



# **N8 Policing Research Partnership**

## Annual Report 2020/21



POLICING  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP

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# Foreword

Professor Paul Taylor, the National Chief Scientific Officer for Policing, shares his thoughts on the value of N8 PRP.

Even a cursory read of this 2021 Annual Report reveals the significant value of the N8 Policing Research Partnership. The full potential of research and innovation in policing will only be achieved through partnerships, with shared ambitions, understanding and effort. The N8 PRP is an example par excellence of this collaboration in action.

The basis of a good partnership is conversation. The N8 PRP has delivered this through the innovation forum, knowledge exchange internships, and joint project work. Conversations are the basis of successful partnerships because they allow us to see the world from the other's perspective; to better understand the problem and the solutions that might be possible. Last year's cybercrime event is a case in point, bringing Lloyds Banking Group, the North East Cyber Resilience Centre, academia and policing together to discuss challenges and opportunities to collaborate in this rapidly changing domain.

From conversations stem ideas, which must be researched. The N8 PRP has had another successful year of funding exciting, innovative projects. It is no secret that the funding of science and innovation in policing requires tough choices. The N8 PRP's small grants allow agile research on issues of importance, exposing new value or revealing impactful evidence. It is a testament to this process that multiple small projects have secured substantial funding for longer-term work. N8 PRP Small Grants sow important seeds. This Annual Report describes how these have delivered and are ripening with further collaboration.

I should confess at this point I am not an independent observer. I played a minor role in an N8 PRP small project in 2017, capably run by Drs Kirk Luther and Steven Watson, on interviews relating to Coercive Control offences. The



project was a memorable collaboration with Lancashire Constabulary that would otherwise have been unachievable. Its results still resonate, not simply because of the lessons and training produced, but because Kirk and Steven's research continues to be shaped by their exposure to policing's needs. N8 PRP is creating partnerships across policing that transcend the life of a project.

*I'm excited to see the growth of the N8PRP, its community, its knowledge, and the benefits this will produce for the whole policing family.*

# A Message from the Co-Directors

Co-Directors Professor Geoff Pearson and Chief Supt. Ngaire Waine look back at the achievements of the partnership in 2021, and lay out plans for 2022



The N8 Policing Research Partnership has moved to an exciting new phase. Despite the challenges facing academia and policing in 2021, all 20 partners committed to fund N8 PRP until September 2024 and we welcomed Cleveland Police to N8 PRP, meaning all forces on the N8 footprint are now represented in the partnership. We were also delighted to appoint a new project manager, Helen Gordon-Smith.

This, of course, all happened during the continuing pandemic, with meetings and events moving online – and for police partners, a rapidly shifting landscape of regulations and powers. The value of collaboration and constructive dialogue remains readily apparent, but building the networks required to achieve them has required new approaches.

*The value of collaboration and constructive dialogue remains readily apparent* ”

This was appropriately shown at the **2021 Innovation Forum**, *Effective Partnerships in Policing*. Held online across 3 days, a wide range of speakers shared success stories and hard-earned experience. From HMICFRS and Lloyds Bank to the highly-acclaimed Cheshire Harm Reduction Unit, and many more, there was a wealth of lessons on effective police collaboration

with academia, banking, public health, and within the forces. A **full report** is on our website.

The move to virtual events also led to the Small Grant webinars, bringing a wider audience to the 2019/20 Small Grants reports on **Child to Parent Violence**, **Identifying Sexual Trafficking Online** and **Embedding Mental Health Support in Police Stations**. Their success encouraged us to make them a regular feature, championing policing research across the N8 – please check our **Events** page for details.

As well as upcoming events, on our redesigned **website** you can use the new **Experts** page to find N8 experts on a wide range of policing research, and regional HEI leads for policing partners. You can also visit the **Research Index** for a catalogue of N8 PRP reports – additions from 2021 include N8 PRP-funded **PhDs** and **MSc research**.

N8 PRP supported research coproduction throughout 2021, with 6 ongoing Small Grants. In response to the pandemic, 4 additional grants were awarded to investigate **policing during Covid**. The first two have been published, and this report highlights findings on the



changing experience of **Intimate Partner Violence** and **Demand for Policing** during lockdowns. Further reports and webinars are forthcoming.

N8 PRP support leads to immediate and long-term impact - in 2021, N8 PRP directly supported £11.6 million in **new awards**. Alongside affiliated projects like the **Centre for Digital Trust and Security**, this hugely enhances our partners' policing research capacity. **N8 PRP Impact Stories** shows how this creates meaningful change in policy and practice.

In 2022, we will work towards greater collaboration between universities and partner forces, as a champion of high-quality collaborative research and knowledge exchange in the north of England and beyond. We have already begun: in December, we announced **4 new Small Grants**. All 12 police partners will be involved in at least one of these projects, either as research partners or as part of an Advisory Group. We have also launched the **New Researchers in Policing Network**, open to all postgraduate and early career

researchers in the north of England. In the summer, we will report on the **Knowledge Exchange Internships**, as well as hosting the 2022 Policing Innovation Forum and report the findings of the 2020/21 Small Grants.

***N8 PRP support leads to immediate and long-term impact*** ”

We welcome the establishment of a Policing Science Advisory Council and the appointment of Professor Paul Taylor (from N8 PRP partner University of Lancaster) as the first Chief Scientific Officer for Policing as demonstrating a national commitment to evidence-based policing.

In the spirit of effective partnerships, we look forward to working with Professor Taylor and his team, our affiliated partners, and across the N8 PRP to build collaborative networks, enabling independent, high-quality research that has a meaningful impact on the quality and effectiveness of policing.



## 2020

### October

#### GOVERNANCE

N8 PRP began a new phase as a self-funded partnership for 12 months.

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

4 additional **2020/21 Small Grant awards** (on policing during Covid) announced.

### November

#### GOVERNANCE

Steering Group Meeting.

#### EVENTS

**N8 Policing Research Partnership 2020 Conference:** 'Policing Vulnerabilities and the Future of Police/Academic Partnerships'.

### December

#### REPORTS

Small Grants 2019/20: **Developing the Police Response to Child-to-Parent Violence**



## 2021

### January

#### GOVERNANCE

Helen Gordon-Smith appointed as project manager.

### February

#### GOVERNANCE

N8 Board of Directors agreed to co-fund N8 PRP with the northern forces for a further 3 years, from 1st October 2021-31st September 2024.

Steering Group Meeting.

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

2x **Knowledge Exchange Internships** awarded to West Yorkshire Police.

### March

#### REPORTS

Small Grants 2019/20: **Identifying Sexual Trafficking Online**

MSc Reports

### April

#### REPORTS

Small Grants 2019/20: **Embedding Mental Health Support in District Police Stations**

Catalyst Evaluation Report

### May - June

#### GOVERNANCE

Steering Group Meeting.

Cleveland Constabulary announce they are joining N8 PRP.

#### EVENTS

**Policing Innovation Forum 2021: 'Effective Partnerships in Policing':**

12 May What Makes Partnerships Work?

27 May Partnering Up Against Cybercrime

10 June Public Health and Police Partnerships

2019/20 Small Grants Webinars

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

Small Grants Call Announcement 2021-22.

