



POLICING  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP

N8 Policing  
Research Partnership  
Annual Report 2022

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# Foreword

Chancellor of the University of Manchester and former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England, Nazir Afzal OBE, on the value of police-academic partnerships.

SINCE BECOMING CHANCELLOR of the University of Manchester in August 2022, I have been working to familiarise myself with the breadth and reach of research across the University. In doing so, I have been struck by the vital importance of partnerships to research in every field – from co-investigators working together in the same department to long-established commitments that span institutions, disciplines, and even continents. In every sense, collaboration is at the heart of what it means to conduct research.

Research, however, is never an end in itself – even if its ultimate value cannot be judged in the short term. The task of ensuring that the wealth of knowledge and understanding developed by academia is translated into meaningful change is far from straightforward, and too often is hampered by the challenge of translating the language of peer-reviewed research into the action of policy and practice.

N8 PRP is an excellent example of how this challenge can be met, bringing the strength of collaboration to the heart of creating meaningful change. It is fantastic to see twelve police forces and eight universities



working in equal partnership. In doing so, N8 PRP creates access to resources across the region – not only the material resources of institutions, but more importantly, the knowledge and experience of their people, enriching our understanding at every stage of research and implementation.

*It is fantastic to see twelve police forces and eight universities working in equal partnership.* ”

As the former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North-West England and Chief Executive of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, I am all too aware of the challenges posed to the police service following a decade

of austerity that resulted in the loss of thousands of experienced police officers, the closure of many police stations and custody suites, and a lack of investment in replacing outdated equipment. I am also mindful of the continued criticisms that the police and the criminal justice system have failed to sufficiently address the inequalities inherent in our society, be they based on race, religion, gender, or class, often failing to protect the most vulnerable.

As the police service starts to rebuild nationally, the co-production of research between forces, Universities, and other stakeholders, will play a vital role in helping to direct policing’s use of new resources. Evidence-based policing, and the partnerships upon which it relies, is key to helping to ensure that our policing going forward is not only more efficient and effective, but also more inclusive, fair, and proportionate.



Two police officers  
Ethan Wilkinson

# Message from the Co-Directors

Co-Directors Prof. Geoff Pearson and Chief Supt. Ngaire Waine look back at the achievements in 2022, and lay out plans for 2023.



WELCOME TO THE N8 Policing Research Partnership Annual Report for 2022. As both the police service and Higher Education adapt to the post Covid-19 landscape, N8 PRP has continued to fund research, run online and in-person events, and encourage, support, and champion research and knowledge exchange in policing across the north of England. Here we set out our key achievements of 2022 and our plans for 2023.

*In November 2022, we were delighted to announce that we will be funding four more Small Grant projects for 2023*



projects for 2023. Rose Broad and Caroline Miles (University of Manchester) will be working with GMP and Merseyside Police to investigate the Harassment of Female Runners. GMP and the University of Manchester will also be collaborating on an evaluation of Risk and Recidivism of Sexual Offenders, led by Sandra Flynn. Matt Bacon and Xavier L'Hoiry (University of Sheffield) will be researching Policing Drug Markets with South Yorkshire Police and Yorkshire and Humber ROCU. Finally, an impressive collaboration between Newcastle, Durham and Northumbria Universities, Merseyside, Durham, and West Yorkshire Police will look at Racially Minoritised Victims of Domestic Abuse and Outcome 16.

## New Researchers in Policing Network

In April we opened the [N8PRP](#), run by Dr Eon Kim, to provide support and networking opportunities for post graduate and early career researchers across the north of England. There are now around 100 registered members from 28 universities. In September, a launch event was held in Manchester, and a dedicated

platform has been established for sharing opportunities, advice, and guidance, including webinars with funders and senior academics.

## Events and Knowledge Exchange

The flagship event of 2022 was our [7th Annual Policing Innovation Forum](#) in Durham on 21 June. The focus was Violence against Women and Girls in Public Places; keynotes were presented by Dr Fiona Vera-Grey and Dr Bianca Fileborn. A panel featured three major campaigns and innovative interventions where showcased both in the ECR Poster Exhibition and the 'Risky Places' session.

Other KE events took place online. In July, Maisie Watling and Olivia Wooley (University of Leeds) reported their 12-month internship with WYP, [Communicating with 'Hard to Reach' Groups](#). The report and presentation are available in the N8 PRP Library and in this report you can read Maisie and Olivia's post, 'Anti-Victim Blaming and Instagram'.

2022 also saw four N8PRP Small Grant Webinars, disseminating the findings from projects awarded funding in 2020. In March, Hayley Alderson (University of Newcastle) discussed recommendations for accessible [Intimate Partner Violence](#) services during the pandemic, and Réka Solymosi (University of Manchester) presented her analysis of [Changing Police Demand during Covid-19](#). Then in September, Liz Turner (University of

Liverpool) presented findings from the [Disproportionality, Discretion, & 'Policing by Consent'](#) project looking at fixed-penalty notices during the Covid-19 lockdown and Simone Santorso and Alice Rizzuti presented the first evaluation the UK government's strategy to prevent OCGs from operating within prisons, a project involving Humberside Police and the University of Sheffield.

## Looking Forward to 2023

This year, we look forward to publishing the policy briefings of four new Small Grant projects, and hosting webinars to allow partners to disseminate their findings.

*We are also planning to fund a number of cross-force evaluations on subjects of pressing importance to our partner forces*



Expected to report in 2023 are projects investigating, 'Organisational processes for data recording of Honour-Based

Violence and Abuse, Forced Marriages and FGM', 'Understanding and Preventing Cuckoo Victimization', 'Strategies for Disrupting High-risk high-harm Domestic Abuse', and 'Identifying victims and perpetrators in coercive control cases'. We are also planning to fund a number of cross-force evaluations on subjects of pressing importance to our partner forces

Our 2023 Policing Innovation Forum will be hosted by Cumbria Police on June 22 and will focus on the police Race Action Plan. We are also looking forward to hosting a number of virtual and in-person events with N8PRP. We hope to see you at one or more of our events in 2023!

