



Milton Keynes

Community Scrutiny Panel

Reporting period April 2025 – March 2026





Leadership messages

Message from the Independent Chair Lisa Lovell

I wanted to start by extending my gratitude and thanks to the dedicated community panel members who give up their time to contribute to this important part of police reform.

This past year has been one of meaningful transition, steady progress, and renewed purpose for the Community Scrutiny Panel in Milton Keynes. As Independent Chair, I have had the privilege of guiding the panel through a period of change while ensuring our core focus remained constant: scrutiny that is fair, informed, and rooted in the lived experiences of our community.





Leadership messages

Message from the Independent Chair Lisa Lovell

We began the year working closely with Inspector Ross Gehnich, whose commitment to transparency, community confidence, and consistent officer engagement helped shape a strong foundation for the panel. His approach encouraged open dialogue, strengthened our review processes, and supported the development of a culture where challenge was not only accepted but actively welcomed. The legacy he leaves behind is significant. He established structures and habits that continue to support effective oversight, and he helped cement a shared understanding between officers and the community about what good practice looks like.





Leadership messages

Message from the Independent Chair Lisa Lovell

Mid-year, we welcomed Inspector Burrey Muzuva into post, and with that came the natural period of adjustment that new leadership brings. This transition has been positive, collaborative, and forward-looking. The new inspector has already shown a willingness to listen, to understand the ethos of the panel, and to build on the strengths inherited from his predecessor. We look forward to reshaping a refreshed working rhythm with him -one that retains the best of our established model while recognising opportunities to develop and refine our scrutiny further.

Despite the changes, the panel has remained focused, consistent, and committed. Themes raised throughout the year, the learning we've identified, and the improvements we've seen in officer practice reflect the value of our work. The continued dedication of members, combined with strong operational partnership from Thames Valley Police, has ensured that the panel remains an essential voice in supporting fair and proportionate use of stop and search.





Leadership messages

Message from the Independent Chair Lisa Lovell

This has been a year of evolution, steady progress, and strengthened relationships. I look forward to building on the foundations that have been laid and continuing our work to ensure trust, accountability, and community confidence remain at the heart of stop and search in Milton Keynes.





A message from Chief Superintendent Emma Baillie

Over the past year, the Community Scrutiny Panel in Milton Keynes has continued to demonstrate the very best of what meaningful community scrutiny can achieve when it is built on trust, openness and mutual respect. I am deeply grateful to the Independent Chair and panel members who give their time, insight and lived experience to this work. Their contribution is not passive or peripheral; it is central to how we hold ourselves to account and how we ensure that our use of police powers is fair, proportionate and grounded in the values we expect of modern policing.

I am especially appreciative of the strong representation from Milton Keynes' Black community on the panel. We recognise that Black communities are disproportionately impacted by stop and search nationally, and for that reason their voice, lived experience and scrutiny carry particular weight and importance in shaping fairer practice and informed challenge. The quality of discussion, the emphasis on safeguarding, communication and understanding, and the willingness to engage constructively when concerns are raised all reflect a shared commitment to learning.





A message from Chief Superintendent Emma Baillie

I firmly believe that trust and confidence are earned through actions, not assurances. The work set out in this report shows how community voice, supervisory oversight and officer development can come together to improve practice, particularly for our younger-in-service officers who are still forming their professional judgement. Our ongoing commitment is to listen, to act on feedback, and to ensure that respect, fairness and empathy remain at the heart of every encounter.





About the group

The Local Command Unit Community Scrutiny Panel (CSP) is led by the Independent Chair and supported by an Inspector who has the lead responsibility for Stop and Search and Use of Force, the Community and Diversity Officer and a range of invited individuals from local communities/voluntary organisations.

The chair is responsible for structuring the meetings; ensuring members understand any agreed actions and review those, which are outstanding.

Thames Valley Police make appropriate documents available to the panel members, monitor and appraise the data from the CSP, address any issues and communicate to the public, partner agencies and organisations about the work of the panel.



Meetings & membership

- Number of meetings held: 5
- Average attendance: 5-7 per meeting with 4 rolling members
- Police representation: 2 per meeting. Every meeting we have the honour of the Inspector and the Community and Diversity Officer. On occasion, we have had other police personnel come to visit or observe.

Member diversity summary: we have a very diverse membership within the group, White British, Caribbean, African, Male, Female, as well as neurodivergent members.

Identified gaps: The voice of young people and the representation of trainee officers.





What we focused on



Themes

- **Theme one – Safeguarding:** ensuring that officers are exercising their duty of care towards individuals when conducting/ concluding a stop and search or stop and account. This means following safeguarding procedures, to reduce risk of harm and promote safety for members of the public that are stopped.
- **Theme two – Reasoning and understanding:** Use of the interpreting service for those where English is not their first language. This has come about due to several interactions where the opportunity to utilise the interpreting service was missed.



Issue Raised – Action Taken

Issue Raised	Action taken
Trust and confidence	When concerns have been raised by the community about incidents or reports occurring outside Milton Keynes, these have often been directed either to the Community and Diversity Officer (CADO) or to the Independent Chair. In response, the panel has engaged quickly and constructively – either by releasing a statement or by addressing the matter directly – to ensure transparency and reassurance. A recent example involved an issue that was brought to the Chair's attention through social media. The matter was promptly shared with the Inspector and the CADO, enabling early intervention. Through direct communication with the young person and their parents, we were able to provide clarity, rebuild trust and confidence, and engage with the officers involved to support reflective learning and improved future practice.



Issue Raised – Action Taken

Issue Raised	Action taken
Community interaction	In response to incidents that have occurred in Milton Keynes we have interacted with the community – either through asking for feedback or putting out a statement. As a panel we are very active at local events, engaging with the wider community and speaking at events. The chair speaks at a lot of events throughout the year as well as raising the profile of the work we do through LinkedIn.
Develop & Maintain clear, timely, and transparent outward facing communication products relating to use of police powers and their scrutiny.	The panel has commenced publication of scrutiny panel meeting summaries to improve transparency and accountability.



Reflections on how the panel is working

What worked well:

Community engagement and visibility.

What we will improve:

Presence at larger scrutiny regional events and how we share information with communities.



Issue Raised – Action Taken

Cycle	Proposed area for focus
June 2026	The voice of young people Use of Force scrutiny – CAPTOR Incapacitant spray and/or Baton (used or drawn)
Sept 2026	Strengthening good practice, especially in the areas of officer confidence, safeguarding practice and use of interpreting services. Use of Force Scrutiny – Limb restraints and/or spit hood Chair's award for outstanding practice
Dec 2026	S&S scrutiny – Stolen Property S.1.PACE
March 2027	S&S scrutiny – Offensive Weapon /bladed article – S.1. PACE



How to get involved

Your views are important to us.

For any enquiries relating to our Community Scrutiny Panel please contact:
scrutiny@thamesvalley.police.uk.

We are committed to supporting members' learning and development through training and informal learning sessions and seek your valuable input to help shape and improve what and how services are delivered to our communities.