

**N8 PRP**

# **Annual Report**

**2017/18**

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# DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



It gives me great pleasure to introduce this report on the achievements of the N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP), covering the third year of the HEFCE (now Office for Students) *Catalyst Grant* - from May 2017 to May 2018.

As such, it covers the mid-point in the current five year programme of funding (until May 2020). Where the first two years focused largely on partnership and relationship building, process implementation, experimentation and learning through experiences, the last year has seen the reaping of the rewards of the early work; as initiatives have come to fruition, planning has been delivered, outcomes produced and research has impacted on operational practices. Through new collaborations and changed ways of working, the partnership is now having real impacts on the ways in which policing partners and researchers engage with each other, generate new research knowledge and provide training opportunities. We are also beginning to deliver on the wide-ranging benefits that come from exploiting hitherto untapped data resources and research capabilities of policing practitioners, within and beyond our partner police forces. Incrementally, we are changing the means by which research evidence is produced, valued and applied. For example, the launch of the Data Analytics Digital Service (DADS - [see p. 18](#)) marks an important milestone in our ambitious plans to transform the mobilisation and use of policing data. The next challenge is to ensure that DADS becomes the default service for all research-related data requests and data sharing across the N8 partner forces. We also need to exploit the undoubted opportunities that DADS presents for knowledge generation and data mobilisation to strengthen the evidence base on which policy, practice and training are developed.

The maturing partnership is partly reflected in the organisation and content of this year's Annual Report. Rather than reporting on the activities and outcomes of the partnership in terms of each of the activity strands, accounting for what they have done and what they plan to do, we have preferred to present a selection of work and the outcomes as a way of illustrating the partnership as a whole. Hence, this report is not meant

to be read as a comprehensive summary of 'what we did over the last 12 months', but rather an attempt to highlight some of the stories of research co-production, knowledge exchange and data mobilisation in a more personalised vein: how they came about and what their outcomes have been, with a particular emphasis on their impacts on policing practices.

On a range of fronts, the N8 PRP is beginning to transform the ways in which researchers engage with policing partners in research co-production, as well as how policing practitioners utilise evidence that is rigorous and relevant. Let me highlight two prominent examples. Firstly, the data specialists continuing professional development programme (CPD), delivered for the first time this year, underscored our long-term objective of harnessing existing human capital – in the form of skills, capabilities and resources - within policing. Through a structured eight module CPD programme, it has highlighted the benefits and appetite for improving data analytics capacity within policing ([see p. 18](#)). The feedback from the 33 participants from across all 11 force areas has been excellent. We are now planning to develop upon this firm foundation.

Secondly, the small grants are continuing testimony to what can be achieved within a supportive framework, with a small injection of resources, boundless curiosity and large doses of enthusiasm, commitment and energy. From our first round of grants (funded between 2016/17), the [Bitcoin](#) project has gone on to influence both local and national practices, while the [Human Trafficking](#) project has now secured a major ESRC funded follow-on grant to scale-up the pilot project over the next three years.

The second round of five small grants (funded between 2017/18), one of which is reported on [p. 10](#) and four that coalesce around different dimensions of policing domestic abuse (itself a fascinating development as Professor Nicole Westmarland explores – [p. 20](#)), have produced excellent summary finding reports which in diverse ways are helping to shape policies and practices. Collectively, they are testimony to the philosophy that those who are going to use research and apply the knowledge base should be involved in building it by actively co-producing the evidence.



More broadly, the N8 PRP has provided a strong drive for partners to share and collaborate where this has not occurred historically. It has been a catalyst in fostering different thinking, new practices and culture change, with many partner forces now dedicating new processes and infrastructure to coordinating research and to integrating better research evidence within strategies. Moreover, N8 PRP has enabled new relationships across academic and policing communities and has significantly increased research and dissemination capabilities. The broad reach of the partnership has facilitated innovation in research and enabled partner agencies to think more strategically about research needs and how best to address these. There is, of course, much work to do, but there is increasingly also much to celebrate.

I would like to express our thanks to Professor Nick Fyfe who has resigned from his position as Chair and member of our International Advisory Board. This coincides with him stepping down from his role as Director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR), a role that he undertook to such great effect for over ten years. Nick has been a long-term friend, ally and supporter of the N8 PRP and we have benefited greatly from his wisdom and experience over the years. As well as his sage advice, Nick also served on our Independent Panel of Assessors for our small grants awards. We will miss his counsel and wish him well on his new role as Dean for Social Sciences at the University of Dundee.