## 2022

### January

#### DELIVERED

R. Solymosi, Understanding changing demand for police

### February

#### STEERING GROUP

### March

#### WEBINARS

H. Alderson, PROTECT Covid-19: Lived experience of intimate partner violence during Covid 19

R. Solymosi, Understanding changing demand for police

### April

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

The 4 projects awarded funding in Dec 2021 began

#### CALL

Small Grants Call 2022: call for one-page proposals

#### NRIPN

New Researchers in Policing Network (NRiPN) opened for registrations

### June

#### WORKSHOP

Small Grants Call 2022: Collaboration Workshop

#### POLICING INNOVATION FORUM

Policing Innovation Forum 2022: Violence against Women and Girls in Public Places

#### AWARD

British Academy Conferences grant award announced

#### STEERING GROUP

### August

#### DELIVERED

L. Turner, M. Rowe; 'Every Ticket Tells a Story': Understanding ethnic disproportionality in Covid FPNs

#### WEBINAR

M. Watling, O. Wooley; Communicating with 'Hard to Reach' Groups

### September

#### DELIVERED

S. Santorso, A. Rizzuti; Tackling the Developing World of Organised Crime Groups: Multi-Agency Strategy

#### NRIPN

NRiPN Launch, Manchester

#### WEBINARS

Disproportionality, Discretion, & 'Policing by Consent'

Tackling the Developing World of OCGs: Multi-Agency Strategy

### October

#### STEERING GROUP

### November

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

2022 Small Grants award announcement

### December

#### STEERING GROUP

#### WEBINAR

C. Coleman, K. Whitfield; Knife crime imagery and messaging: Effective intervention tools or ineffective sensitisers?

## 2023

### January

#### DELIVERED

C. Coleman, K. Whitfield; Policing Domestic Abuse During Covid 19

### March

#### NRIPN WEBINAR

Everything You Wanted to Know About Academic Publishing

#### STEERING GROUP

### April-September

#### NRIPN

In-person networking

#### DELIVERY/WEBINARS

Small Grants 2021

### June

#### POLICING INNOVATION FORUM

22 June, Penrith - Policing Innovation Forum 2023: Implementing the Race Action Plan.

## 2024

### January – April

#### DELIVERY/WEBINARS

2022/23 Small Grants

### March

#### CONFERENCE

18-19th March, Leeds - Preventing Gender Based Violence Conference, led by UCLAN and Durham.

### June

#### CONFERENCE

27th June, Manchester - Harm Reduction Approaches to Drugs Policing Conference

# Policing Innovation Forum VAWG in Public Places

The seventh annual N8 PRP Policing Innovation Forum was held in Durham on 21 June.

**DESPITE A TRAIN** strike, 92 delegates gathered to discuss the nature of harm, current campaigns, what justice looks like, new research and practice-led interventions, led by chairs Ngaire Waine (Chief Supt., Merseyside Police) and Nicole Westmarland (Professor at Durham University and director of

the Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA).

*So much insight, passion and hope for change in one room!*

Using #N8VAWG on Twitter, delegates said the day was 'brilliant', 'a unique

experience', and they felt 'excited, inspired, and motivated' by the day, with 'So much insight, passion and hope for change in one room'.

[Full proceedings](#) are available on the N8 PRP website.

## The Right Amount of Panic

Dr Fiona Vera-Gray's keynote on how traditional safety advice harms women.

**DR VERA GRAY** began by acknowledging recent victims of men's violence: 'they were more than what happened to them'.

Her research shows that incidents of male intrusion are less frequent than expected, but for women in the UK, minimising the risk of male violence and intrusion shapes daily decision-making.

However, infrequency is often seen as proof that the risk does not exist, rather than evidence of women's skill in minimising it.

Women who talk about their 'safety work' are regularly dismissed as

paranoid, while traditional safety tells women to change their behaviour, treating violence as inevitable.

*'We need to start by acknowledging the work women already do to keep themselves safe.'*

*But no matter how skilled women are in minimising the risk of male violence, we cannot prevent it all.*

Dr Vera-Gray advocated acknowledging the work women already do to keep themselves safe, concluding that women and girls being unsafe, not feeling unsafe, is what we need to change.



# Entitlement to Allyship

Panel discussion with anti-street harassment campaigns chaired by Prof Nicole Westmarland.



**ENOUGH.**

Sarah Keaveny, GMCA Head of Communications, led on 'Is This Ok?'. Of 5 million 'shares' on Twitter, 44% were by men, with notably positive engagement.

Created in 2 weeks in response to the murder of Sarah Everard, consultation with community groups led to the campaign's question, 'Is this ok?', and a tone of resignation (not anger or fear), to include viewers.

Next, the aim is to work with schools on guided conversations.

Ben Morse, Head of Campaigns Tackling VAWG, Home Office, discussed developing 'Enough' with audience and specialist consultation.

Audiences were defensive about messages on gender norms, but practical acts of safe intervention connected to 'allyship' and a broad desire to create change.

Next, the campaign will challenge perpetrator attitudes.

## THAT GUY

**ADRIAN SEARLE**, Head of Communications, Police Scotland, led on 'That Guy' which has over 6 million views. Based on academic research, the campaign focuses on male sexual entitlement, rather than understanding consent.

The next stage is helping men intervene with peers.

### Q&A

*"Should we focus on girls and young women, instead of more 'invisible' older women?"*

Dr Vera-Gray questioned the 'romantic courtship narratives' of intrusion, arguing that one reason older women are targeted less is because they're more skilled in disrupting intrusion.

For working with girls and young women, Dr Vera-Gray advocated using specialist groups to facilitate open discussions.

### Q&A

*"How can you measure the impact of campaigns?"*  
 'That Guy' and 'Is This OK?', evaluate the scale and nature of engagement. 'Enough' uses robust pre- and post-campaign surveys, including identifying those with problematic views, who did show some change after the campaign. This model is being strengthened ahead of stage 2.

### Q&A

*"Can we make space for discomfort?"*  
 All of the panelists agreed this was an important step. Ben argued that campaigns needed to 'meet people where they're at', and build on current attitudes, embedding a lack of tolerance for VAWG. Adrien and Sarah said the campaigns laid the groundwork for more guided, reflective conversations.