### July

#### GOVERNANCE

Partnership Agreement 2021-2024 signed off.

### August

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

Small Grants 2021 Short Proposal Call Closes.

### September

#### GOVERNANCE

Steering Group Meeting.

### October

#### REPORTS

Small Grants 2020/21: **PROTECT COVID 19: Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Children.**

### November

#### REPORTS

PhD Reports.

### December

#### GOVERNANCE

Steering Group Meeting

Dr Eon Kim announced as first director of the **New Researchers in Policing Network.**

#### N8 PRP AWARDS

**Small Grant Awards 2021/22 Announced.**

## Policing Innovation Forum 2021

# Effective Partnerships in Policing

The N8 PRP Policing Innovation Forum brings together academics, police, and stakeholders to discuss contemporary challenges in policing and develop innovative, practical, evidence-based solutions.

In 2021 the sixth Policing Innovation Forum, 'Effective Partnerships in Policing', held three online events: 'What Works in Police Partnerships?' (12 May), 'Partnering Up Against Cybercrime' (27 May), and 'Policing and Public Health Partnerships' (10 June).

183 people logged on, with over half of participants from UK police forces. A full report of the Forum, with the presentation slides, is available on the **N8 PRP website**: [n8prp.org.uk/home/events/policing-innovation-forum/pif-2021-effective-partnerships-in-policing/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/events/policing-innovation-forum/pif-2021-effective-partnerships-in-policing/)





## Policing Innovation Forum 2021

# What works in police partnerships?

Chaired by Professor Joanna Shapland,  
University of Sheffield.

### Aligning purpose & possibility

HMI Matt Parr discussed The Hard Yards project on 6 inter-police collaborations. Insp. Richard Reeves discussed how the North West Underwater Search & Marine Unit *responds to demand and geography* to maintain capability. *The fragility of collaborations* was discussed in relation to local accountability. Inadequate IT resources were cited as a major barrier.

### Resilience across divergence

Professors Alpert, Rojek and McLean examined how highly-publicised police brutality cases have damaged trust in US police-academic relationships, showing that *sustaining partnerships requires understanding structural differences, and social investment*. Prof Shapland argued academic-police partnerships are *inherently fragile*, but *regular contact creates advocates* for collaboration.

### From guests to partners

Dr Skinns looked at the changing concept of vulnerability in the context of Healthcare Practitioners (HCPs) and Liaison and Diversion (L&D) in police custody. She suggested moving to an *opt-out concept of 'universal vulnerability'*, and formally *devolving decision-making to HCPs and L&D*, recognising the informal reality. The automation of custody services was discussed as a barrier to professional discretion.

### Flexibility without fragility?

Prof Shapland highlighted that while partnerships were *essential*, they're often *ad hoc*, and resourcing and diffuse aims often create points of contest.



## Policing Innovation Forum 2021

# Partnering Up Against Cybercrime

Chaired by Justin Partridge, Researcher at Leeds University and Visiting Fellow at the Open University Centre for Policing Research and Learning.

### Sharing data & resources

Brian Dilley, Director of Fraud and Financial Crime Prevention for Lloyds Banking Group, examined how *partnerships can mitigate resource disparity* by fostering data sharing between private companies or direct funding of regulatory activity by the private sector. Mandy Haeburn-Little, CEO of Business Resilience International Management, argued public-private partnership is *essential to match police intelligence and specialism to private sector scale and speed*. Brian argued police management should encourage development, even if it led to some staff moves. Concerns over private bodies taking on public roles were discussed.

### Engagement & innovation

Martin Wilson, North East Business Resilience Centre (NEBRC), discussed how Cyber Resilience Centres *help SMEs to develop better cybersecurity*. Dr Biju Issac, University of Northumbria, examined how the student-led Cyber Clinic partners with NEBRC, providing services like vulnerability tests for businesses and running projects on using AI to detect hate speech, malware, etc. to *address both the current skills shortage and build a stronger foundation for the sector*. Biju concluded that broad partnerships are essential to respond to cyber-attacks.



## Policing Innovation Forum 2021

# Public Health and Police Partnerships

Chaired by Dr Matt Bacon, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Sheffield.

### Integration

The founders of the Cheshire Harm Reduction Unit discussed preventing harm from stalking, emphasising *the vital importance of data sharing* and service integration for success.

### Community

South Yorkshire's Violence Reduction Unit discussed effective community engagement: data needs to be *accessible, meaningful*, and use local knowledge. Jack Rowlands (Metropolitan Police) presented DIVERT, which uses *custody as a 'teachable moment'*, supporting young people to identify and achieve goals in education and training. Vulnerability to political acceptability was discussed.

### Urgency

Dr Rob Ewin looked at drug-related deaths during Covid, arguing public *restrictions must include support for known drug users*. Jason Kew presented Thames Valley's drug diversion programme, which refers those found in possession of drugs to an education programme, *diverting thousands of people* away from the criminal justice system. He also discussed the Naloxone campaign, which partners with high street shops so staff are equipped and trained to respond to an opioid overdose. In the Q&A, the crucial role of lived experience for effective programmes was discussed.





Small Grants are central to the work of N8 PRP, funding collaborative research on high-priority areas of police work where research benefits will be of greatest value.

