS Charging (The Director's Guidance) - sixth edition, December 2020 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Criminal Justice Act 1988 Human Rights Act 1998 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
This Version	Version 1
Date of Next Review	April 2023



Policy

Statement

Merseyside Police is firmly committed to the effective, safe and dignified management of detainees who are suspected to be concealing drugs or other contraband inside their body. Application of this policy will be conducted in line with **Authorised Professional Practice: Detention and Custody** and Merseyside Police will work alongside its partner agencies to identify and support vulnerable people through prevention pathways balancing this need in line with the need to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system when the requirement remains to bring offenders to justice.

Aims

- Manage detainees to whom this policy applies, in a safe and dignified way.
- Effectively and robustly utilise available powers to tackle serious and organised crime.
- Work with partners to deliver a safe and effective custody service whilst identifying and responding to vulnerability at every stage.

Objectives

- Establish a process through which detainees can be managed within Custody who are concealing drugs and/or other contraband.
- Ensure that appropriately trained staff manage the custody process in line with this policy.
- Ensure steps are taken to ensure the continued safe detention of detainees suspected of concealing drugs or other contraband through appropriate risk assessments, observations and care plans.
- Identify clear roles and responsibilities for those officers who are directly involved including partner agencies and various Strands/Departments.
- Implement a process for documenting the application of this policy and subsequent review to identify lessons learned and good practice.
- Implement policy in a manner that reflects positively on the police service and provides reassurance to communities, partners and internal and external stakeholders.
- To support the successful prosecution of offenders and detection of criminal exploitation.

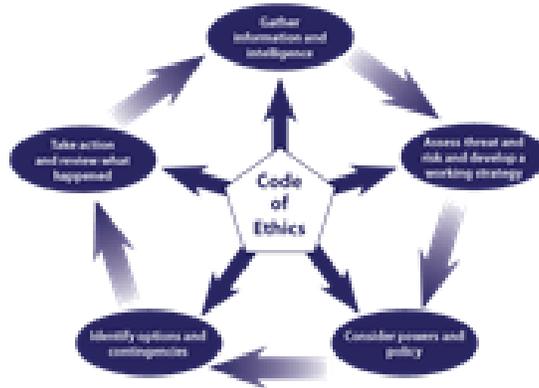
Application and Scope

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to Merseyside Police must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

This policy particularly applies to all personnel involved in the care and custody of all detainees and will be communicated to all strands across Merseyside Police.

This policy document sets out principles to help guide decision making and is in some parts quite prescriptive. However, it is vital that officers and staff have the freedom to innovate, exercise discretion, and take risk based decisions centred on the needs of the victim and the merits of each case. Non-statutory policies, including College of Policing APP, provide guidance only. They are 'living documents' and it is recognised that there may be more innovative forward thinking ways of doing this. Accordingly, if staff depart from a policy but are able to give a good rationale for their actions, and have acted with honesty, integrity and professionalism, to make the best decision for the community we serve, they will be trusted and supported. In all cases clear

rationale must be recorded within the custody record for such decisions utilising the national decision making model.



Outcome Evaluation

Outcomes will reflect the specific objectives contained within this policy and will be reviewed bi-annually by the Head of Criminal Justice when reviewing the Department performance.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to this policy.