# What Do Victims Want?



**Dr Bianca Fileborn** on what 'justice' means for victims of street harassment.

FOR THE AFTERNOON keynote, Dr Bianca Fileborn gave a thought-provoking presentation, suggesting that 'justice' should not be thought of primarily in terms of criminal justice responses. Her research showed that for most experiences of VAWG in public what victims wanted was for

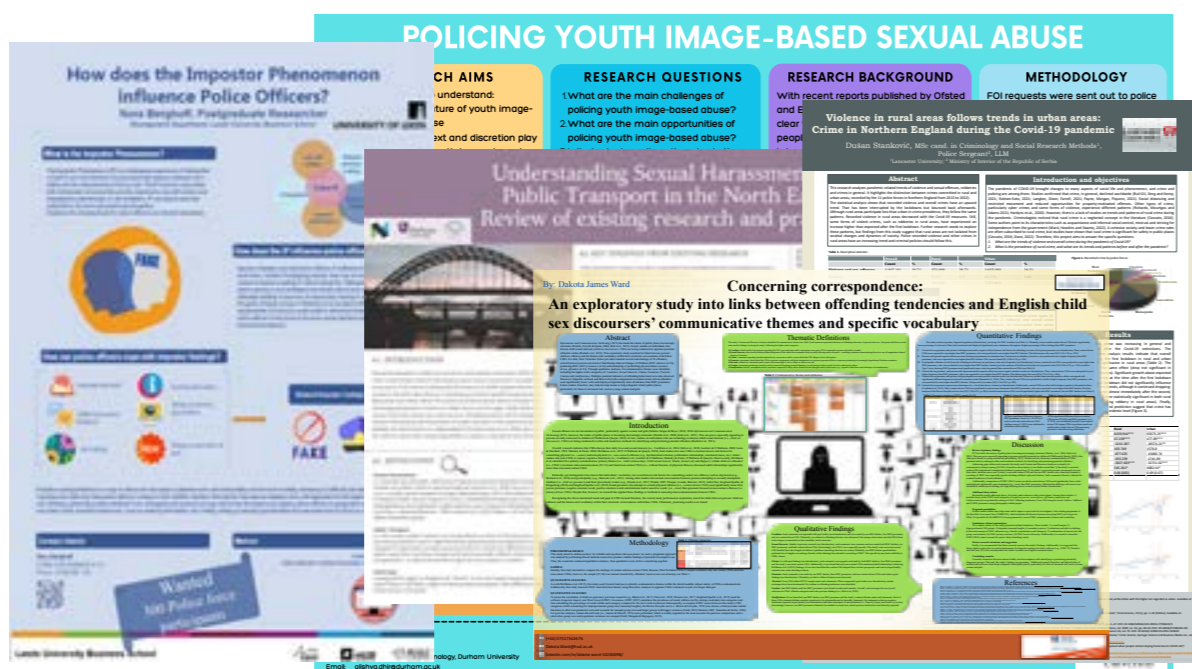
the behaviour to be recognised and to be made unacceptable, for a focus of prevention through societal commitment to behavioural change, including support for bystander intervention, and reporting mechanisms that created an acknowledgement of the incident and visibility for the wider experience.

*'Prevention through... commitment to behavioural change.'*



# ECR Poster Exhibition

NRiPN members presented their research on **imposter syndrome** (Nora Berghoff), **image-based sexual abuse** (Alishya Dhir), **harassment on public transport** (Julia Guy), and **comparing rural and urban policing** (Dusan Stankovic).



# Risky Places

**Group discussions** with six innovative, practice-led projects.

**TRACY MCCANN AND ABBI BUCHANAN**

**TRANSPORT**

How can we balance evaluation and access?

Logins/tracking are a barrier to access. Ask police/transport operators to ask if the app was used?

Let users opt in; in-app survey?

**Safer Transport Northumbria**  
Multi-agency project and signposting app for transport users.

**TOMMY DUNN**

How can the programme develop?

Incentivise bystander training for businesses - eg accreditation sticker in the window

Durham-style hub

Further engagement with men's social groups and arts groups.

**Knowsley Prevention**  
SWAN-funded preventative campaign a growing NTE

**DR CARLEY LIGHTOWLERS**

Experience of alcohol-related violence doesn't split neatly into public and domestic.

Are 'safe streets' relocating, not removing, violence?

Need for preventative public health approaches.

**NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**  
**NTE vs. At-Home Drinking**  
Liverpool research on reducing alcohol-related VAWG

**DR ANNA BARKER**

Research findings on the project show that other people effect feelings of safety far more than environmental factors.

Are parks really open public spaces if they close at night?

Need to balance safety interventions with biodiversity. Are they better options than streetlights and bush clearing?

**PARKS**  
**Safer Parks**  
Leeds-West Yorkshire project on what makes parks feel safe.

**MARK ASHFIELD**

How can we mitigate barriers to open discussion inherent to being in school?

Consider how rarely children are not with an authority figure. Importance of the 'walk home'.

Near-peer mentoring - i.e. mentoring by those ~18 months older, has been proven effective.

**SCHOOLS**  
**Choices**  
School intervention developing children's understanding of choices.

**CI SIOBHAN JONES**

Should the hub be an exclusive space?

Exclusion is impractical, and would make the Hub less accessible for all.

Consider the design of the space - keep the entrance calm and welcoming.

A mobile option, like a bus, could provide additional space and flexibility.

**Durham's SWAN Hub**  
City-centre Safety Hub with community groups

# KE Internships

## Anti-Victim-Blaming and Instagram

From August 2021-July 2022, **Maisie Watling** and **Olivia Wooley** undertook N8 PRP Knowledge Exchange Internships at West Yorkshire Police on "Communications with 'Hard to Reach' Groups". The [full report is available on the N8 PRP website](#).

*This is an abridged version of an article posted to the N8 PRP website Aug 2022.*

**THE FOCUS OF** our internship reflected the national focus on violence against women and girls.

We reviewed West Yorkshire's website, and replaced victim-blaming content with material that informs, empowers, and reassures, resulting in the Corporate Communications Department committing

*we...replaced victim-blaming content with material that informs, empowers, and reassures.*

to becoming an 'ANTI-VICTIM BLAMING FORCE'. We consulted with Women's Lives Leeds, building a relationship with a valuable stakeholder group. We successfully

increased social media engagement with a new coercive control information campaign, replacing off-putting stock photography

and generic messages with appealing designs and specific, relatable information.

These changes will help to engage 'hard-to-reach' groups in other contexts.