## Small Grants 2019/20

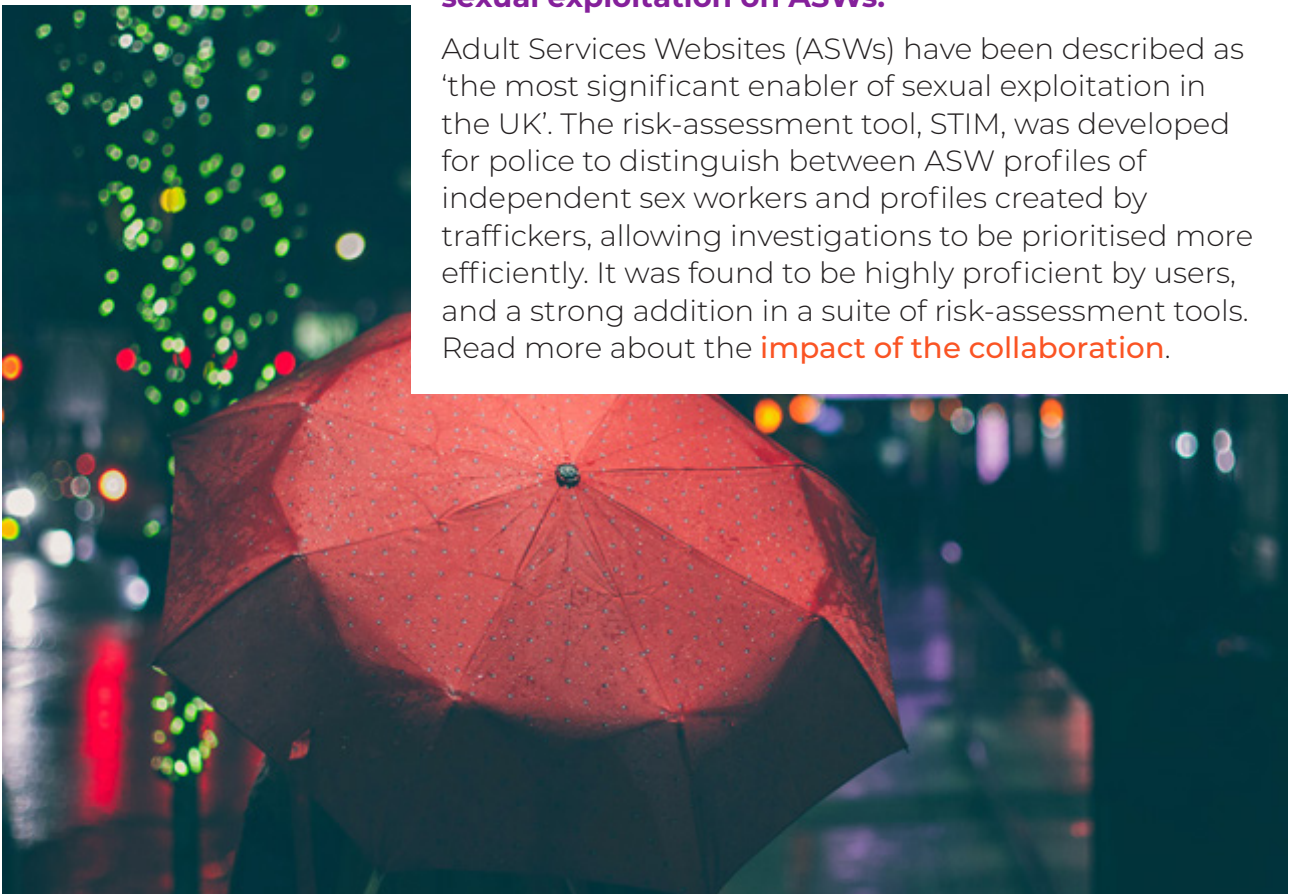
*ASWs are 'the most significant enabler of sexual exploitation in the UK' (JSTAC, 2018).* ”

### Identifying sexual trafficking online

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/identifying-sexual-trafficking-online/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/identifying-sexual-trafficking-online/)

#### **Developing a matrix to identify high-risk cases of sexual exploitation on ASWs.**

Adult Services Websites (ASWs) have been described as 'the most significant enabler of sexual exploitation in the UK'. The risk-assessment tool, STIM, was developed for police to distinguish between ASW profiles of independent sex workers and profiles created by traffickers, allowing investigations to be prioritised more efficiently. It was found to be highly proficient by users, and a strong addition in a suite of risk-assessment tools. Read more about the **impact of the collaboration**.



### Developing the police response to child-to-parent violence

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/developing-the-police-response-to-child-to-parent-violence/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/developing-the-police-response-to-child-to-parent-violence/)

#### Vulnerable children or Domestic Violence perpetrators?

In 2018, child-to-parent violence (CPV) was described in the House of Commons as 'a very significant...growing problem'. This report examines 4,281 CPV cases in a rural and a metropolitan site, interviews with police officers, and a survey of parents and carers. This establishes the nature of CPV, officers' understanding of CPV, reasons for contacting the police, police action, and lack of wider support. Analysis shows the vital need for CPV data, accessible guidelines, multi-agency working, and further research.

*Ultimately it is about making sure that the patients are at the centre of this partnership, so that we get it right for them.* ”



### Embedding mental health support in district police stations

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/embedding-mental-health-support-within-district-police-stations/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/embedding-mental-health-support-within-district-police-stations/)

#### Better informed, more effective responses.

West Yorkshire Police have embedded mental health nurses within five district police stations with whom officers can consult when deciding whether to detain someone under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. This initial evaluation finds this is uniformly perceived to result in better informed, more effective responses to these incidents. Benefits include more efficient use of resources, reduced burden on health services (particularly A&E), and stronger understanding of mental health by police.



# Collaboration Creating Impact

Dr Xavier L'Hoiry reflects on the value of research co-production in his 2019/20 Small Grant project, *Identifying Sexual Trafficking Online*.

One of the central aims of this study was to produce a new risk assessment tool to support practitioners in their efforts to identify potential cases of commercial sexual exploitation mediated online via adult service websites. Key to achieving this aim was the close collaboration between the academic research team at the University of Sheffield and the practitioner partner South Yorkshire Police. This collaboration was embedded throughout the project, from the initial project idea and design through to completing the fieldwork and subsequently disseminating the study's findings and outputs.

By engaging with our practitioner partner early, the project was able to focus on a 'live issue' with immediate relevance to the police's current interests. Moreover, the collaborative approach taken in the study positioned police officers and staff as participants in the fieldwork as they tested the risk assessment tool we produced in a live operational environment. The benefit of this approach is evident in the impact of the study since the conclusion of the project. The tool created during the study – the Sexual Trafficking Identification Matrix (STIM) – has now become one of a suite of risk assessment mechanisms used by South Yorkshire Police as part of their investigations of potential human trafficking mediated online. Moreover, South Yorkshire Police were able to work with the academic project team to arrange a series of dissemination events via the force's practitioner networks. Following these dissemination events, several police forces across England and Wales are now trialling the STIM with a view to adopting this investigatory tool permanently.



This type of collaboration is not only beneficial for practitioners, but from an academic perspective too. As the STIM continues to be used by a greater number of police forces and across a wider geographical footprint, more data and knowledge can be gathered about the dynamics of human trafficking in this context. Greater practitioner use of the STIM also allows for development of the STIM itself, by inviting practitioners to feedback on what does and does not work well. This has allowed for new iterations of the STIM to be developed and delivered to participating police forces.

The full 4-page report and PowerPoint presentation is available at [n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/identifying-sexual-trafficking-online/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/identifying-sexual-trafficking-online/)

# Small Grants 2020/21

Six projects have been taking place over 2020/21, demonstrating the resilience of N8 PRP partnerships in unprecedented conditions. Two reports, **Intimate Partner Violence** and **Demand for Police**, have been published – highlights from their findings are on the following pages. Each project lead will host a free webinar to discuss the research; please check our **Events** for details.

## Knife Crime and OCG Strategy

Following the **2019 Innovation Forum**, two collaborative projects were funded to investigate the issues raised. The reports have been delayed due to the pandemic, but are expected in spring 2022.

### **Knife crime imagery and messaging:**

Effective intervention tools or ineffective sensitisers?

*Michael Parker, South Yorkshire Police*

**Tackling the developing world of OCGs through a multiagency strategy:** Case studies at HMPs Humber and Hull. *Darren Downs, Humberside Police*



## Policing During Covid-19

Rapid changes to service delivery, reporting, demand, and police powers – the Small Grants gave N8 PRP partners the opportunity to respond to unpredicted events and investigate the effects of the pandemic on policing.

**PROTECT COVID 19:** The impact of intimate partner violence and abuse on children during lockdown.

*Dr Hayley Alderson, University of Newcastle*

### **Understanding changing demand for police during the coronavirus pandemic:**

Using time-series analysis and interviews to analyse demand in lockdown.

