

Multi-agency stop and search scrutiny panel for incidents involving young people

A force-level governance meeting involving multi-agency external stakeholders to discuss stop and search incidents involving young people.

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Key details

Does it work?	Untested – new or innovative
Focus	Prevention
Topic	Crime prevention
Organisation	Greater Manchester Police
HMICFRS report	PEEL 2023–25 Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy: An inspection of Greater Manchester Police
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Region	North West
Partners	Police Community safety partnership Health services Local authority

Key details

Stage of practice	The practice is implemented.
Start date	December 2023
Scale of initiative	Local
Target group	Children and young people Workforce

Aim

The aim of the stop and search scrutiny panel is to review body-worn video (BWV) footage and provide feedback on incidents involving young people.

The long-term aim is to make recommendations to improve Greater Manchester Police's (GMP) understanding of their use of stop and search powers and the impact it has on young people.

Intended outcome

The intended outcomes are:

- improve interactions with children and young people
- improve transparency around stop and search
- improve multi-agency working around stop and search
- improve the community's confidence and trust in stop and search

Description

GMP has been recognised in the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) PEEL inspections for their work on Independent Advisory Groups (IAG) and

their scrutiny on the use of stop and search. To further build on this work, a multi-agency stop and search scrutiny panel was formed in December 2023 to focus on the force's interaction with young people.

The multi-agency scrutiny panel is co-chaired by a member of force and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The panel consists of representation from the following organisations:

- GMP
- GMCA
- youth services
- NHS
- education
- probation
- youth champions

The panel is held every six to eight weeks to discuss stop and search cases involving young people. Prior to each panel, the force uses Axon (BVW database) to select cases to be reviewed. The criteria of what is selected is decided at the previous panel such as children in care or parent/carer interactions. In preparation for the review the footage information is recorded on two spreadsheets:

- the first contains a reference number, the subject name the BWV link
- the second contains additional information to provide context of the case to the panel before the clip is shown

Once the clip is shown, outcomes are documented and recommendations are made to response officers.

Recommendations from the panel have led to a training package being developed by the force which aims to improve officers' interactions with young people, particularly those with a neurodiversity, have special needs and or are from diverse, black and ethnic backgrounds. GMP is also working with a pupil referral unit (PRU) to ensure the views of young people from a range of social and ethnic backgrounds are represented. The feedback from the panel, officers and young people are used to support the multi-agency learning for front line staff to deliver an improved child centred policing (CCP) approach.

Evaluation

Internal monitoring undertaken has led to reflection on the membership of the multi-agency panel, with an addition made of a youth champion to reflect and progress young people views and feedback.

Plans are currently in place for the University of Manchester to undertake an assessment of the panel.

Overall impact

- improvements have been made to stop and search encounters, reflected in positive feedback from the local community
- the panel's recommendations have now been rolled out force wide and is being led by the force search lead
- while there is no data on improving young peoples' interactions with the police, there has been a reduction in the number of complaints relating to stop and search activity

A new youth advisory group created by GMCA will provide added scrutiny and feedback will be incorporated into learning training loops.

Learning

Challenges

- a considerable amount of time was spent setting up the panel, finding the appropriate partner agencies and ensuring that there was no additional cost to the force
- finding cases that fit the panel's criteria and recording the information in spreadsheets is a manually process which takes time

Learning

- it is essential to maintain engagement with young people by including their views to build trust and confidence
- while it is important to make recommendations when reviewing stop and search cases, it is also important to recognise officer's good work and give positive feedback

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