### REFLECTING ON THE EXPERIENCE

Throughout the internship, we have felt like an integral part of the Corporate Communications Team. Our opinions were invited, considered, and acted on. The openness of the team enabled us to make significant changes to better support and empowerment of 'hard-to-reach' groups.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

West Yorkshire Police have secured the funding for another year-long internship for two year-in- industry students for 2022-2023, with plans to make this an annual commitment.

Maisie Watling has secured a permanent Communications role at West Yorkshire Police. Olivia is continuing to study at the University of Leeds.



# Becoming an Anti-Victim Blaming Force



*old campaign - uninviting, uninformative.*



*new campaign - appealing, informative.*

### FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE AT A COMMUNICATIONS LEVEL

Language and imagery were as much a potential barrier to communicating with some groups as the communications mechanisms themselves, in particular victim-blaming terminology in relation to female victims of crime.

### EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION IS EARLY AND OPEN

Consultation is fundamental to producing successful content and direct engagement with non-police groups was hugely beneficial and gave messages credibility.

### INTERNSHIPS CAN EFFECTIVELY CHALLENGE ESTABLISHED PRACTICES

The Corporate Communications Team had established ways of working and the interns' challenging approach helped changed perceptions and working practices.

### INCREASE/REDIRECT RESOURCE TO SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING

Resourcing levels within the Corporate Communications Team continue to be an inhibiting factor in terms of developing and expanding our reach.

### TO BE ENGAGING, YOU NEED TO BE RELATABLE

Modern, less formal messaging generated a positive public reaction on social media.





# Small Grants reports

N8 PRP Small Grants fund **innovative, collaborative policing research** with meaningful impact on policy, practice, and academic knowledge. Three Small Grants were delivered in 2022.

## Knife Crime Imagery & Messaging

### Effective intervention tools or ineffective sensitisers?

*Dr Charlotte Coleman and Dr Kate Whitfield, Sheffield Hallam University, with South Yorkshire and Thames Valley Violence Reduction Units.*

LITTLE IS KNOWN about the impact of knife imagery on young people's attitudes to knife crime. This study used 3 experiments to test the impact of knife imagery and messaging on Year 10 pupils, using ratings of perceptions and attitudes to capture conscious responses, an Implicit Association Test, and an eye-tracking assessment.

#### Views on Knife Crime Policing

Messaging about police anti-knife interventions generated more positive perceptions of policing.

#### Participant Differences

Girls are more worried about knife crime than boys, affecting where they go in their local areas.

#### Efficacy?

None of the messaging or image types were found to affect perceptions or worries about knife crime.

Eye-tracking showed reduced reading time of policing messages than other types of messaging.

The perceived normality of knife carrying differs by ethnicity, with young black people rating knife carrying as more normal than young people of other ethnicities.

#### Real or Stylised?

Participants responded to images of real knives with more fear than excitement. This was not found for stylised knife imagery.

### Prison Intelligence Officers

Prison Intelligence Officer (PIOs), police officers liaising between police and prison in the HMPPS – are beneficial and build trust between agencies, partly due to a flexible approach. However, more standardisation could enhance effectiveness and the sharing of best practices.

### Local and National

The effectiveness of the multiagency strategy is highly dependent on the local and national blend of enforcement against OCGs, and this cooperation should be further strengthened.

### Innovative Strategies

Alongside traditional disruption tools such as physically separating OCG individuals, CJS agencies can use financial investigation and intelligence to examine and disrupt OCG activities within prisons and the development of networks between prisoners and outside OCGs.

### Data Sharing

Data-sharing has major benefits in mitigating how OCGs can exploit the vulnerabilities of prisons. A common data sharing system among CJS agencies would improve collaboration and reduce workload duplication, create a sense of collective responsibility and common ground for action.

### Multiagency Strategy for Tackling Organised Crime Groups

*Dr Simone Santorso, University of Sussex, and Dr Alice Rizzuti, University of Hull, with Humberside Police, HMP Humber and HMP Hull.*

THE FIRST EVALUATION of the multi-agency approach on OCGs in prisons adopted by the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy, this project analyses the development of innovative strategies and assesses current levels of cooperation between police, prison and probation. The researchers conducted 55 in-depth interviews with police, prison, and probation officers and analysed documentary sources.

## Prisons, Police & OCGs

# Every Ticket Tells a Story

**Understanding ethnic disproportionality in FPNs issued for breaching coronavirus restrictions.**

Dr Scarlett Redman, Dr Liz Turner, and Dr Mike Rowe, the University of Liverpool, with West Yorkshire Police, Greater Manchester Police, Merseyside Police, Cheshire Police, and Cumbria Police.