I am pleased to announce that Nick's successor as Director of SIPR, Dr Liz Aston, has agreed to join our Advisory Board and to help us explore ways in which we can continue to deepen our mutual collaborations.

Recently, we have begun to turn some of our attention and energies to developing a business plan and scoping out opportunities for possible external funding for the next phase of our development beyond the *Catalyst Grant* – our *Vision 2025*. The Steering Group has begun to discuss options, priorities and focus and these will be developed and refined over the forthcoming year.

#### **Scaffolding by Seamus Heaney**

***Masons, when they start upon a building,  
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;***

***Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,  
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.***

***And yet all this comes down when the job's done  
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.***

***So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be  
Old bridges breaking between you and me.***

***Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall  
Confident that we have built our wall.***

In the process, we look forward to continuing to work with our partners to deliver change and innovation in research and knowledge exchange. In doing so, we will strive to mobilise and harness the data, assets, capabilities and skills that exist in abundance in our partner organisations - both higher education and policing - and encourage a flow of people and ideas across institutional boundaries.

The ultimate aim of the *Catalyst Grant* has always been to build a robust and sustainable infrastructure - a 'scaffolding' in my mind - with multiple points of engagement, contacts, interdependencies and linkages around which policing practitioners and researchers might come together in mutual curiosity, with the collective purpose of fostering innovation, knowledge generation and change in policing with beneficial outcomes for communities, victims and the public.

As Seamus Heaney evokes in his poem *Scaffolding* (below), relationships of mutual understanding, trust and shared values do not naturally exist but are forged over time through work and endeavour. Once formed, they can take on a solidity and durability from which confidence in new undertakings can embark. It is my belief that the N8 PRP 'scaffolding' is now firmly in place.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

**Professor Adam Crawford, University of Leeds &**

**N8 PRP Director**

# ABOUT US

## Data Analytics

The Data Analytics strand will collaborate with police and academic partners to support data sharing, analysis, and use. Aiming to facilitate research collaboration, the strand will develop a forum and clearing house to improve data quality and accessibility. Improving access to police and other sources of hard to reach data will provide opportunities for police staff and academics to develop the innovative solutions needed to deliver effective policing at a time of diminishing resources.

**Professor David Allen, University of Leeds** ([d.allen@lubs.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.allen@lubs.leeds.ac.uk))

## Policing Innovation Forum

The Policing Innovation Forum constitutes a dynamic 'engine' of innovation at the heart of the overall programme, that will spawn new synergies, identify novel research opportunities, stimulate knowledge exchange and drive innovation. Innovation lies at the heart of the N8 PRP's strategy and programme of activities. This demands doing things differently in ways that respond to the challenges of social change, technological developments, new opportunities and emerging research evidence.

**Dr Steve Brookes, University of Manchester** ([stephen.brookes@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.brookes@manchester.ac.uk))

## People & Knowledge Exchange

The People and Knowledge Exchange strand will provide significant staff mobility and interaction between police/partner agencies and academics (including early career researchers) in HEIs. The intention is to foster greater mutual understanding and trust between the partners via people exchange, including secondments, internships, and placements, and also to facilitate research into priority policing issues.

**Professor Nicole Westmarland, Durham University** ([nicole.westmarland@durham.ac.uk](mailto:nicole.westmarland@durham.ac.uk))

## Research Co-production

The Small Grants Awards open call will provide pump-priming funds to support research into targeted and important areas of policing work and areas where the gaps in knowledge are most prominent and where research benefits are of greatest value. It will provide the necessary flexibility to move swiftly to respond to emergent areas of policing, new challenges and pressing concerns. Ideas generated via the 'Policing Innovation Forum' activity strand are particularly welcomed as are proposals that link to other activity strands and ensure stakeholder involvement in the choice of topics for research co-production.

**Dr Jill Clark, Newcastle University** ([jill.clark@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:jill.clark@ncl.ac.uk))

## Public Engagement

Embedding public engagement in the work of the N8 PRP is a way of recognising the vital importance of the public to policing. The Public Engagement strand of the N8 PRP seeks to work with police forces and members of the public to facilitate knowledge sharing and the identification of good practice in police-community engagement activities. It also aims to explore public attitudes towards the idea of policing being based on evidence generated by universities. What role do the public think universities and other research organisations *should* play in informing and supporting police work?

