



## Stop Search Project: Update May 2015

### What is this project about?

The College of Policing is leading work examining the use of Stop Search powers, working with the National Police Chief lead and with stakeholders and partners from across the criminal justice system, academia, the third sector and members of the public.

It will ensure that the evidence base on Stop Search is as far as possible being developed, collated and presented to inform national approaches being proposed, including the Best Use of Stop Search Scheme. It will identify, review and develop relevant national training which incorporates unconscious bias and will produce revised Authorised Professional Practice.

### Recent Developments

#### Northamptonshire Police – Reasonable Grounds Panel (RGP).

Since October 2014 Northants Police has operated a monthly police and public scrutiny process examining stop search encounters where there is doubt that the grounds used are 'reasonable'. The Panel is chaired by a Chief Inspector and includes a frontline officer as well as two members of the public, ranging from offenders, ex-offenders, students and complainants. Observers are welcomed. A range of developmental opportunities are offered to those who have conducted and supervised searches where the reasonable grounds standard was not met, ranging from an advisory email to one to one coaching or ultimately to suspension from the use/supervision of stop search, accompanied by a development plan. The Professional Standards Department were instrumental in developing the process and can intervene at any point. So far 6 constables and 1 sergeant have been suspended from use/supervision.

The number of stop searches presented to the RGP has more than halved and it has been noted that no property has been found in any of the searches presented to the panel. Feedback from panel members has been very positive and trends have been embedded into annual training as well as via a 'lessons learned' communication. The RGP plans to incorporate examination of Police Reform Act powers from May 2015. For further details please contact [Sgt Sally Trattle](#).

**In other news.....** HMIC published its report "[Stop and search powers 2: are the police using them effectively and fairly?](#)" making 11 recommendations and reiterating the importance of implementing [recommendations made in 2013](#). **Draft national stop search standards** will be published following the stop search project board on 15<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to see a copy of the draft standards please [email Nick Glynn](#). **YStop** which is run by [Release](#) in partnership with [StopWatch](#) and [Fully Focused](#) launched **2 educational films** designed to reduce the risk of conflict and harm caused by contact with the police, improve relationships with the police, make young people more aware of how to deal with police encounters in a positive manner and increase awareness amongst communities about stop and search. Click here for [Film 1](#) + [Film 2](#).

Please read [Nick Glynn's blog](#) following StopWatch's "Stop and Search: Impact on the Community and Prospects for Reform" event at the Houses of Parliament on the 17th March.



Dorset Police held its first stop search community meeting in Bournemouth on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

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### In the next edition.....

- Public viewing of stop search videos
- Police Public Encounters Board update
- Stop Search training – pilot forces