*Dr Réka Solymosi, University of Manchester*

**Every ticket tells a story:** Piloting a “whole story” approach to ethnic disproportionality in FPNs issued for breaching coronavirus restrictions.

*Dr Liz Turner, University of Liverpool*

**Policing domestic abuse during Covid-19 lockdown:** Investigating DA reporting pre/post/during lockdown, and the use of forensic traceable liquids.

*Shelley Hemsley, South Yorkshire Police*

# Research Highlights

**Protect Covid 19: Exploring lived experiences of the impact of intimate partner violence and abuse on children, affected family members and perpetrators during the COVID- 19**

### Research team:

*Dr Hayley Alderson, Dr Simon Barrett, Carrie Barron, Hilda Frost, Dr Simon Hackett, Professor Eileen Kaner, Dr Ruth McGovern, Ms Deborah Smart, Dr Will McGovern, Dr Michelle Addison, Dr Sam Burns, Ms Victoria Cooling, Ms Linda Whitehead, DCI Yvonne Dutson and Gillian Routledge*

The COVID-19 lockdown exacerbated the risk of IPVA experienced by families. The findings of this research point to strategies frontline and specialist services can use to mitigate this increased risk.

Full report and all key findings:

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/protect-covid-19-intimate-partner-violence/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/protect-covid-19-intimate-partner-violence/)

*"You're isolated. Well, I think they survive on that, because that's what perpetrators do, they try and have you come away from your loved ones. So, it was kind of like a win-win situation. He always knew where I was, he always knew who I was talking to... So, it was like you're even more isolated and you're even more closed-off from means of support. (Participant 5; Survivor, 3 children)."*

*"Because the Domestic Abuse Unit rang us, I couldn't really openly tell them, because I had my seven-year-old [who was home schooling], who knows basically what I'm saying. So, I had to kind of like make it sound a bit better than I was feeling, so that she didn't get concerned, if that makes sense? (Participant 2; Survivor, 1 child)."*

**FINDING:** Organisations providing specialist support should consider delivering support and interventions using a mixture of face-to-face appointments to build rapport and remote measures once a relationship has been established to provide flexibility.

**FINDING:** When providing support remotely, a code word should be established with service users to alert professionals if the perpetrator or children are present, which will restrict the ability to converse openly.

## Small Grants

*"One of the times I was online, I just cried the entire way through it, but nobody recognised that....had I been in a class that would have been spotted. (Participant 10; survivor, 2 children)."*

**FINDING:** Domestic Violence group work programs should be delivered face to face to optimise the impact of the content being delivered and to promote peer support for participants.

*"Before, I used to be there [domestic abuse service] three days a week, doing different courses and that. Then obviously lockdown happened, but they still kept everything as it was, but we just went on Zoom and did it all. (Participant 2; Survivor, 1 child)."*

**FINDING:** There is further need for frontline services to acknowledge immigration status can be a barrier to services, increase awareness of DDV- Destitution Domestic Violence concession, and to use independent translators rather than family members when assessing need.



## Understanding Changing Demand for Police during the Coronavirus Pandemic

### Research team:

Dr Réka Solymosi (University Of Manchester), Dr Matt Ashby (University College London), Dr Nadia Kennar (UK Data Service), Dr Eon Kim (University Of Manchester), and Karen Byrom, Alexander McMillan, Phoebe Liebelt (Cheshire Constabulary).

Covid-19 has created unprecedented challenges for policing. This project used robust time-series analysis and interviews with force call centre staff to explore changes in police demand during the different stages of lockdown.

Full report and all key findings:

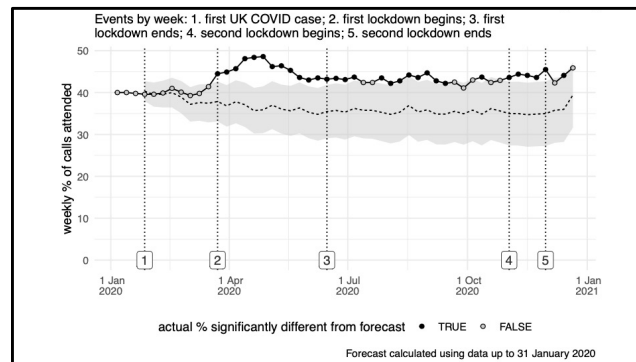
[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/changing-demand-for-police-during-covid-19/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/changing-demand-for-police-during-covid-19/)

**Fewer Calls, Faster Response, Less Time on Scene:** There was a marked increase in calls attended, a decrease in response time, and decrease in time on the scene was for Grade 2 and 3 calls.

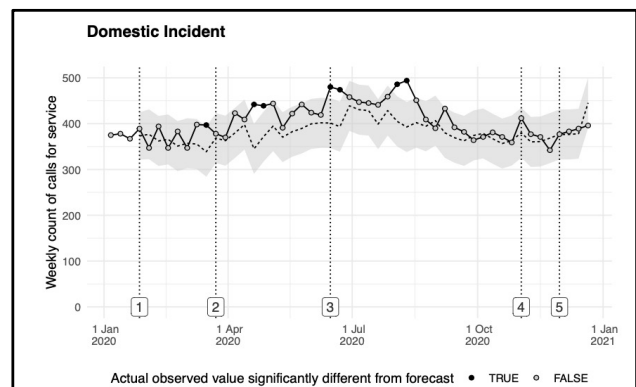
**Presence of Guardians, Absence of Targets:** People staying home resulted in a drop in residential burglaries, while shop closures removed suitable targets for theft.

**Expressions of concern:** ASB calls about Covid-19 regulation breaches were the main source of demand. An increase of drug-related call was due to neighbours staying in the home, acting as guardians.

**No Visible Change in Domestic Incidents (But Possible Change in Nature):** Despite many concerns, calls data does not show any significant increase in calls about domestic incidents, however interviews reveal a shift towards more child to parent conflicts.



Attendance rate for all calls vs. forecast



Actual Domestic incidents vs forecast



## Small Grants 2021/22

### A New Approach to Collaborative Research

In December 2021 four new Small Grants projects were announced, with research due to start in April 2022.

The projects will investigate the policing of exploitation and abuse, and have the potential to reduce harm to some of the most vulnerable people in the UK through increased understanding and recommendations for better practice.

For the first time every police partner of N8 PRP is involved in at least one project. Many will be research partners, and all will take part in Advisory Groups to discuss project design and development. Together with contributions from other stakeholders, this will let researchers take advantage of a wide range of expertise and experience, and increase opportunities for impact on police operations.



*Halo Project UK, Small Grant research partner*

### Understanding and preventing 'cuckoo' victimisation

This project will seek to interview victims and perpetrators to establish how, when and why cuckoo victims are targeted, with the aim of producing a 'preventing cuckooing' tactical plan for local delivery groups.