Dr Elizabeth Turner, University of Liverpool ([elizabeth.turner@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.turner@liverpool.ac.uk))

## Training & Learning

To enhance research training and learning among police and partners organisations to secure research impact and maximise the practical benefits to policing innovation and the exploitation of data. Mobilising existing research evidence to enhance operational practice.

Professor Corinne May-Chahal, Lancaster University ([c.may-chahal@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:c.may-chahal@lancaster.ac.uk))



# POLICING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

## International Programme

International developments in police exchange offer much to the N8 PRP community in understanding different models of relationships and mechanisms for delivering them, how well they work, and the lessons that can be learnt. Through research scoping exercises, literature reviews and international events the N8 PRP International Strand aims to develop the knowledge base of international research and knowledge exchange collaborations, exploit the international impact of policing research and extend the reputation and impact of English HE.

Dr Layla Skinns, University of Sheffield ([l.skinns@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.skinns@sheffield.ac.uk))

## Evaluation & Monitoring

Evaluation and Monitoring of the N8 PRP focuses on monitoring the processes and evaluating the impact of the partnership. Through a series of interviews with academic and policing partners, Police & Crime Commissioners and to engage in the management of external evaluators. A fully co-produced evaluation of the N8 PRP's impact.

Charlie Lloyd, University of York ([charlie.lloyd@york.ac.uk](mailto:charlie.lloyd@york.ac.uk))

# N8 RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP



We hear or read in the news constantly about developments in medical sciences, or new energy technologies, or how the latest gadget is going to change the way we live our lives, yet most of us take for granted the provision of certain basic services; does water come out of the tap, will someone come to put a fire out, or are people working to prevent me from being the victim of crime?

What few people realise is that the nature of policing is also profoundly changing, partially in response to external drivers, but also through a need to develop new skills to address emerging crimes (e.g. cybercrime) and to find applied solutions to crimes where there is no clear best-practice solution (e.g. domestic violence).

Police forces have many shared challenges and one of the strengths of the N8 PRP is the forum it has created for sharing best practice between forces; challenges that not only include reducing crime through evidence-led policing, but “back-room” initiatives such as shared training programmes, data management etc.

The key to this has been the relationship that has developed with the academic community across the N8 universities; this has given the police access to a significant concentration of policing research and expertise across the region, and give the research community access to practitioners and the challenges of implementing policy and research in the real world.

The power of the partnership is in bringing together practitioners looking for effective and up-to-date solutions, and researchers with access to the latest research developments, data analytics, and, perhaps most importantly, time to consider novel methods for tackling existing and upcoming issues.

Policing evolves, and the research that supports that evolution comes in large part from the N8 universities:

- Domestic violence is an area with a significant volume of published research, yet the real-world challenges that the police face as part of their job remain difficult to solve. N8 PRP discussed how to contribute to best practice in this area, culminating in the N8 Policing Innovation Forum on domestic violence, which focussed on understanding how differing research outcomes could be developed into practical interventions.
- There are lots of sources of data within the constabularies, some with a clear usefulness and purpose, others where the full extent of the value of the data is still being established. Police data and systems, by nature, have significant protections built in, yet sharing data safely and rapidly can have a significant impact on research and police business. Systems to safely allow data sharing are being developed alongside algorithms that find more and more uses for the data that exists.

The N8 PRP has evolved over time into a strong organisation with shared values that delivers benefits for researchers and practitioners alike.

*Dr Nick Goldspink—N8 Research Partnership Manager*



# CO-PRODUCED TRAINING AND LEARNING

The Training and Learning (T&L) strand has been reaching out to develop collaborative work with a number of other strands over the past 18 months.

The Training and Learning and Data Analytics strands have developed a programme of Continuing Professional Development for police analysts which is being delivered as a series of one and two-day workshops between January and August 2018. A cohort of 34 analysts (three from each of the 11 forces in the N8, plus one from the homicide and serious violence working group) have been attending the workshops. The workshops have also provided a forum for analysts to develop a strong cross-force network, and to explore ways in which their work can develop more collaboratively, including sharing analytical power and relevant learning.

The programme finale in a two-day summer school in August, which will bring together the cohort of analysts, evidence-based policing leads from forces and the College of Policing, and senior decision-makers to better understand and develop data driven organisations.

