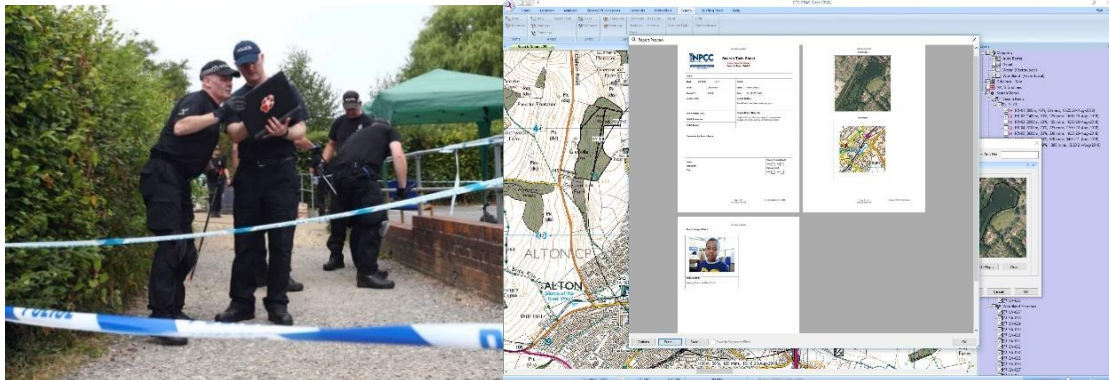


## MISSING PERSON SEARCHES - BACKGROUND

Staffordshire Police Force, along all other constabularies across the UK, employs specialist Police Search Advisors, known as POLSAs. These officers are trained to plan and manage searches for young & vulnerable missing persons.

Missing person searches are surprisingly regular occurrences, which often end swiftly without expending a great deal of Police time & resource. However, if the search for a young or vulnerable missing person, becomes a major investigation, it must be performed efficiently & logically by the POLSAs managing their local search teams.

Any tools used to expedite a swift search process in the correct areas increases the chance of finding somebody safe & well.



### • THE CHALLENGE

POLSAs in Staffordshire Police have been involved in numerous missing persons searches in 2018, including some high-profile cases seen in the media.

Many of their searches are carried out in poor weather or visibility, at night, with a small window of opportunity to locate the person with a successful outcome. The search area is often in remote & rural areas, meaning that connectivity is difficult or non-existent. **The force needed to quickly identify, sort, task & manage relevant search areas, then have the means to share information electronically with decision makers & senior investigating officers.**

### • THE SOLUTION

Following training in late 2017, Staffordshire Police now utilise the CTS-PRAS version 4.5 mapping analysis product from Cunning Running Software Ltd, which contains specialist operational support capability for high profile and vulnerable missing persons searches.

Software-assisted production of the search strategy report allows POLSAs & senior officers to rapidly deploy search teams to the correct areas by using iFind & Grampian data. The software does not require network connectivity, but the new 4G capability allows robust connectivity anywhere, with mobile phone coverage for email and links to Resilience Direct. This means they quickly generate and distribute reports and task sheets, thus releasing the POLSAs to concentrate on their specialist capabilities.

### TESTIMONIAL – Sergeant John Overend.

“I have been involved with the CTS PRAS Programme since it began and seen a number of changes. Adding 4G to CTS-PRAS has been a game changer for me on POLSA activity & the new email functionality makes it much more intuitive & user friendly than ever before. The simple capability to put an attachment on my work email, rather than put on memory stick, cuts out three stages of a missing persons process & really speeds things up, whilst I’m making important decisions. As well as missing persons searches, we also use CTS-PRAS for surveillance, royal visits, taking photos & reces for firearms & other operational divisions.”

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