*Dr Laura Bainbridge (University of Leeds); Prof Charlie Lloyd (University of York)*

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

This investigation aims to produce recommendations to enable accurate and consistent reporting, which will help early identification and prevention of victimisation. *Dr Geetanjali Gangoli (University of Durham); Dr Nikki D'Souza (Northumbria University)*

### Strategies for Disrupting High risk high harm Domestic Abuse

The research team will analyse the trajectories of offenders on Integrated Offender Management systems to identify which strategies are successful in reducing re-offending, and consider the impact of these strategies on victim-survivor attrition. *Prof Barry Godfrey, Prof Sandra Walklate (University of Liverpool)*

### Who is the victim? Identifying victims and perpetrators in coercive control cases

Using data analysis and interviews with police, perpetrators and survivors, the research team will develop an evidence base that will equip police to make better-informed decisions on identifying victims and perpetrators. *Prof Sandra Walklate (University of Liverpool); Dr Charlotte Barlow (UCLAN)*

## Postgraduate and Early Career Research

# NRiPN: New Researchers in Policing Network

As part of N8 PRP's mission to champion, enable, and support policing research, we have established The New Researchers in Policing Partnership (NRiPN). **Dr Eon Kim**, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Manchester and the first NRiPN Director, discusses her ambitions for the network.

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/new-researchers-in-policing-network/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/new-researchers-in-policing-network/)



When I heard that N8 PRP wanted to establish a network for postgraduate and early career researchers, I knew I wanted to be involved. I have seen first-hand the value of the partnership as a Co-I on '**Understanding Changing Demand for Police during the Coronavirus Pandemic**', where we had incredible access to support and data through our collaboration with Cheshire Police. Like many researchers, I am not driven purely by theoretical curiosity but the desire to add to our collective good. N8 PRP can support our ability to do that.

As early career and postgraduate researchers, we can also add a huge amount to the capacity of N8 PRP to champion, enable, and support policing research. I'm keen to establish cross-institutional discussion groups and regular events that showcase the work of network members and give us the opportunity to hear from policing researchers and practitioners in the N8, across the north of England, and around the world.

NRiPN has great potential for researchers who want to shape the future of policing research and have a meaningful impact on police policy and practice. It is free to join for all post-graduate and ECR\* working on research related to policing in the north of England. Members will benefit from N8 PRP support and create a collaborative professional network, increasing opportunities for discussion, funding, and pathways to impact.

Through discussion, events, and support, NRiPN will provide the opportunity to:

- Develop research, funding applications, career development, and pathways to impact;
- Find collaboration, dissemination, and impact opportunities;
- Gain insight from senior academics and practitioners, increase your awareness of the wider field of policing research, and stay informed about funding opportunities, events, and jobs.

For more information and to register as a member, visit [NRiPN](#).

*\*Early Career Researchers per AHRC definition.*

## Postgraduate and Early Career Research

# PhD Studentships

As part of the Catalyst grant (2016-2020), N8 PRP supported 7 collaborative PhD studentships who benefited from advanced training, methods and skills development provided by three N8 Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs). 4 PhDs have now been awarded and the remaining 3 are expected to complete in early 2022.

Summary reports with key findings:

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/phd-studentships/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/phd-studentships/)

### **Police joint working: from 'fighting' crime to safeguarding and vulnerability**

"This project led to the development of the Policing Complex Adaptive Systems framework, a resource contributing insights into the personal, cultural and structural dimensions of working together, and valuable mechanisms for change." *Dr Lindsey Youansamouth*

### **Diversity, difference or disorder? Neurodiversity in police-community partnerships.**

"Recommendation: a holistic review of the language used related to neurodivergence in policy and practice, particularly vulnerability protocols, with assistance from neurodivergent people and specialists." *Dr Alice Siberry*

### **Making the 'Visible' Visible: The Communicative Properties of a Visible Police Presence in Community Engagement.**

"In comparison to vehicle patrol, PCSO foot patrol creates 'interactionally accessibility' that develops dialogue with, and a better understanding of, the community." *Dr Lisa Weston*

### **A human-rights approach to football policing.**

"Police proactively facilitated rights of assembly and expression at high-profile European matches. These practices were not adopted at domestic fixtures where other operational objectives to secure public order displaced human rights considerations." *Dr Martin Browne*

## Postgraduate and Early Career Research

### MSc Reports

In 2018 and 2019, N8 PRP supported bursaries for the University of Leeds Criminal Justice MSc for dissertation projects on priorities identified by project partners, West Yorkshire Police and Safer Leeds.

Full reports available:

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/masters-reports/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/masters-reports/)

#### **BAME representation in policing: a study on perspectives in West Yorkshire Police.**

"Participants identified and credited the diversification efforts made by WYP. All participants reported a visible increase of BAME representation within WYP's workforce in recent years."

*Rebecca Fox*

#### **Policing the Night-Time Economy: Overcoming Barriers to Partnership Working.**

"To adjust to austerity, outer-city officers are brought in to police the city centre. However these officers are often ill-informed about local partnerships or organisations that minimise disorder."

*Lydia Gilbert*

#### **Child criminal exploitation: beyond county lines.**

"There is significant demand for specialist CCE services in Leeds. Appropriate for CCE response presented major concerns given pressures resulting from austerity and Covid-19."

*Jeremy Squire*

#### **Locality-Based Multi-Agency Responses to Lower-Risk Domestic Violence Cases.**

"Whether to refer victims to DVLM relies heavily on whether victims consent to information sharing by the officer completing the risk assessment. Consent is given in ~20% of cases."

*Kelly Nemeth*

## Postgraduate and Early Career Research

# Knowledge Exchange Internships

In February 2021 N8 PRP awarded West Yorkshire Police £8,000 to run two knowledge exchange internships. Overseen by Dr Kate Watkins, University of Leeds, and Nigel Swift, Head of Corporate Communications at West Yorkshire Police, the project will analyse communications with 'hard to reach' groups.

Two interns will research and evaluate current practice at West Yorkshire Police, identifying gaps and obstacles in reaching young and BAME audiences. They will develop the Force's approach to social media, researching the impact of different communication platforms and producing reports on the current Force approach with recommendations for how to change and adapt. The project will report in September 2022.

*We believe 'hard to reach' is a misnomer.* ”  
*Nigel Swift*





## New Awards

*An ambitious programme to better understand how vulnerabilities are produced, compounded and mitigated by policing”*  
Adam Crawford

N8 PRP has supported a number of successful externally-funded projects at N8 institutions in the past 18 months, bringing a total of £11.6 million in external research funding to N8 PRP partners. The network of expertise accessible through N8 PRP provides a strong basis of support for researchers, both in conducting research and translating work into meaningful impact on police policy and practice.