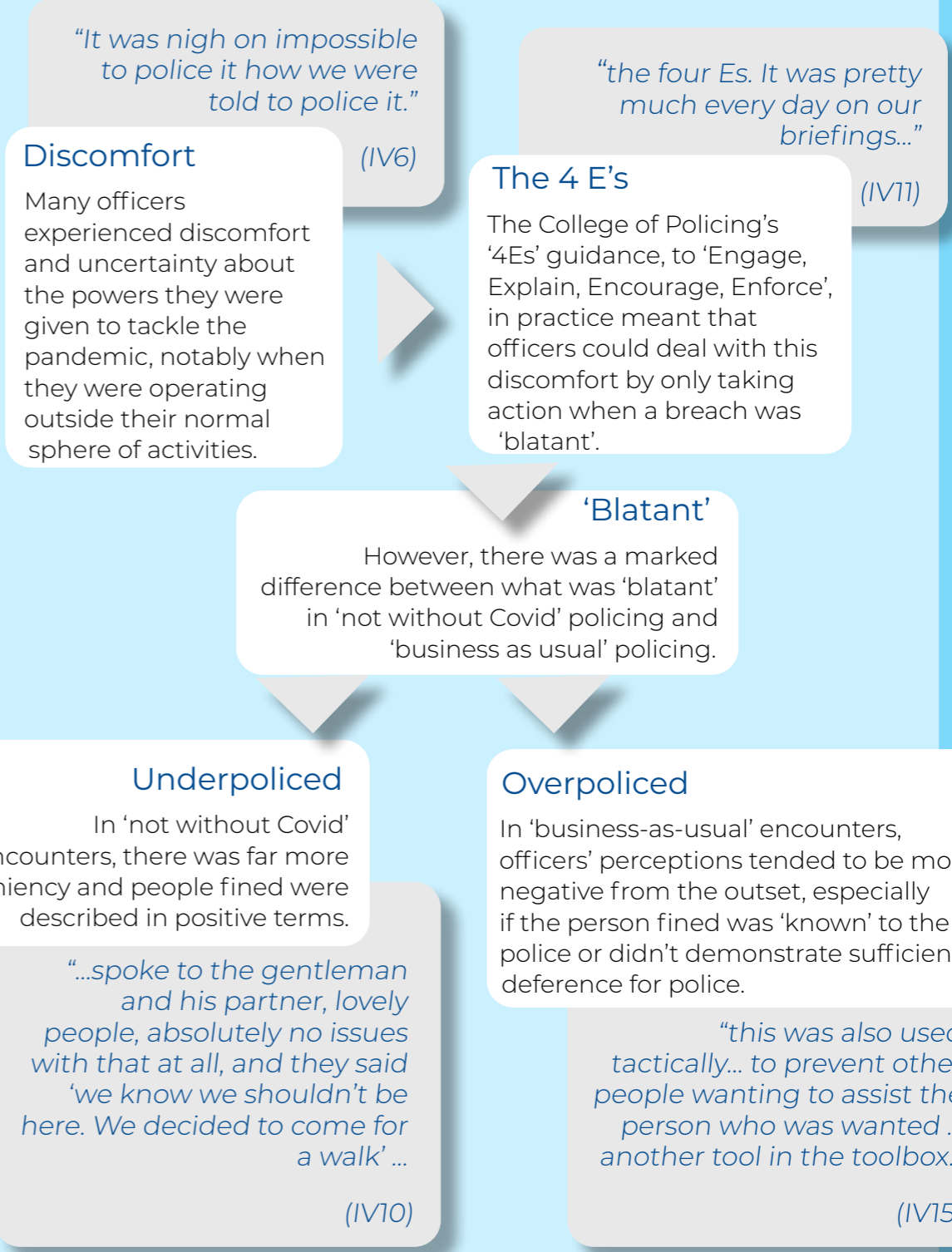
ACCORDING TO THE National Police Chiefs Council, police issued Covid 19 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to people from Black, Asian and Other ethnic backgrounds at twice the rate of those issued to white people. To understand why and how this happened, this project interviewed police officers about their decision-making in issuing Covid-19 FPNs.

## Webinar

On 9 September 2022, N8 PRP hosted Disproportionality, Discretion, & 'Policing by Consent', a roundtable chaired by Chief Supt Ngaire Waine (Merseyside). Dr Liz Turner and Professor Susan McVie discussed their work on how the police used these exceptional powers, what this suggests about police discretion and the idea of 'policing by consent'.



Police officer in front of smiling young black man  
Clem Onojeghuo



# Small Grants in progress

The Small Grants announced in 2021 began work in April 2022, and alongside their research have engaged in an **impressive array of impact activities**. Highlights are below – look out for the N8 PRP policy briefings and webinars for each project in 2023.

## Who is the victim? Police officer identification of victims and perpetrators in coercive control cases.

*Professor Sandra Walklate, Dr Charlotte Barlow and Dr Emma Finnegan; University of Liverpool and Lancashire Constabulary*

### Nov 2022, Liverpool

Initial findings presented at an international seminar at the University of Liverpool.

### Oct 2022, UCLAN

Initial findings presented at the Connect Centre Conference.

### Oct 2022, UCLAN

Meeting held with a visiting Churchill Fellow from Queensland, Australia on the respective problems and possibilities of implementing coercive control legislation and the issue of (mis) identification.

### Jan 2023, Lancaster

Planned presentation of ongoing findings to Lancashire Constabulary's EBP Strategic Meeting.

*Expected to report April '23*

## Organisational processes for data recording of Honour-Based Violence and Abuse, Forced Marriages and Female Genital Mutilation

*Professor Geetanjali Gangoli, Dr Nikki D'Souza, Dr Kate Butterby, Ayurshi Dutt; Durham University, Durham Constabulary, Northumbria University, GMP, Cleveland Police, Cheshire Police, Humraaz, and Halo Project.*

### March 2023, Durham

Hosting an event to discuss and review the project with stakeholders ahead of the final report.

### May, 2023, tbc

Presenting project findings at NPCC HBA National Working Group.

### Sept 2023, Florence

Chairing a panel on issues raised by project at the European Sociology Conference.

### Sept 2023, Reykjavik

Presenting a paper (abstract submitted) at the European Conference on Domestic Violence.



**Halo Project**  
partner on Small Grant project

## Strategies for Disrupting High Risk High Harm Domestic Abuse

*Prof Barry Godfrey, Prof Sandra Walklate, Dr Jane Richardson, Dr Lucy Williams; University of Liverpool and Cheshire Constabulary*

### June 2022, Liverpool

Facilitated a workshop, 'Policing Domestic Abuse: Covid to VAWG'. with UK and South Korean academics and UK police.

### July 2022, London

Prof Godfrey spoke at the DA Stakeholders' Group, chaired by AC Louisa Rolfe.

### Sept 2022, Penrith

Training on Domestic Abuse (ft. this project) delivered to officers in Cumbria.

### Dec 2022, Seoul

Presentation to the IAEVG 2022 International Conference, Korea.

*Expected to report April '23*

## Understanding and Preventing 'Cuckoo' Victimization

*Dr Laura Bainbridge, Professor Charlie Lloyd & Dr Amy Loughery; University of Leeds, University of York, and Durham Constabulary*

### Sept 2022, Oxford

Conference paper, The Howard League for Penal Reform International Conference

### Sept 2022, Malaga

Conference paper, the European Society of Criminology Conference

**Ongoing** discussions with a publisher on developing an edited collection on 'cuckooing' victimisation

*Expected to report Oct 23*

# Small Grants new awards

In 2022, following a call for one-page proposals, 6 shortlisted projects were invited to take part in a **Collaboration Workshop** at the University of Manchester to develop the proposals with potential partners.

**36 DELEGATES FROM** N8 PRP partners attended, with everyone commenting that the day had been extremely valuable, and all attendees going on to submit a proposal. Following a full application in September, 4 projects were chosen for funding.

