

Durham Constabulary

Stop & Search Scrutiny

Overview

A tasking to the Cohesion Team was to gain the communities views on the use of stop & search by Durham Constabulary. A package has been developed to deliver to community groups and further education establishments. The package consists of:

- Introduction presentation on the processes used in a stop & search.
- Video developed by Durham Constabulary displaying how a stop & search should be conducted.
- 10 x bodycam videos of past stop & search cases within Durham Constabulary.
- Booklet detailing all 10 stop & search records from Red Sigma.
- Feedback forms to be completed by panel members.

The package has been delivered by members of the Cohesion Team and the Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit who have identified community groups that they have engaged with as part of their Cohesion engagement.

Findings

The following groups were identified following the community engagement conducted by the Cohesion Unit:

- New College Durham
- Age UK
- Phoenix Trans Group
- Wear & Tees Fire Cadets
- Durham Constabulary Cadets
- PRU Schools – Elemore School
- Durham Sixth Form PACT Meeting
- Police Support Volunteers
- Darlington Unity Group
- Derwentside College
- Durham Miners Association

Further groups are scheduled to receive the input with dates identified by the Cohesion Unit.

The below tables are a breakdown of the findings and responses from the feedback form completed by the members before and after the scrutiny panel input.

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Feedback Forms Before Input

No. Question	Answers				
Q1. Are you aware police have powers to stop & search people in certain circumstances?	Yes:	No:			
	66	8			
Q2. Would you know what your rights were if you were stop & searched?	12	62			
Q3. On a scale of 1 – 10 do you think that the use of stop & search makes your community safer?	1= 2= 3= 4= 1 5= 8 6= 4 7= 17 8= 21 9= 6 10= 17				
Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with that the rules and procedures that govern the use of stop and search are fair to everyone?	Strongly Agree:	Agree:	Neither:	Disagree:	Strongly disagree:
	9	41	22	2	0
Q5. And how much do you agree or disagree that stop and search is used fairly by Durham Police?	10	40	23	1	0
Q6. The police use rules and procedures that are fair to everyone?	13	47	11	3	0
Q7. The police make decisions based on fact and not on their own personal opinions?	9	40	18	5	2
Q8. They would treat you with dignity and respect if you had contact with them for any reason?	16	46	7	5	0
Q9. The police clearly explain the reasons for their actions?	15	51	7	1	0
Q10. The police make decisions to handle problems fairly?	7	59	7	1	0
Q11. They take time to listen to people they deal with?	10	48	14	2	0
Q12. They consider the views of the people they with before making decisions?	6	42	19	7	0
Q13. The police make decisions to handle problems fairly?	8	49	15	2	0
Q14. The police explain their decisions to the people they deal with?	14	51	7	2	0
Q15. The police approach their job with a strong moral code?	20	45	8	1	0
Q16. The police care about the people in my community?	25	40	8	1	0
Q17. I would be comfortable letting the police in my community handle a specific situation that was important to me?	26	37	9	1	1
Q18. They sincerely try to help people with their problems in this area?	18	42	13	1	0
Q19. Do you think we could improve the Stop & Search processes?					

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Feedback Forms After Input

No. Question	Answers				
Q1. Are you aware police have powers to stop & search people in	Yes:	No:			
	75	0			
Q2. Would you know what your rights were if you were stop &	70	5			
Q3. On a scale of 1 – 10 do you think that that the use of stop & search	1= 2= 3= 1 4= 1 5= 3 6= 1 7= 9 8= 20 9= 15 10= 35				
Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with that the rules and	Strongly Agree:	Agree:	Neither:	Disagree:	Strongly disagree:
	30	40	4	1	0
Q5. And how much do you agree or disagree that stop and search is used	26	41	8	0	0
Q6. The police use rules and procedures that are fair to everyone?	30	39	4	1	1
Q7. The police make decisions based on fact and not on their own personal	24	39	7	4	1
Q8. They would treat you with dignity and respect if you had contact	25	38	9	2	1
Q9. The police clearly explain the reasons for their actions?	22	45	7	1	0
Q10. The police make decisions to handle problems fairly?	30	39	4	2	0
Q11. They take time to listen to people they deal with?	22	39	9	5	0
Q12. They consider the views of the people they with before making	21	38	10	6	0
Q13. The police make decisions to handle problems fairly?	31	38	6	0	0
Q14. The police explain their decisions to the people they deal	25	45	3	1	1
Q15. The police approach their job with a strong moral code?	29	41	4	1	0
Q16. The police care about the people in my community?	33	36	5	1	0
Q17. I would be comfortable letting the police in my community handle a specific situation that was important	35	35	3	1	1
Q18. They sincerely try to help people with their problems in this	31	34	10	0	0
Q19. Do you think we could improve the Stop & Search processes?	Yes: 10		No: 36		

All of the above stop & search cases were selected by the Office of the Durham Police Crime & Victims Commissioner to ensure transparency throughout the whole process.

Scrutiny Groups

- New College Durham
- Age UK
- Phoenix Trans Group
- Wear & Tees Fire Cadets
- Durham Constabulary Cadets
- PRU Schools – Elemore School
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Learning Outcomes

During the scrutiny process one stop & search incident was highlighted by various groups and they identified that the officer in the incident did not adhere to the correct procedures when conducting the search and did not state all GOWISLEY points. This incident was directed to the force lead for Stop & Search and with the assistance from the officer's supervision, words of advice was given and the officer agreed with what the panel stated.

Overall the searches were conducted proportionately and legally with officers covering relevant procedures and processes. As a result of the scrutiny the following questions were raised by members of the various scrutiny panels:

- When searching a person who is visually impaired or blind how an officer can ensure the person feels safe and is clear they are a genuine officer before the search commences.
- What is in place to provide a copy of the search form for a person who is visually impaired or blind.
- How do we ensure persons with learning disabilities understand the grounds and their rights with the stop search process.
- Considerations around questions to ask prior to searching a member of the transgender community and carrying out the search.
- With the high percentage of people registered disabled within our communities are officers aware of issues regarding search people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities or wheelchairs.
- Bodycam footage on occasions was difficult to view or failed to capture the entire search due to position.

To address these issues a training programme is being rolled to identify our community and how we deal specifically with our communities needs. This training addresses all the above areas where there appears to be a gap in the organisational knowledge around stopping and searching our protected communities. This will also be reinforced in an internal training session around hate crime, running in 2019 named the 'Do It Right, Do It Better'.

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In relation to the bodycam feedback the Constabulary has rolled out new bodyworn cameras that provide a better quality of footage.

Next Steps

Dates have been considered for another round of stop & search scrutiny for December 2018, utilising the same community groups and identified new groups to take part in the process.

The Office of the Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner will be randomly selecting stop & search incidents for the Constabulary to utilise in this process.