

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF POLICY &
PERFORMANCE

DECISION NUMBER: 12 – 2024

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: FUNDING TO ISCRE TO DELIVER THE POLICE POWERS SCRUTINY
GROUP

SUMMARY:

1. This report requests funding to the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) to facilitate and deliver the Police Powers Scrutiny Group.
2. The service will be delivered under a two-year grant agreement until 31 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the funding of £9,880 annually, for the two-year period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026, to ISCRE for delivery of the service as outlined in the report.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature



Date 1 March 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Suffolk Constabulary's use of stop and search powers has been subject to community scrutiny for several years. The Stop and Search Reference Group was originally established following a report on Stop and Search in Ipswich by the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE). The report, published in 2008, made some key recommendations to improve practice. This included the establishment of a community led group to support the force with scrutiny of its use of stop and search to promote public confidence.
- 1.2 The PCC, in conjunction with Suffolk Constabulary, has funded ISCRE to run the Stop and Search Reference Group since 2012.
- 1.3 In 2014, to improve the use of stop and search nationally, the then Home Secretary announced the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme to achieve greater transparency and community involvement in the use of stop and search powers. Since that time, further advice and good practice has been published via His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services inspection reports and the Home Office with regards to use of community scrutiny panels.
- 1.4 It is recognised by both Suffolk Constabulary, and the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, that external community scrutiny can play an important role in supporting public confidence, and improving quality, consistency and transparency in the use of police powers. Funding for community scrutiny is a commitment in the Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.5 It is accepted that it is now considered good practice to scrutinise Use of Force, including use of Taser as well as the use of Stop and Search. The proposal is to widen the Terms of Reference for the Stop and Search Reference Group to develop a Police Powers Scrutiny Group.
- 1.6 This report requests funding to the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) through a grant agreement for two years. The PCC has the power to issue a grant in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 wherein the Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
- a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.7 Police Powers are a recognised deterrent to crime and disorder, but use of powers can be perceived as disproportionate to certain groups and misunderstood by the wider community.
- 1.8 A grant is the proposed funding arrangement because:
- The work of the Scrutiny Group is to improve community confidence in police use of the powers. There are benefits to the police in terms of proposed good practice, and improving practice, but those benefit the community as well;
 - This is not the type of provision where we could expect 'sanctions' for non-delivery, as the group relies on community interest and voluntary attendance;
 - The current mature monitoring arrangements in place with ISCRE for reporting on the Stop and Search Reference Group will become a requirement for the new Police Powers Scrutiny Group arrangements (see paragraph 2.3).
- 1.9 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Suffolk Constabulary would pay the grant quarterly in arrears and on receipt of monitoring information and in line with the

provision outlined at 2.1 (a-h) being delivered and the monitoring requirements at 2.3 being met.

2 DELIVERING THE POLICE POWERS SCRUTINY GROUP

2.1 The following service will be provided by ISCRE for this grant:

- a) To ensure a clear Terms of Reference (TOR) for the meeting (taking on board the new role of the group to consider use of wider police powers).
- b) To ensure those TOR are shared with those who wish to attend so the Group retains a clear sense of purpose (and that mutual understanding supports effective chairing and administration);
- c) To continue to prepare, publicise, manage and administer six meetings a year (at least two to be held in person to engage new communities and geographies);
- d) To enable a wide range of people to attend the meetings;
- e) Scrutinising a mix of 'stop and search'; 'use of force' and 'taser' records;
- f) Continuing to update on the use of Section 60 and complaints relating to Stop and Search;
- g) ISCRE will continue to provide scrutiny of Body Worn Video in relation to police powers and feed the learning to the Police Powers Scrutiny Group;
- h) ISCRE will continue to engage in police force training in relation to police powers. The proposal is to deliver six separate engagements over the year.

2.2 The new Police Powers Scrutiny Group would expect to be fully functional in respect of the elements above by May 2024.

2.3 The work and findings of the Police Powers Scrutiny Group, will be reported to the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel in January and July. In addition, representatives from ISCRE, the OPCC and the Constabulary would be required to attend the six-monthly monitoring meetings in Spring and Autumn.

2.4 A memorandum of understanding between ISCRE, Suffolk Constabulary and the OPCC, will support collaborative working processes to aid delivery of the service and payment of the grant.

2.4 Attendance at the Police Powers Scrutiny Group would include a senior representative from the Constabulary and might include other policing colleagues so learning can be shared.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The overall cost is £19,760 per annum, which breaks down to £9,880 from the Police and Crime Commissioner and £9,880 from the Constabulary. The release of funding from the OPCC will be paid quarterly in arrears on receipt of the monitoring information, as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

4.1 None.

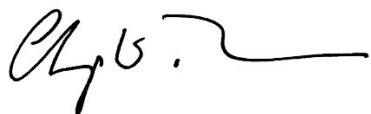
5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The PCC is recommended to agree the funding of £9,880 annually, from the corporate budget for the two-year period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026 to ISCRE for delivery of the service as outlined in the report.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	N/A
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Signature: _____ Date 1 March 2024</p>
--