All of the projects that have been funded are in collaboration with police partners and will be supported by advisory groups. These groups will discuss the ongoing development of the projects. This will allow researchers to take

advantage of the wide range of expertise and experience available in the forces, and increase the opportunities for impact on police operations. In total £96,855 has been awarded to the four research projects.

## Policing Drug Markets

*University of Sheffield, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Regional Organised Crime Unit*

Despite its recent prioritisation in politics, policy and practice, research on drugs policing is surprisingly sparse and underdeveloped. This study, led by Dr Matthew Bacon with Co-I Dr Xavier L'Hoiry, both at the University of Sheffield, will explore drugs policing and will aim to shape academic debate relating to drugs, policing, and harm reduction, and significantly impact practice on drugs policing.

## Harassment of Female Runners

*University of Manchester, Greater Manchester Police and Merseyside Police*

Dr Caroline Miles, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, and Dr Rose Broad, both at the University of Manchester – will focus on female runners' experiences of abuse, including 'low-level' verbal abuse, cat-calling, flashing, serious violent/sexual assaults, and the barriers to systematic reporting of abuse, which can empower women to engage in making public spaces safer.

## Risk and Recidivism of Sexual Offenders

*University of Manchester, Greater Manchester Police*

Led by Dr Sandra Flynn, Lecturer in Psychology and Mental Health, with Co-Is Dr Polly Turner and Dr Verity Wainwright, this project will examine the sexual offending patterns of registered sexual offenders in Greater Manchester, to understand risk and recidivism between online and contact offenders. Initially proposed by GMP, the study has the potential for significant impact for the efficiency of police resources in managing registered sexual offenders.

## Racially Minoritised Victims of Domestic Abuse & Outcome 16

*Newcastle University, Durham University, University of Northumbria; Merseyside Police, West Yorkshire Police, Durham Police*

Following the findings of a major recent Open University study on Outcome 16, (when a victim does not support further action against an identified suspect), Principal investigator Dr Hayley Alderson, Newcastle University, will lead an investigation into the specific context of Outcome 16 for racially minoritised victims of domestic abuse.



**Woman running.**  
Alex McCarthy



Oddfellows Hall  
University of Manchester

## NRiPN Launch

The New Researchers in Policing Network launched in 2022.

NRiPN NOW HAS ~100 members from 28 universities across the N8 PRP footprint.

A launch was held at Manchester's Oddfellows Hall in September, where members – from Master's students to lecturers

– discussed what they wanted from NRiPN.. A Teams channel has been established, where members share news and events, ask for support, and find collaboration opportunities. increasing their access to the broader

network of policing research across the north of England and beyond.

Further plans are in development for 2023 – including an in-person meet up, webinars on 'Everything you wanted to know about...!'

If you would like to join NRiPN, check your eligibility and [sign up on our website](#).

### Supporting Careers in Policing Research

NRiPN member and Small Grant awardee **Sandra Flynn** discusses the impact of N8 PRP on her work.

I HAVE BEEN conducting research in the field of forensic mental health for several years but have not previously collaborated with the police on a research project.

A colleague affiliated with N8 PRP introduced me to a Detective Inspector from GMP who was looking for an academic partner for a project that was a high priority for the service.

The support provided by colleagues from the N8 PRP at the Collaboration

Workshop helped us to develop our proposal, connect with other academics undertaking police research, and seek advice on applying for funding.

Being awarded the Small Grant as the PI, and joining a community of researchers in the New Researchers in Policing Network (NRiPN) offers a new and exciting opportunity for me as a researcher. It will enable me to form sustainable long-term partnerships and



undertake collaborative research which will have a real impact on police operations.

## PaCCs Archive

N8 PRP's Library now hosts key reports and briefings from the Partnership for Conflict, Crime, and Security Research (PaCCs), making 14 years of research available to our network.

PaCCs Communications Officer, **Kate McNeill**, introduces the archive.

SINCE 2008, UKRI's Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research has worked with researchers across the UK to help improve our understanding of current and future global security challenges. PaCCs focused on areas of global uncertainty, generating impact in conflict studies, cybersecurity research, and transnational organised crime.

PaCCS supported knowledge translation and interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration. By creating opportunities for knowledge exchange between

government, industry and the third sector, activities funded by PaCCS maximised impact beyond the academia while supporting high-quality problem-based

research; connecting academics with the end-users of research; facilitating co-design, co-production, and co-delivery of research; and public engagement. Over the last 14 years, over 1,200 projects have been linked to PaCCS, with the last scheduled to end in 2023. Our efforts to communicate their findings has been guided by what PaCCS Research Champion Dr Tristram Riley-Smith has described as the three-Rs: "readability, relevance, and realism".

*...reports and briefings on human trafficking, counterfeit products, fighting mafia activity, and transnational organised crime*



In light of the closure of PaCCS, N8 PRP generously agreed to host an archive of our key reports and briefings. This includes reports and briefings on human

trafficking, counterfeit products, fighting mafia activity, and transnational organised crime, as well as an open access copy of the recently released PaCCS book, *Global Uncertainties*, featuring conversations

with researchers and policymakers on challenges and research in the areas of Hazards, Disasters & Risk Management; Conflict, Security & Peacemaking; Peacebuilding & Post-Conflict Reconstruction; Identity, Radicalisation & Political Violence; Criminal Networks & Transnational Organised Crime; and Cybersecurity & Emerging Technology

I hope you enjoy exploring the archive and find continuing value in the work.

# Publications

A selection of the **world-class policing research** produced by N8 universities in 2022.

ACADEMICS AT N8 universities are at forefront of policing research, and produce a wealth of resources on high-profile, high-priority challenges in UK policing. The following 5 pages highlight a selection of this work from 2022.

**Control** (Routledge), for academics, policymakers, and practitioners working in criminal justice who wish to understand both the nature and extent of coercive control. They will report on a further Small Grant on the topic in 2023.

Policing, Football Policing, and Criminal Justice show the vital role of N8 academics in informing national conversations on policy and practice.