The Training and Learning strand has also been working with Newcastle and Durham to develop a programme of activities for the N8 PRP PhD cohort.

This culminates with an opportunity for the N8 PRP PhD students to participate in the Lancaster University *Intellectual Party* postgraduate summer conference in July 2018.

The Training and Learning strand and the Small Grants strand worked together to run a one-day workshop in summer 2017 to showcase the findings from the first cohort of the N8 PRP small grants and to introduce the new cohort. In 2019, a two-day summer school will take place to showcase all the N8 PRP small grant projects and to examine the individual and cumulative impact from this research activity.

The Training and Learning strand is supporting the 2018 Policing Innovation Forum, which will be held at Lancaster University in November 2018.



# POLICING COERCIVE CONTROL



On 29 December 2015, under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act, engaging in controlling and/or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships became a new criminal offence in England and Wales. N8 PRP funded research (2017/18) conducted by Dr Charlotte Barlow (Lancaster University), Professor Sandra Walklate (University of Liverpool) and Dr Kelly Johnson (Lancaster University) aimed to examine the implementation of the coercive control legislation, exploring police responses and possible missed opportunities for the application of coercive control. The project provides important insights into how the legislation is working and its findings carry significant implications for the policing of coercive control across England and Wales.

Project findings have painted a complex picture of how the new coercive control offence is playing out in police practice. Analysis has revealed that of the 19,000 or so domestic-abuse related crimes recorded by Merseyside Police over an 18-month time period, only 156 of these were listed as S.76 coercive control offences. These 156 crimes of coercive control took place overwhelmingly in the context of an intimate-partner relationship, with a female victim (95%) and a male perpetrator.

Compared to other cases of domestic abuse-related

crimes, calls for service (i.e. 999 calls) made in the context of coercive control cases were given a lower priority grading by call handlers (62% of domestic ABH cases were responded to within 10 minutes, comparative to 18% of coercive control cases). However, this is contrasted when analysing the risk assessment data, where coercive control cases that had a MERIT risk assessment completed tended to be graded higher risk than ABH cases (43% of coercive control cases were risk assessed as gold comparative to 28% for ABH cases). With this in mind, the difference in response allocation between the coercive control and ABH cases could be due to the different contexts in which these crimes were reported to the police. If, for example, a woman calls to report that her partner has assaulted her there and then, the fact that the perpetrator is still at the scene and has been violent would demand a category 1 response. In spite of this potential context, 46% of coercive control cases and 72% of domestic ABH cases resulted in an arrest, and 16% of coercive control cases and 33% of ABH cases were solved. These findings emphasise that, despite coercive control cases receiving a higher risk assessment, they were less likely to result in an arrest or be solved in comparison to ABH cases.





Findings also suggest that there were missed opportunities for using the coercive control offence. When analysing domestic abuse ABH cases, 83% of the sample analysed could have also been crimed as Coercive and Controlling Behaviour. Where the offence was used, a significant number of coercive control cases faced no further action due to 'evidential issues'. We argue that the prevalence of this outcome is likely connected to officers struggling to demonstrate experiences of sustained, patterned coercive control within victims' statements. We identified examples of officers investigating isolated 'incidents', such as assault, rather than effectively capturing a web of abusive behaviour. Additionally, we noted officers did not always capitalise on other available sources of evidence when investigating coercive control cases, such as other third-party witness statements, and physical or digital evidence.

A key recommendation from this project is to provide further opportunities to equip forces in identifying, responding to and investigating coercive control.

Informed by project findings, the project team (including project advisors, Professor Stuart Kirby, Dr Les Humphreys and Jacqui Kilburn, Women's Aid) have developed a 'Coercive Control Learning Tool', designed to support police officers in practice. The tool focuses on understanding, responding to, investigating and evidencing coercive control and includes written content, audio recordings of survivors of coercive control and police officers who were involved in the investigation of a coercive control conviction, case studies and activities. This is intended to be used by in-force trainers as a face-to-face training aid, but could also be adapted to suit force needs. The tool is currently being piloted at Merseyside Police and will also be made available to other interested forces.

