

## Independent Chair

### North Yorkshire's Stop and Search and Use Of Force Scrutiny Panel

#### Job Description

#### Independent Chair role description:

The Independent Chair of the Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel will support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in building transparency of, and public confidence in, how North Yorkshire Police use stop and search and use of force powers. The panel will scrutinise the appropriate use of these powers, identifying good practice and areas for learning, making recommendations to the police for improvement of policy, procedure and practice.

#### Details

The selection criteria is based on personal qualities rather than professional qualifications.

Once recruited, the successful candidate will need to go through police vetting processes and sign a confidentiality agreement.

#### ***How to apply***

*If you are interested in this role please send an email to [lianne.gardner@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk](mailto:lianne.gardner@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk) with a copy of your CV and a covering letter explaining the skills and experience you can bring to the role, and providing examples against the personal qualities and attributes being sought.*

#### Personal Qualities and Attributes

##### Motivation

- An interest in policing and crime issues, use of police powers, equality and/or human rights and a desire to represent the public to ensure the police service are acting in a way which communities across North Yorkshire would find appropriate
- Someone who has an interest in scrutinising casework and decision making, making sure the best possible decision is being made

##### Good character

- Personal integrity
- Discretion and the ability to maintain confidentiality
- A respect for different ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds
- Effective communication skills

##### Understanding and good judgement

- An ability to understand documents, to identify and digest relevant facts, and to follow arguments
- An ability to think logically, to weigh arguments and to reach logical conclusions
- Common sense and realistic expectations

### **Commitment and reliability**

- A willingness to undertake the required training
- No maximum or minimum serving period, however members should have commitment to the panel

### **Desirable skills**

- The ability to offer written feedback concisely
- The ability to question and challenge established practice where necessary
- The ability to weigh up issues and make balanced, reasonable and proportionate judgements
- The ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with a wide range of people including members of the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, North Yorkshire Police and other partner agencies

### **About the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel:**

The panel does not scrutinise individual decisions and is not a decision-making or appeals body in terms of case outcomes or policy and procedure.

The successful candidate will be able to commit to chairing the panel for a minimum of two and maximum of five years. The panel will sit on a quarterly basis for approximately two hours and meetings will take place in Harrogate, York or Northallerton.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Provide independent advice to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and North Yorkshire Police on any scrutiny panel findings, including areas of good and poor practice, identified areas for improvement, and recommended development of policy, procedure or practice that will bring transparency to, and improve public understanding, confidence and trust in, how stop and search and use of force powers are used
- To maintain an up to date knowledge and awareness of national and local Stop and Search / Use of Force procedures
- Effectively chair meetings of the Scrutiny Panel ensuring all aspects of business are properly covered in line with the Terms of Reference
- Ensure the formal terms of reference for the Scrutiny Panel are maintained through panel meetings, and that this is reviewed on an annual basis
- Ensure the Scrutiny Panel effectively discharges its key responsibilities:
  - Provides independent scrutiny and feedback on the appropriate and proportionate use of police powers within national and local statutory and regulative frameworks
  - Provides independent assurance that police powers are applied in line with principles of equality and human rights, with due care and respect for the dignity and rights of the person
  - Makes sensible and proportionate recommendations to the police for improvement of policy, procedure or practice
- Ensure that any recommendations are assigned appropriately within an agreed timescale by the panel and that these are actioned accordingly
- Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the Scrutiny Panel, produce an annual report on the Panel's business and findings, and recommend amendments to the Panel's Terms of Reference

### **Excluded occupations:**

- Employees of North Yorkshire Police or any criminal justice partners
- Solicitors working within criminal law