



Surrey & Sussex
Policing Together

BRIEFING DOCUMENT ON SPEED INDICATION DEVICES (SIDS)

Following on from the Summer Road Safety Briefing and the discussion around SIDS I thought it prudent to compile this document to provide some information for you all to hopefully assist with any steps you want to take to utilise SIDS in your communities.

Firstly the point of contact for further discussion around this (and whom I have gone to for this information) is the Community Speed Watch (CSW) Co-ordinator Stephen O'Connell - stephen.oconnell@sussex.police.uk. Stephen is aware that I am providing his contact details and is happy to assist any Council and CSW Team with SIDS and any other CSW related issues.

Stephen has informed me that there are SDS that can be borrowed from Sussex Police for use with CSW groups or these groups or councils may fund their own.

SIDS are a useful tool in educating drivers / riders about inappropriate use of speed but their use does come with certain caveats and conditions which need to be met.

To bust a myth around their use letters to drivers cannot be sent out based on readings from the SIDS. This is due to not being able to verify correct set up, distance of radar and verified calibration, unlike the hand held devices CSW groups use which have an accuracy check daily and audit trail in place to send letters out.

What to consider when installing a SID

The following would be areas to think about when considering SIDS:

- Is there an identifiable need?
- Has a data survey been conducted over a 7 day 24hr period?
- Is the problem perceived or actual?

If the first two points have been completed and there is agreement that the problem is an actual then the next step is to contact local Highways who will carry out a risk assessment. This will determine if there is adequate street furniture to house the SID – if not then poles need to be considered which increase the cost. If existing street furniture can be used there may be a need to sign a damage waiver with Highways.

What SID to use?

Permanently fixed SIDS will see their effectiveness decrease over time as drivers / riders will experience sign fatigue. These SIDS will have an impact on driver / rider behaviour and can also be

more expensive to run as they will need constant power supply. Stephen O'Connell recommends movable SIDS with a spare battery and solar panels which would mean the SID could be moved to various risk assessed sites across the Parish, sign fatigue would be avoided and Parishes could potentially form a cluster to purchase one and rotate between the different parishes? Using solar power the long winter months will have to be taken into consideration and locations to be used should take this into account.

Should SIDS collect data?

There was conversation around the ANPR SIDS at the briefing session and there is a lot to consider around their use. As I have already explained above the data from SIDS cannot be used for enforcement action as they are not calibrated. Other issues such as GDPR compliance come into play with these SIDS and drivers and riders may ask what is done with the collected data when they see their number plate come up. We can utilise existing methods to gather data on the amount of speeding in a location and SIDS should be primarily used as an education tool for road users and not to gather data in my view. Stephen O'Connell is liaising with the force lead for ANPR and further guidance would follow but in my opinion the current portable SIDS and fixed ones are the best to consider.

I will continue to look at this with support from Stephen and if you become aware of them being used elsewhere in the country please advise me so I can contact that force area to learn how they make it work.

Other points to consider

On-going maintenance should be factored in when purchasing a SID and the location of where they can be put needs to be carefully considered – such as how close to a junction or driveway they are so they do not distract a driver / rider. This should be covered in the Highways risk assessment.

As a final point Stephen O'Connell is exploring funding opportunities for purchasing some portable SIDS which local District PCSO's and PC's can be trained in their use and can bring out into their Communities on agreed dates and times with yourselves. Again, we will keep you updated around this and any further developments.

I hope this is useful for you all.

Many thanks,

Kendal

Chief Inspector Wells CW178

Operations Command and Partnerships

Sussex and Surrey Police