

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel**

Understanding the ethnicity of those stopped and searched in Hertfordshire through an analysis of the data is not straightforward. This is down to several factors, including the accuracy of recording of ethnicity due to disparities between self-defined ethnicity and officer-defined ethnicity. Those who are stopped and searched are not obliged to disclose their ethnicity, and indeed some may choose to misrepresent themselves. There can be vast differences in how an individual categorises themselves and how an officer defines a person.

We also have a changeable and dynamic cohort who are stopped and searched compared to the resident population. This is primarily due to the movement of people from outside of the county, often attracted to the night-time economy being stopped and searched, who do not reside in Hertfordshire.

The independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel uses the most recent 2015 mid-year local authority population data as a baseline to measure and challenge any disproportionality.

The Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel comprises of 17 members; nine of those are male and eight female. Of those 17 members, three are from the BAME community, with another BAME member undergoing training and will be joining the Panel in December 2018. Three Panel members are between the ages of 18-24 years.