Through N8 PRP our partners can realise the potential of these shared

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Chapters

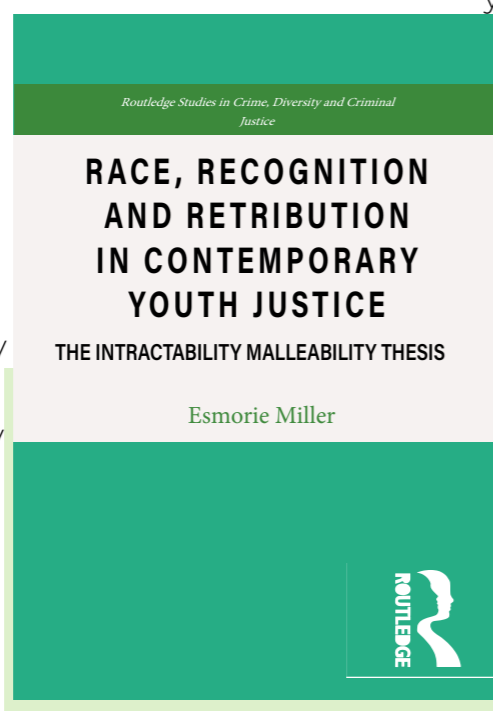
Many of the publications are a direct result of recent N8 PRP investment. To give just two examples, in 2022, Dave Gadd and Rose Broad (University of Manchester) published **Demystifying Modern Slavery** (Routledge), which reports on the first primary study of modern slavery offenders, a project developed and funded following the 2017 Small Grant, 'Mapping the Contours of Modern Slavery in Greater Manchester'.

Sandra Walklate (University of Liverpool) and Charlotte Barlow (UCLAN), who led 'Police Responses to Coercive Control', also delivered in 2017, have now published **Coercive**

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Books

Beyond the immediate impact of N8 PRP, the research shows the breadth and depth of expertise at N8 universities, Major work on Youth Justice, Drugs



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Articles

resources, and to shape, contribute to, and benefit from influential work.

To see the full list of 2022 publications, please visit the [N8 PRP LIBRARY](#), where you can also access the full catalogue of N8 PRP-funded research. You can also visit our [SUPPORT PAGES](#), where you'll find Experts and Regional Leads from N8 universities who can advise on and guide policing research.

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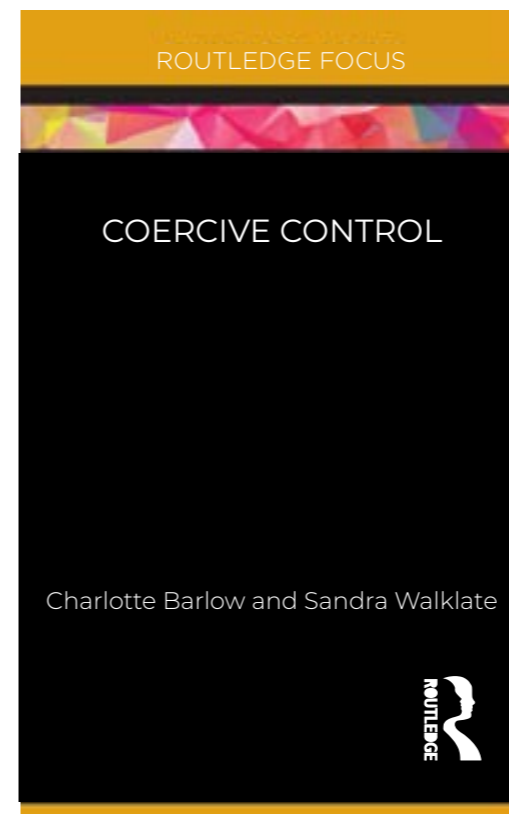
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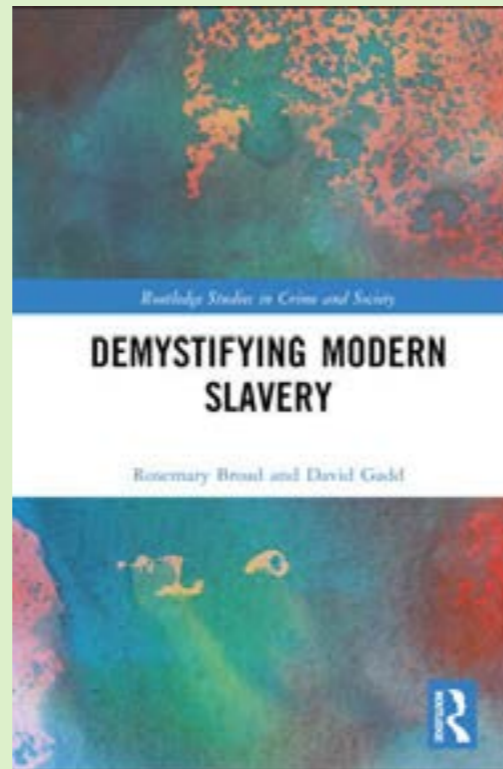
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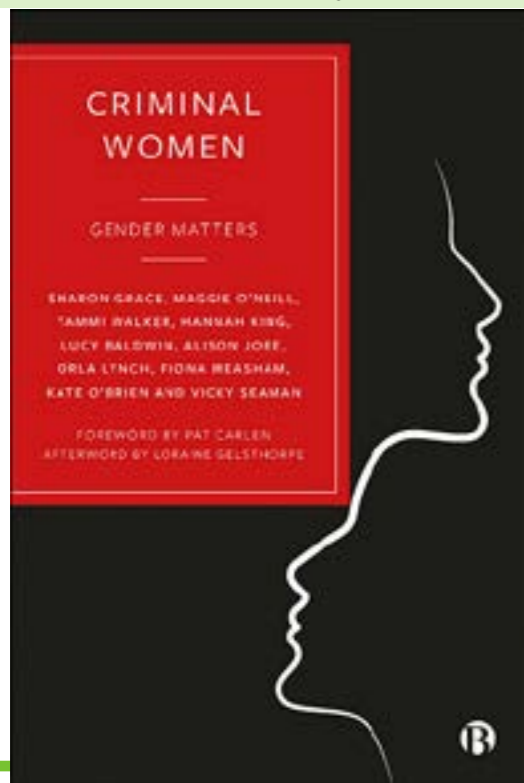
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## Partners

N8 PRP has influenced the establishment of **two new policing research collaborations** launched in 2022.

These partnerships generate further resources for targeted and high-priority work across the UK, benefiting N8 PRP partners with even greater breadth and depth of collaboration and learning. We hear from senior leaders from the collaborations below.

