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| Event History

Policy owned by Operational Support**Use of Force****1. Policy Purpose and key drivers**

The purpose of this policy and associated operational procedures is to provide Police Officers and members of Police Staff of Staffordshire Police with an understanding of the law and an overarching generic approach to the use of force in managing conflict.

This policy and its procedures should not be viewed in isolation but seen as underpinning the specific training given to officers and staff in managing conflict and resolving violent or potentially violent incidents.

Any intentional application of force to another person is an assault and is unlawful unless it can be justified. This policy sets out the law on the use of force and the requirements for its use to not only be necessary, justified but reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.

The use of force is justified in officers/staff acting to protect themselves or in self-defence, in the defence/protection of colleagues and/or members of the public for example when effecting an arrest, to prevent a crime or effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders or of persons unlawfully at large

In establishing an objective basis that a person should be subject to the lawful use of force by an officer/staff member the officer/staff member need not wait until physical force is used upon them or another they may be justified in taking pre-emptive action based upon the behaviours/conduct displayed by an individual person.

The use of force by an individual officer/staff member is an individual decision by that officer/staff member based on their own skills and the impact factors applying to the situation as presented at the time.

Related Documents

Links to related documents:	Use of Force - Spit Guards (Procedure) Use of Force - Taser (Procedure) Use of Force - PAVA (CapTor 2) Spray (Procedure) Use of Force - General Procedures (Procedure)
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Gatekeeper - the Author suggested the following Procedure document(s) to link to.	PAVA (CapTor 2) Spray – Operational Processes; Taser
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Relevant Dates and Review Period

Effective Date:	18/07/2016
Review Date:	08/10/2020
Review Frequency:	Annually

Policy Basis and Implications

2. Legal Basis:	The Criminal Law Act 1967, The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Common Law,
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3. Management of Police Information (MoPI):	The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). MoPI Policing Purpose: Protecting Life and Property, Preserving order, Preventing the commission of offences, Bringing offenders to justice, Any duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law MoPI Review, Retention and Disposal addressed as follows: All use of force is recorded using an online form which enables Staffordshire Police to report formally to the Home Office, to learn lessons and to review policy & training.
4. Associated Benefits:	Regular reviews of the content of training and force policy.
5. Consultation:	Staffs Police Performance & Standards Unit. Operational personal Safety Training Unit Police Federation Unison
6. Financial Implications:	None
7. Human Resources / Training:	Training is already in place and this policy adds no more to that requirement.
8. Associated Policy:	None

FOI, Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment

Indicators

FOIA:	Release to Public
ECHR:	Compliant
EIA:	Compliant Compliant with Code of Ethics: Yes

Indexing

Categories:	Custody Health and Safety Professional Standards Public Order
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