***Dr Charlotte Barlow (PI), Professor Sandra Walklate (Co-I), Dr Kelly Johnson (Research Associate), Merseyside Police and Project Advisors (Dr Les Humphreys, Professor Stuart Kirby and Women's Aid)***



*"In my view, this project has delivered on all of the wider aims of the N8 initiative and I have been proud to be a part of it. Of course the work is not finished yet. It may be that this work will have wider ramifications not only in terms of training but also in terms of publications. However sometimes in looking for measurable outcomes the quality of relationships developed can be overlooked. For my part it was hugely rewarding to sit in the room listening to this work being so well received".*

***Professor Sandra Walklate, University of Liverpool***

(The work has already been presented to two different audiences in Australia as well as presenting it at a showcase policing event in Northumbria. There is also an invitation to a policy roundtable discussion by the Danish Government concerned to move in this direction).

# POLICING BITCOIN

This N8 PRP Catalyst research project was carried out in 2016 and 2017 when cryptocurrencies were very much an unknown quantity. The N8 Police Research Partnership brought together concerned police officers from Greater Manchester Police Economic Crime Unit with academics from different disciplines whose work involved emerging cryptocurrencies.

The need for the research was driven by the fact that, in early 2016, much contemporary discussion about Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies tended to be both speculative and located within specialist groups, with only occasional mentions in the mainstream press, so there was a very low level of general awareness of cryptocurrency and almost no police experience. Then a few criminal cases occurred involving frauds and illegal purchases that used Bitcoin, which was then, as it is still, the predominant cryptocurrency.



In the absence of any best practice, these cases sent the police officers involved on a steep learning curve. Not only was there a need for best practice to share across the region and beyond, but there was also a need to understand the criminal uptake of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, as there was clear evidence that criminals were increasingly adapting and utilising them for money laundering, extortion and the purchase of illegal items via the deep web. At the time,

intelligence in such cases was often discarded because of common misconceptions that virtual currencies such as Bitcoin were completely anonymous and that it would be impossible to evidence them.

So, the research sought to complete, what was then, a significant knowledge gap in both the practice of policing relating to cryptocurrencies and also the practical experience of evidencing their acquisition and use. This knowledge was important to enable the police to deal effectively with economic crimes involving cryptocurrency and the emerging threats arising from them and to respond to the practical challenge they raised for policing and its legitimacy. Also to retain public confidence in the police when dealing with new types of economic crime.

The research was conducted by exploring existing (open source) comment and literature, and then to increase practical knowledge of the process, developing a series of case studies based upon real cases involving the purchase of cryptocurrencies online and from Bitcoin ATM machines, of which there are currently over 70 in the UK. Goods from the darkweb markets were purchased and also Track and Trace tools, and two specific crime scenarios were developed (Dark Web purchases and Sextortion) where the necessary police procedures were outlined and documented. This knowledge was also utilised to develop recommendations for police training schedules.





The research team produced a four page report for public access which outlined its outputs, accompanied by a 20 page report for police use only which contained recommendations for best practice. This latter output included the case scenarios, but also advice upon use of Bitcoin ATMs, Exchanges, Track and Trace tools, and also key literature about cryptocurrencies.

The findings of the research increased the knowledge of cryptocurrencies for all involved, and was instrumental in developing further research projects, such as EMPHASIS (EconoMical, PsycHologicAl and Societal Impact of RanSomware) which is funded by the EPSRC (EP/P011772/1) (April 2017 – July 2019). EMPHASIS brings together a research team from Leeds, Durham, Kent, and City Universities as the main partners, but also International partners in Flinders University, Australia; Delft University of Technology, Holland; Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design as well as the National Crime Agency and Greater Manchester Police. The knowledge gained from the project also informed some of the research into the use of cryptocurrencies in the crime terror nexus (TAKEDOWN H2020, forthcoming).

Since the research was carried out cryptocurrencies – still Bitcoin despite early predictions of its demise have increasingly become a common method of value exchange in a number of types of criminal activity. Perhaps the most notable of these was in May 2017, when the NHS was crippled by a global cyber-attack whereby Ransomware was utilised to demand payment for the decryption of encrypted files in Bitcoin.

***Philip Larratt (National Crime Agency), Paul Taylor (Greater Manchester Police), David Wall (University of Leeds), Syed Naqvi (Birmingham City University) Matthew Shillito and Rob Stokes (Liverpool University)***

The value of one Bitcoin also escalated later that year from approx. £400 when the project was conducted to £10,000 at its peak, which has intensified the demand for it, but has also created a crime spree of investments frauds because of this increase.

