



Community Scrutiny Panel – Stop & Search

Date:	26 th August 2026
Time:	17:30-20:00
Location:	Rugby Police Station
Chair:	Vicky Hoppitt
Attendance:	Vicky Hoppitt (Equality and Engagement Officer) Dave Valente (Stop Search Lead 10 Community Scrutiny Panel members
Clips viewed:	4 Stop Search Body Worn Videos (BWV) reviewed
Next meeting:	9 th September Nuneaton – Use of Force

This document provides a summary of feedback from the Community Scrutiny Panel. Panel members are independent members of the public. They are not employed or paid by Warwickshire Police to provide these views.

The content is taken from feedback forms completed by panel members following the session. Responses have been reviewed and summarised to highlight key themes and remove repetition. This document does not include full verbatim comments but aims to present an accurate and balanced overview of the feedback provided.

Feedback from the panel is shared with Warwickshire Police learning and development teams to support ongoing reflection and to help identify potential training and development needs.

26th August 2026

At the beginning of the meeting, the panel viewed a presentation delivered by Inspector Dave Valente. The briefing focused on Stop and Search, including the powers available under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), and highlighted what panel members should expect to see during a Stop and Search encounter.



Positive Practice Identified

Panel members commended officers for:

- Remaining calm, polite and respectful throughout interactions.
- Providing clear explanations and maintaining open dialogue with members of the public.
- Building rapport whilst maintaining professionalism.
- Conducting searches in a thorough, proportionate and respectful manner.
- Managing challenging behaviour, verbal abuse and resistance effectively while remaining composed.
- Demonstrating care for the welfare of individuals and seeking opportunities to de-escalate situations.

Learning Opportunities

The panel identified a small number of recurring areas for improvement:

- Providing clearer explanations for operational decisions, including the use of handcuffs, repeat searches and search tactics.
- Ensuring officer safety checks, such as asking about sharp objects, are clearly communicated.
- Reinforcing knowledge of stop and search procedures, including offering receipts and explaining record retention processes.
- Improving coordination during multi-officer encounters to ensure clear leadership and avoid officers speaking over one another.
- Considering how informal language may be perceived by members of the public, with some panel members viewing terms such as "mate" as unprofessional.
- Providing additional context where appropriate to help the public understand tactical decisions and officer actions.

Overall Conclusion

The panel found that officers consistently demonstrated professionalism, respect and effective communication during the encounters reviewed. The learning identified focused primarily on improving public understanding of police actions through clearer explanations and consistent communication of stop and search procedures, rather than concerns about officer conduct.