### ESRC Centre of Excellence: Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre

Spanning 10 universities across the UK, USA and Australia, The Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre represents a huge investment in policing research. Led by Professor Adam Crawford (N8 PRP Director, 2013-19) and Professor Charlie Lloyd (N8 PRP lead for York, 2013-19), the Centre is the first of its kind to study how vulnerabilities - such as exploitation by county lines drug networks, online child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, modern slavery, mental illness and homelessness - affect policing.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/vulnerabilitypolicing-futures-research-centre/>

**Grant Holders:** Professor Charlie Lloyd, University of York and Professor Adam Crawford, University of Leeds, with Co-Is from the Universities of Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield

**Funder:**  
ESRC Research Grant

**Start date, duration:**  
May-22, 60 months

**Award:** £8,230,000.00



## Policing beyond the pandemic: the transformation of police work practices in response to the crisis

<https://business.leeds.ac.uk/divisions-management/dir-record/research-projects/1805/policing-beyond-the-pandemic-the-transformation-of-police-work-practices-in-response-to-the-crisis>

### *Grant Holders:*

Dr Emma Gritt and  
Dr Emma Forsgren,  
University of Leeds

### *Funder:*

Research England QR  
Strategic Priorities Fund

### *Start date, duration:*

Dec-20, 10 months

*Award:* £19,591.00

## Co-POWeR: Consortium on Practices of Wellbeing and Resilience in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Families and Communities (BAMEFC)

This project is investigating the challenges posed by Co-POWeR will provide evidenced recommendations to healthcare stakeholders, policy-makers, local government and social services, targeting policy and behavioural change, and raising awareness to support BAMEFC to live well and with confidence under COVID-19. We will recommend how policy can reduce vulnerability and increase resilience, and how to enhance official decision-making through strengthening cultural competence, maximizing the success of national responses to Covid-19.

<https://co-power.leeds.ac.uk/>

*Two viruses – COVID-19 and racial discrimination – are currently killing in the UK. ”*

### *Grant Holders:*

Professor Iyiola Solanke,  
University of Leeds

### *Funder:*

ESRC Research Grant

### *Start date, duration:*

Jun-21, 18 months

*Award:* £2,046,026.00

## Protecting the vulnerable through neighbourhood policing

*Grant Holders:* Stuart Lister and Adam Crawford (PhD candidate: Rebecca Fox), University of Leeds

*Funder:* ESRC Collaborative Studentship Award

*Start date, duration:* Oct-21, 36 months

*Award:* £60,000.00



## Domestic Abuse: Responding to the Shadow Pandemic

This project investigates the challenges posed by lockdown in responding to domestic abuse, the policy innovations put in place in response to these circumstances by the police and the courts, and the potential learning opportunities for practice that might ensue.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/research/coronavirus-research/the-shadow-pandemic/>

**Grant Holders:** Professor Sandra Walklate (PI), Professor Barry Godfrey and Dr Jane Richardson, University of Liverpool

**Funder:**  
ESRC Research Grant

**Start date, duration:**  
Jun-20, 18 months

**Award:** £320,839.00

## Understanding the geospatial and contextual patterns of rural domestic abuse

**Grant Holders:**  
Dr Sam Lewis and Dr Dan Birks, University of Leeds

**Start date, duration:**  
Oct-21, 6 months

**Award:** £176,000.00

**Funder:** Home Office Police STAR Fund



## Safer Streets

Dr Dan Birks, University of Leeds, was the primary academic expert for two Home Office Safer Streets project bids successfully awarded to Durham PCC and Constabulary. This activity built on research undertaken as part of the N8 PRP data analytics strand.

**Grant Holders:** Durham PCC and Constabulary

**Funder:**  
Home Office Safer Streets

**Start date, duration:**  
June-21, 9 months

**Award:** £764,625.00

## Violence Reduction Project Based Learning (PBL) Programme

This project will extend the violence reduction Project Based Learning (PBL) programme with other settings and allow us to investigate learning processes and evaluate its impact.

**Grant Holders:**  
Dr Jill Clark, University of Newcastle, and Dr Eric Fletcher, Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit

**Start date, duration:**  
Oct-21, 6 months

**Award:** £18,235.16

**Funder:** Home Office Police STAR Fund

# The Centre for Digital Trust and Society

N8 PRP partner The Centre for Digital Trust and Society was launched in May 2021 to co-ordinate the University of Manchester's Digital Trust and Security research theme. Founding Director Professor Emma Barrett introduces their interdisciplinary approach, extensive cybercrime research programme, and plans for 2022.



This is an exciting time to be highlighting the work of this distinctive new Centre in Manchester as we prepare our busy programme for 2022. We're looking forward to working closely with colleagues across the N8PRP and beyond.

The Manchester **Centre for Digital Trust and Society** was launched in May 2021, bringing together researchers from across the University to explore aspects of trust in our digital world. The launch of the Centre was an important milestone in a programme of work that started four years ago, as part of the University's **Digital Futures** platform, to identify and build on existing research on digital security and trust.

Early on we focused on traditional understandings of 'cyber security', but it soon became clear that our scope should be much wider. We now see cyber security as part of a set of broader issues relating to trust, trustworthiness, and resilience of socio-technical systems in their broadest sense.

These are all fundamental issues for societies undergoing digital transformation and highlight the critical importance of social scientists working alongside technologists, engineers, and mathematicians to explore how responsible digital innovation can be achieved. This is why we are one of the few digital trust and security-focused Centres







anywhere in the World that is led from social sciences rather than an engineering or computer science department.

Our research, however, is highly interdisciplinary, involving computer scientists, engineers, data scientists, political scientists, sociologists, psychologists, and criminologists - all bringing their diverse experience to bear on challenging topics related to digital trust.

Of most relevance to N8PRP is the **Digital Technologies and Crime research cluster**, led by Dr David Buil-Gil (Criminology). This cluster includes researchers working on diverse aspects of cybercrime, including the implications of cryptomarkets (sometimes called “darknet markets”) and cryptocurrencies for crime. Others research financial and economic crimes such as cyber-enabled fraud, digital money laundering, and corruption in online sports betting markets. Psychologists and computer scientists have been working together to understand the implications of new technologies like virtual reality for

online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Meanwhile, our research projects on online extremism and disinformation bring together expertise from data science and across the social sciences.

Our external partners on these projects have included **Greater Manchester Police**, the **National Crime Agency**, and the **NW Regional and Organised Crime Unit**, as well as regulators such as the **Financial Conduct Authority** and the **ICO**, and businesses such as **Nasdaq**.

Beyond the Digital Technologies and Crime research cluster, other research in the Centre is directly relevant to policing and crime reduction. For example, **Soteria** is a £5.3M UKRI-funded collaboration between Computer Science, the Business School and one of Manchester’s retail giants **The Hut Group** (plus University of Oxford). The project explores how business cybersecurity and productivity would be enhanced with cutting edge secure hardware and examines the potential barriers to adoption. The aim is to find ways to overcome the technical,



organisational, and psychological barriers to implementing secure hardware, thereby drastically reducing businesses' vulnerability to damaging cyber-attacks.

The Centre is also home to several large collaborations that tackle aspects of digital trust and security, such as **SPRITE+** (the Security, Privacy, Identity and Trust Digital Economy Network Plus). SPRITE+ is an EPSRC-funded national network led from University of Manchester in collaboration with four other Universities (including our N8 Partner Lancaster University) and 17 Project Partners (including GMP, **GM Combined Authority**, and the office of the **Chief Scientific Advisor for National Security**). The network (which is free to join) has grown rapidly since its launch in November 2019, and now has more than 700 members, including from across policing. SPRITE+ is a vehicle for building collaborations, exchanging knowledge and pump-priming research.