### All-Wales Policing Academic Collaboration and N8 PRP

AWPAC, The All-Wales Policing Academic Collaboration, was launched in October 2022 by the Wales Innovation Network (WIN). Lewis Dean, Head of WIN, shares his thoughts on AWPAC and N8 PRP.



**THE WALES INNOVATION NETWORK (WIN)**, much like the N8 Research Partnership, aims to increase collaboration across our universities and with wider society. Also like the N8 Research Partnership, WIN identified policing research as bringing together vital social questions with practical decisions about resources, policy and practice, making it an ideal area to realise the value of research collaboration.

As N8 established N8 PRP, WIN has now established AWPAC. In doing so, we had the advantage of N8 PRP's experience – which has been generously shared

over the last couple of years by Geoff, Ngaire, and Helen. Their input helped us to establish a truly All-Wales collaboration, with all 9 universities and 4 police forces.

The experience of N8 PRP also informed our decision to launch AWPAC by funding 4 short-term research projects, detailed below. Though small, they already speak to topics of violence, vulnerability, trust, and inclusion, demonstrating the significant value to be gained from these collaborations. This value will be realised in Wales, and the opportunity of AWPAC – as with N8 PRP – is to give this work a bigger platform, so local

knowledge and experience becomes part of a broader UK discussion on police policy and practice.

As we continue to establish the AWPAC network, I look forward to sharing the results these projects – and future work – with N8 PRP. I'm sure that we'll continue in the same spirit of open-handed collaboration as we've begun, and champion the value of police-academic collaboration throughout the UK and beyond.

## AWPAC PROJECTS

### Effects of National Media Coverage on Local Trust and Confidence

#### Comparing attitudes in Wales and London

Aim: Establish how trust and confidence in local and police is affected by events elsewhere.

### All-Wales Data Sharing Project

#### 'Transition management' for 18-25-year-olds in Wales.

Aim: Identify, and establish agreements to share, data to assess factors that exacerbate or mitigate the emergence of serious offending during transition from adolescence to adulthood.

### Police Understanding and Application of 'Vulnerability' in Response to Sex Workers

#### Reducing harm and building trust

Aim: Align police approaches to vulnerability with NPCC guidance on supporting sex workers, enabling police to recognise support needs, reduce harms, build trust, and support third-sector services.

### Enablers and Blockers to Student Volunteering in Policing

#### The role and potential influence of volunteers

Aim: Evaluate enablers and blockers to student volunteering in policing during a College of Policing licenced Professional Policing Degree.



## ESRC Vulnerability & Policing

2022 saw the launch of the £8m **Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre**, led by the Universities of York and Leeds, with Co-Investigators at 5 further N8 universities.

**Professor Adam Crawford**, Co-Director of the ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre, looks back on their first year, the influence of his experience with N8 PRP, and how N8 PRP supports the Centre.



### THE PIONEERING WORK

that the N8 Policing Research Partnership forged across the north of England from its inception in 2013 demonstrated the need for co-produced research combining academic researchers with practitioners from police and partner organisations to address persistent policing challenges.

The Catalyst grant that accelerated N8 PRP's work from 2015-2020 highlighted the shared agenda of service providers that coalesce around diverse vulnerabilities.

This in turn demonstrated

the need for work focused on early intervention, prevention, and the harms experienced by people who slip between the cracks of organisations.

This view was developed from the inter-professional deliberations, conversations and workshops that the N8 PRP hosted, as well as responsively through the small grant scheme.

Experiences of the N8 PRP work highlighted the importance of engaging and co-producing solutions with vulnerable communities themselves. Too often listening to the voices of these groups were omitted from our inter-organisational working. The need to stretch the parameters of co-production to incorporate the lived experiences of vulnerable populations became both a priority and a challenge.

In this sense, N8 PRP inspired and laid the

foundations for the development of the £10m ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre.

The new Centre is funded for an initial five years, and commenced in May 2022. It explicitly builds on the learning from the N8 PRP and draws together a coalition of 26 Co-Investigators, including numerous scholars from N8 universities and other



*"N8 PRP inspired and laid the foundations for the development of the...Centre"*

HE institutions across the UK and internationally.

These are supported by a dedicated team of six

postdoctoral researchers, three data scientists, three professional service staff and 6 PhD researchers based at York and Leeds.

The Centre extends the focus beyond a police-academic partnership to encompass a wider range of service providers and a broader interpretation of policing, focused on

## Futures Research Centre

the manner in which vulnerable people get drawn into and caught within the orbit of criminal justice processes.

The Centre's focus on harm prevention and early intervention underscores that police acting alone cannot adequately address the pervasive issues of vulnerability.

We combine place-based and thematic research partnerships with extensive national engagement, fostering international reach with a wide network of leading scholars, policing experts and city authorities.

It is supported by 38 project partners including regional, national and international organisations. The work of the Centre is guided and supported by a National Engagement Group, an Ethical Oversight

vulnerabilities are produced, compounded and mitigated by policing and how the police and other services

can best be harnessed to prevent and reduce vulnerabilities. It draws on advances in data sharing

and data science which will be combined with a range of social research methods and data collection techniques.

The ambition of this co-produced, transdisciplinary research is to shift the evidence base and public debate about policing to a plural (networked) conception in which the role and mission of the police is reframed to foreground harm

*"The ambition... is to shift the public debate about policing to... foreground harm minimisation"*

the work of the N8 PRP. For example, the Centre's vulnerability focused Early Career Researcher



Development Fund will build research capacity and capability. It will support engagement with practitioners

and policy-makers through its Translational Fellowship scheme and in future years will co-design research-informed innovative practices through Demonstration Projects. It will also continue to capitalise on opportunities to collaborate through research networks and working groups to support effective co-production between academia and policing.

*Professor Adam Crawford is Co-Director of the ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre, co-led by the Universities of York and Leeds*

*From 2013-2020 he was Director of the N8 PRP and Principal Investigator on the HEFCE Catalyst Grant.*



### Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre

Panel and International Advisory Board.

The Centre has an ambitious programme of research that aims to address how

minimisation through effective and ethically sensitive joined-up services for vulnerable groups.

The Centre team will continue to collaborate with and complement



POLICING  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP

N8 Policing  
Research Partnership  
Annual Report 2022