



Community Scrutiny Panel – Use of Force

Date:	13 th May 2026
Time:	17:30-20:00
Location:	Rugby Police Station
Chair:	Vicky Hoppitt
Attendance:	Vicky Hoppitt (Equality and Engagement Officer), Wes Gladwin (Use of Force Lead), Community Scrutiny Panel members.
Clips viewed:	6 Use of Force Body Worn Video (BWV) reviewed
Next meeting:	1 st July 2026 – Nuneaton Justice Centre

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.

Feedback Overview

Feedback across all six cases was very positive. Panel members consistently identified professional behaviour, strong communication and appropriate, proportionate use of force.

There was no significant learning requirements identified. However, some consistent observations were raised which provide useful opportunities for reflection, particularly around the use of handcuffs and articulation of decision-making.



Key Positives

- Officers were consistently described as professional, calm and appropriate in their approach.
- Communication was a key strength across all cases, including:
 - Clear explanations of arrest and reasoning
 - Open and effective communication
 - Friendly, approachable and reassuring demeanour
- Officers demonstrated strong interpersonal skills and were able to build rapport quickly.
- There was clear evidence of empathy and compassion, including:
 - Consideration of individual and additional needs
 - Ensuring subjects were comfortable
 - Demonstrating kindness and reassurance throughout interactions
- Officers demonstrated appropriate and proportionate use of force, including:
 - Justified use of handcuffs where required
 - Appropriate use of PAVA in challenging circumstances
- Positive feedback also highlighted:
 - Effective explanations of decision-making
 - Good overall control of incidents
 - Professional and consistent handling of situations

Areas for Improvement

No formal learning points were identified across these six cases.

However, the following reflective considerations were raised by panel members:

- In several cases, the necessity of handcuffing was questioned, particularly where the individual was not perceived as an immediate physical threat.
- In one instance, there appeared to be some inconsistency between the justification for handcuffing and the subsequent level of control (for example, allowing the individual to retrieve personal items).

These points relate to perception and clarity rather than inappropriate practice.

Key Themes / Observations

- Strong and consistent communication across all officers
- High levels of professionalism and empathy
- Appropriate and proportionate use of force
- Positive public perception of officer behaviour

Reflective theme:

- Ensuring that the rationale for use of force (particularly handcuffing) is clearly justified, applied consistently and communicated effectively

Development considerations:

- Reinforcing clear articulation of necessity and proportionality when using force
- Ensuring consistency between decision-making and actions

- Supporting officers to explain use of force decisions in a way that is clearly understood by the public