

## External Advisory Panel (EAP)

### Outcomes and Learning Report

<b>Date of Report:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>EAP:</b>	PPAP

#### Positive Outcomes

- Through the contribution and feedback of panel members, the force has improved how it records stop and search and use of force, ensuring it provides a greater understanding in the use of police powers.
- The panel also highlighted good practice regarding the speed with which the force reviews stop and search and use of force, addresses areas for improvement and is proactive in share that learning through officer safety training.
- Over the course of last 12 months, the panel have observed a clear improvement in comparison to previous video footages of stop and search and use of force, commenting that there has been less critique required and officers demonstrating the development and benefits of the training they are receiving.

#### Learning

- In relation to collecting demographic data on stop and search and use of force, the panel identified that the ‘other’ category asking the subject to specify their background wasn’t meaningful or beneficial. As a result, the force is looking at how to better capture this information as well as researching what other forces are doing with data collection.

- Panel members have raised issues about the lack of effective communication by police officers with the subject and the need to provide reassurance, they also observed that the process can sometimes be long and drawn out after the search when no weapons have been found. Northumbria Police recognise that officers need to ‘have a plain English conversation’ with the subject so have re-visited their provision of training to pay particular attention to improving the officer’s communication skills.
- The panel have emphasised that Officers’ understanding of different cultures is vital to ensure their engagement with diverse communities instils a sense of confidence in the public. In order to aid effective community engagement, officers receive a wide range of briefings to assist them in understanding our communities. In recognising the increased diversity of our communities, panel members are also assisting the police with the briefings.