

External Advisory Panel (EAP)

Outcomes and Learning Report

Date of Report:	8 th August 2024
EAP:	Police Powers External Advisory Panel

Positive Outcomes

- Panel members have highlighted the need for police officers to turn on their body worn video cameras earlier, when attending an incident, to better understand why the subject has been searched. On occasions, the panel have viewed footage when the camera has been turned on during the police interaction with the subject. As a result, the force has focused on improving the use of body worn cameras and there has been an increase in its use month on month.
- Through the contribution and feedback of panel members, the force has addressed the need for officers to improve their communication skills, when interacting with the public and this has been incorporated into a new training programme that is being delivered to all frontline police officers.
- In order to improve understanding of panel members on stop and search, sufficient grounds and Section 60s, panel members have been invited to the 'Ride Along Scheme' whereby, they can accompany police officers attending incidents when subjects are stopped and searched. This will also help improve transparency in the use of police powers.

Learning

- Panel members were keen to understand the impact of Section 60 searches on children and young people and the need to ensure necessary safeguards are in place. The police have reviewed their Section 60 procedures and will ensure the safeguarding issue is also addressed at the Youth Scrutiny Panel.

- The Panel have discussed the need to recruit additional members and the level of vetting that is required. The force's lead on stop and search has sought advice from the Regional Stop and Search Delivery Group, on which he is represented, on the approaches taken by other forces on vetting, to incorporate best practice in Northumbria.
- As part of the discussion on performance, and in particular on complaints, the Panel highlighted the need for the force to collect demographic data, to help improve the panel's understanding if the complaints are representative of our communities. This is currently being addressed by the force.