

Introduction

Hello everyone, I'm Vincent Leyenda, the Assurance Officer here at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Part of my role is helping to co-ordinate our scrutiny panels and independent schemes. These play a vital role in us holding Humberside Police and the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the public.

Announcement

We are proud to announce the establishment of a new scrutiny panel dedicated to addressing **Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**. This panel is set to commence in March 2025, with the recruitment window for applications now open until December 20th, 2024.



The panel will consist of independent volunteers from diverse backgrounds, including those with lived experiences, to ensure a broad and inclusive perspective. By examining police reports and practices, the panel will provide essential recommendations for improvement, fostering transparency, accountability, and innovation within the police force. This initiative underscores the OPCC's commitment to improving public trust and ensuring better outcomes for victims.

Police and Crime Commissioner Jonathan Evison emphasised the significance of this new panel, stating, "The creation of this scrutiny panel is a vital step towards addressing the pressing issues of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. We are immensely proud to have established this panel, which will play a crucial role in enhancing our police practices and supporting victims in our community."

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel

Our October panel highlighted several positive findings from the samples we scrutinised regarding Use of Force and Stop & Search. This included high compliance with procedures and effective training. 88% of Stop & Search incidents which the panel reviewed were conducted in compliance with established procedures and 85% of Use of Force cases were also compliant. Our panel members continue to regularly attend Police Officer training sessions, to observe how officers are trained to use their powers, especially relating to those that use force. The members have reported back to say they have unanimously found the sessions enlightening and educational, and feel officers are receiving a good level of training on how to use force and when it is appropriate to do so.



Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel

September saw us run our first ever 'Mini' panel for Hate Crime. This was a shorter and smaller evening session, like our full panel meetings. At this panel we were able to review a Humberside Police training video relating to Hate Crime and feedback our thoughts to the learning and development team within the Force. We also reviewed a hate crime report which was sourced via our Hate Crime Victims survey. Our survey allows victims to speak to us about the service they received. If you have been a victim of hate crime and wish to tell us your experiences, please complete our survey -

<https://forms.office.com/e/rQWLqX9XZV?origin=lpLink>

Our full panel October meeting was very productive, and of the samples of Hate Crimes we reviewed, 85% of cases the panel felt were managed efficiently with timely updates to victims and clear documentation presented. Members in attendance also had a direct input from the Humberside Police Force Registrar on the function of the Designated Decision Makers. We also had in attendance one of the Superintendents for Neighbourhood Policing along with a Community Cohesion Officer. Having this panel, and our other panels, so well attended by Police officers and staff, speaks volumes to the efforts Humberside Police are making to build relationships with local communities.

Independent Custody Visitor Scheme (ICVs)

Between September and Mid-November our ICVs have conducted 18 visits to our two custody suites and interacted with over 120 detainees to ensure their needs and rights are met. It is important to remember that those in custody are innocent until proven guilty, and so it is vital they are treated with dignity and respect. Our ICVs also continue to monitor the conditions of suites, staffing issues presented to them and all other manner of issues that can arise. Some of our members have been very keen to ensure there are suitable Menopause provisions for detainees who may need additional support, and our office have been working alongside Humberside Police to ensure those needs are being met.

Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel (ICSP)

At our last Custody Panel meeting, the ICSP members highlighted several positive aspects of the strip search process, including high compliance with protocols and support for vulnerable individuals. The members did note some data quality issues in some records, which is something we will look to monitor at future meetings. The panel also looked at Use of Force examples used in Custody and found that all reports scrutinised showed the powers used by the officers were justified and proportionate.

Meet the Team



Ebenezer is one of our newest members of the Police Powers scrutiny panel. He told us he chose to volunteer with us as it gives him an opportunity to give back to the community. He told us "The joy of getting involved in decision making for the betterment of the people is a great deal for me. Also, the fact that I feel really welcomed and given the same opportunity makes me fulfilled". We are thrilled to have Ebenezer as part of the team, Thank you Ebenezer.



Olha is another new member to our panels and sits on our Hate Crime Panel. She has recently moved to the UK and sees the panel as a great opportunity to learn greater skills in English and understand the diversity in our culture and differences in our laws. Olha told us that volunteering is “a form of gratitude to the community and country” for ensuring her and her family have been made to feel safe. She is very happy to be a new member and we are very happy that she has decided to join our team. Thank you Olha.



Joanne has been a volunteer with the OPCC now for almost 18 months. She started as an ICV and has since also taken on the role of Hate Crime Panel Vice Chair and a being a member of the Police Powers panel. Speaking with Joanne and asking why she chose the OPCC, she told us that she wanted to represent those in the community who feel they don't have a voice and is trying to give back and make a difference. Joanne shares our passion for fighting against injustice and wants to “make things better for our children and future generations”. When she's not fighting injustice, Joanne is listening to

Duran Duran and has lost count of how many times she has seen them in concert. Joanne's appetite for volunteering and helping 'Planet Earth' is 'Hungry like the wolf'. We know how 'Serious' she takes her role to help the voiceless and those who feel 'Invisible' She is always asking 'Is there something I should know?' and to that we say, you should know how grateful we are for your time.

Thank You



Once again, a huge thank you to our volunteer team, which is growing bigger and stronger all the time.

In September we held our Annual 'Thank You' evening, this time at Humber Street Gallery in Hull. The evening was just a small token of appreciation for the role our members do. There was plenty of food and laughs to be had, followed by impassioned speeches given by The PCC Jonathan Evison and the Deputy Chief Constable David Marshall.



We also issued 3 of our volunteers with long service awards. We say thank you once again to Luana (Police Powers Panel), Paul (ICV) and David (ICV) for their dedication to helping the local community through our schemes.

If you would like to volunteer with us, visit our website.