The Centre is an active member of the Greater Manchester cyber ecosystem, including the GM **CyberFoundry**, a partnership led by Manchester

Metropolitan University, which works with small businesses to enhance their cybersecurity, and the new **Manchester Digital Innovation and Security Hub** where we partner with Barclays Eagle Labs, Plexel, and Lancaster University to foster innovative solutions to cybersecurity challenges. We have also built strong relationships with **GCHQ Manchester** and the **North West Cyber Resilience Centre**.

In February 2022, I will be handing over the reins to my Criminology colleague Professor Nick Lord. As our 2022 programme gets underway, including plans for our inaugural annual conference in the spring, we're keen to explore collaborative opportunities with colleagues from across the N8PRP.

Find out more on our website:  
<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/dts/research/clusters/digital-technologies-and-crime/>

Get in touch via DTS Centre:  
[dtscentre@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dtscentre@manchester.ac.uk)



## Publications and Papers

Barlow, C & Walklate, S. (2021). Gender, risk assessment and coercive control: Contradictions in terms? *British Journal of Criminology*, 61, 887-904.

Broad, R and Lightowlers, C, (2021) Victims and suspects of modern slavery: Identifying subgroups using latent class analysis, *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 15(2): 1384–1398

Davies, P., Rowe, M., Brown, D. M. & Biddle, P. (2021). Understanding the status of evidence in policing research: reflections from a study of policing domestic abuse. *Policing and Society* 31(6): 687-701.

Shapland, J. & D'Souza, N. (2021). The exclusion of serious and organised offenders and their victims from the offer of restorative justice: should this be so and what happens when the offer is put on the table?' **Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Youansamouth, L. et al. (2021). **The Little Book of Violence Prevention**.

Ewin, R. (2021). Mindlessness and policing vulnerability – a perspective on current approaches. Security Lancaster Seminar.

Lister, S. The use of body worn cameras in the prosecution of domestic abuse: policy and practice considerations, Home Office (London, 10 March 2020)

Lister, S. Police accountability and body-worn cameras, Workshop on police and new technologies Sheffield Legal Hackers and Sheffield Hallam University, 25 November 2020.





## N8 PRP Impact Stories

A fundamental aim of N8 PRP is to enable research to create meaningful change in policing policy and practice, promoting evidence-based policing and demonstrating the value of constructive collaboration with independent researchers.

**For the 2019/20 Small Grants**, the work of disseminating and discussing their findings began in earnest this year, and already the list of policy briefings, presentations, and meetings make impressive reading. Longer term, **N8 PRP Impact Stories** show how N8 PRP-funded work from earlier years is continuing to develop and inform policy, practice, and collaboration.

### Small Grants 2019/20

#### DEVELOPING THE POLICE RESPONSE TO CHILD-TO-PARENT VIOLENCE

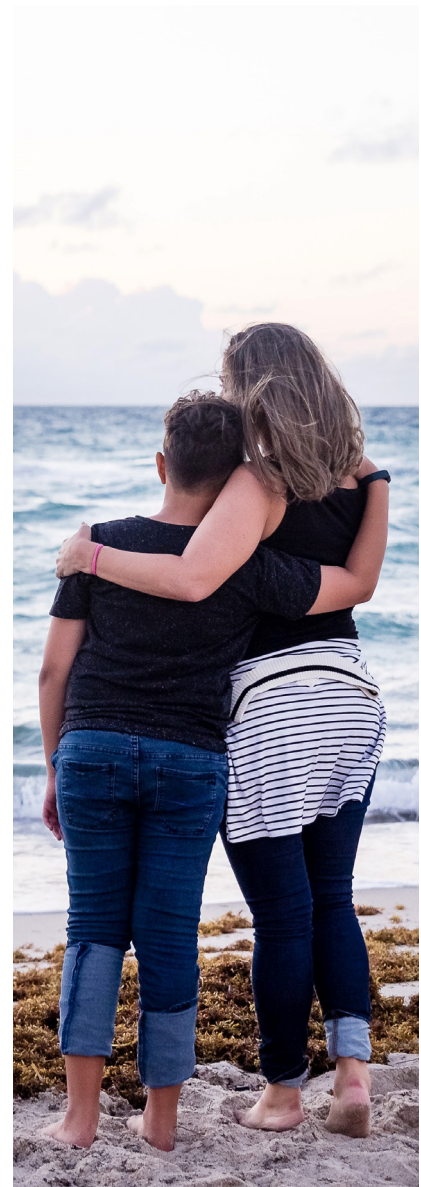
[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/developing-the-police-response-to-child-to-parent-violence/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/developing-the-police-response-to-child-to-parent-violence/)

*Dr Sam Lewis, University of Leeds.*

Policy Briefing Papers to:

- Senior Officers, Cumbria Police (25 Nov 2020),
- Senior Officers, West Yorkshire Police (2 Sept 2020),
- Leeds City Council's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board (16 Sept 2020),
- Home Office Policy Advisors as part of the Home Office Seminar Series (5 Aug 2020).

Supporting the parents of violent children: Lessons from England and Wales, Linking Leeds Seminar Series by LSSI and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (Online, 17 March 2021).



## Small Grants 2019/20

### IDENTIFYING SEXUAL TRAFFICKING ONLINE

[n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/identifying-sexual-trafficking-online/](https://n8prp.org.uk/home/research/small-grants/identifying-sexual-trafficking-online/)

*Dr. Xavier L'Hoiry, University of Sheffield*

Presentations to:

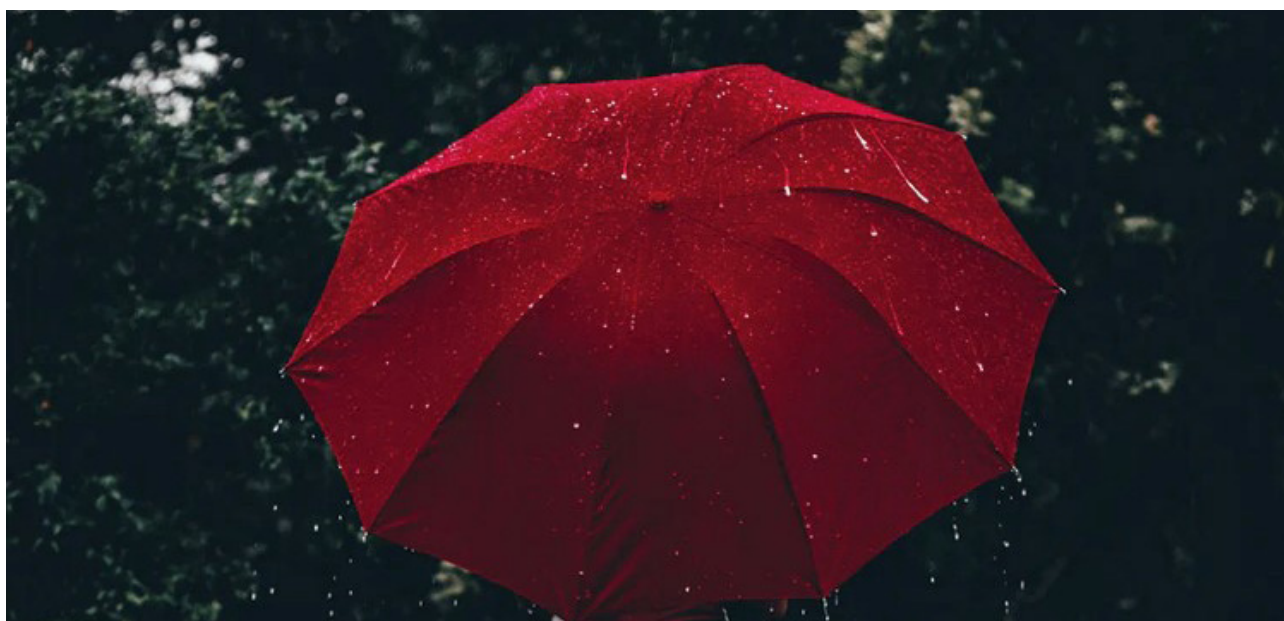
- Norfolk Constabulary (18 Oct 2021),
- South Wales, Gwent, and Dyfed-Powys Police (10 Sept 2021),
- Thames Valley Police (23 July 2021),
- Heads of Regional Organised Crime Units in England and Wales and Modern Slavery Force Leads at local and regional levels (22 June 2021),
- Techné Research Group from the University of Copenhagen (Hotel Ottilia, Copenhagen, 27 Oct 2021),
- Techné Research Group, Ethnographic Exploratory (University of Copenhagen, 24 Nov 2021),
- 'Trends in (fight against) human trafficking', event organised by the US Embassy in Sarajevo and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Travnik, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 10 Dec 2021).

Consultant on the BBC Panorama episode 'Online Pimps Exposed' (Nov 2021).

Identifying Sexual Trafficking in Adult Service Websites - An exploratory study with a British police force, British Society of Criminology Conference (8 July 2021).

Meetings on the purpose and use of STIM in a French context with:

- Head of l'Office Central Pour la Répression de la Traite des Etres Humains (ORTEH) (Ministry of the Interior, Paris, 22 Sept 2021)
- Project Leader of the Association ALC (Agir pour le lien social et la citoyenneté) NGO supporting vulnerable people in Nice, France (10 Nov 2021).





## International Requests for Small Grant Training

Dr Charlotte Barlow at Lancaster University developed a tool to identify coercive control following the 2017 N8 PRP Small Grant, '**Police Responses to Coercive Control**'. It is designed to improve police and other organisations' understanding of, and responses to, coercive control. Piloted in Merseyside, training has since been delivered to:

- Merseyside Adult and Child Safeguarding
- Cumbria Police
- Lincolnshire Social Services
- Independent Office for Police Complaints
- Cheshire Police
- Northumbria Police
- Cumbria Adult and Child Safeguarding.

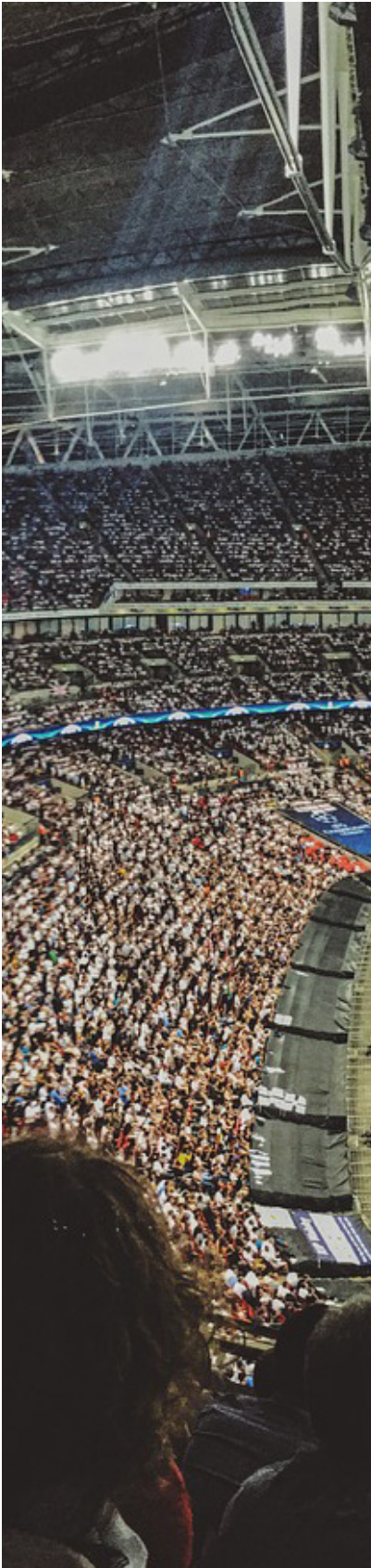
Dr Sophie Nightingale is currently adapting the tool to be suitable for an international audience, as Garda (Ireland), Victoria (Australia) and Danish police forces have requested a training package.

## New Policing DA network builds on Knowledge Exchange programme

In 2021 Durham University launched the Policing Domestic Abuse Research Partnership (PDARN), building on work funded by N8 PRP's **knowledge exchange initiative**. Co-ordinated by Dr Kelly Johnson and Professor Nicole Westmarland, PDARN is an international network for police practitioners and academic researchers interested in the area of police responses to domestic abuse. The PDARN mailing is available to join at [jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=POLICINGDV](mailto:jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=POLICINGDV)

The launch event in March 2021 featured guest speaker Assistant Commissioner Lauren Callaway from Victoria Police, Australia, presenting on the world-leading domestic abuse innovations currently taking place in Victoria. In July, Detective Superintendent Miles Ockwell from Sussex Police discussed the importance of addressing gender inequality to address domestic abuse. Both events were attended by an international mix of police practitioners, academics and other relevant domestic abuse professionals, with 106 attendees in March and 88 in May. Further events are planned for 2022.





## From £7K grant to National Impact on Law and Policy

Led by Professor Geoff Pearson (University of Manchester) and Professor Clifford Stott (KPAC, Keele University), ENABLE applies the latest developments in crowd psychology and human rights law to football policing in the UK. The project began in 2017 with a £7,200 **grant from the N8 PRP Training and Innovation Fund** to identify and develop best practice in the policing of domestic football. ENABLE then secured £200,000 from the English Football League to develop the research, including work with N8 PRP partner forces West Yorkshire, Cleveland, GMP, Lancashire, and Northumbria.

As a result of this work, including a number of evaluations of policing innovations such as the development of OFO Serials, the team was asked to contribute to the new UK Football Policing Unit's (UKFPU) Authorised Professional Practice and in September ENABLE ran a CPD course with UKFPU for forces on the new APP.

Professor Pearson has continued to influence national policy and law in this area through his work with the Sports Grounds Safety Authority on introducing "safe standing", and contributions to the Casey Review of the Euro2020 Disorder and the Law Commission's report on Hate Crime at football.