To sum up, this collaborative project has brought together a variety of experts from different disciplines and practices to explore the challenges posed by criminal use of cryptocurrency with regard to the investigation, production of conclusive evidence of wrongdoing, and prosecution of offenders.



Detective Constable Paul Taylor of the North West Regional Cyber Crime Unit and Phil Larratt of the National Crime Agency were involved in the UK's first money laundering investigation concerning Bitcoin in early 2014. Following the conclusion of the investigation, the officers identified the need for collaborative work in this area and brought together a multi-disciplinary team utilising the N8 Research Partnership fund. They have subsequently supported multiple UK investigations, providing advice, support and guidance.

*Paul Taylor states: "The criminal abuse of cryptocurrencies presents unique challenges to law enforcement and has provided new ways for criminals to store and launder the proceeds of their criminality. It is essential that we work together with the private sector, academia and law enforcement partners to establish investigative best practice and confront the new challenges presented by the rise of popularity of cryptocurrencies."*

*Phil Larratt added: "It's important to stress that the vast majority of cryptocurrency use is legitimate however like any technology, it can be exploited by criminals to their advantage. It's also vitally important that we raise awareness and prevent people from becoming the victims of cryptocurrency related crime. We continue to support ongoing research by sharing knowledge and best practice across law enforcement nationally through our network of partners".*

# SO WHAT'S RESEARCH GOT TO DO WITH IT?

## A PRACTITIONER'S PERSPECTIVE



*Academic research is a dry and uninteresting subject, with little relevance to policing in the UK. Most academic research is slow to produce usable results, and academics are only interested in publishing in journals, not helping police practitioners improve service to the public. Police forces already know what we should be doing without academics telling us.*

Do these lines sound familiar? I have heard similar many times since becoming involved in the N8 Policing Research Partnership – and you won't be surprised to hear that I strongly disagree!

I won't deny that there are challenges – one of the key findings from the N8 PRP work has been that academia and police work differently, to different timescales. Collaboration is always hard, and the N8 PRP is a collaboration between eleven police forces, eight universities and a non-policing partner. However in my time as part of the Steering Group that sets the direction and activities for the N8 PRP we have commissioned and funded a range of research – from cutting edge consideration of how cyber currencies like Bitcoin are being used by criminals (and what law enforcement can do about it) to human trafficking and a range of research into improving our collective response to vulnerable people. All of these research reports have been produced in partnership between forces and universities, and are relevant to the issues that law enforcement is facing.

### **So what makes the N8 PRP different?**

The N8 PRP delivers products that make a difference to police forces – strategic topics are chosen by all members to reflect the challenges that police forces are facing, rather than academic interests alone. Projects are usually co-produced with forces (many of the requests for funding research we consider come from serving officers and staff) and each project provides regular findings in police language.

We are providing much needed training and learning opportunities. One area focusses on addressing an identified gap for data specialists in forces. These analytical experts are often self-trained, and using outdated tools such as Excel, when the rest of the world has moved on to machine learning, big data analytics and a range of statistical analysis tools that are not available to forces.

A series of Continuing Professional Development events for these analysts and data experts has opened their eyes to the possibilities presented by a partnership with universities, and conversely has opened the eyes of the universities to the ways in which police forces gather, assess and use data and intelligence. The next stage of the conversation is to persuade IT departments and Information Compliance teams to allow access to these new tools in order to make a difference to our communities.



As well as research and training the N8 PRP has a range of other work – an International Strand seeks good practice in law enforcement from around the world, and an evaluation strand looks at the effects of all the N8 PRP activities, from the impact of the research through to how effectively the meetings and governance are working. Regular conferences are held for the members – and are open to non-members too – on key topics chosen by academics and forces working together.

In my own role I have been able to access experienced post-doctoral researchers to do some rapid research on barriers and enablers to collaboration, which has influenced how the North East region approaches collaborative ventures, and we are currently working with a PhD student to look at information and data sharing across forces and partners.

All this is overseen by an Advisory Group of experts in policing and academia that challenges us to think bigger and ensure that what products produced are relevant to policing and academic research, in the UK and beyond.

So next time someone argues that research is irrelevant, or a distraction consider this. Professional judgement is a critical part of evidence based practice, and something most police forces are very comfortable using. But professional judgement can sometimes be wrong, or can be improved through exposure to different ways of thinking, new data and information and proper study of the evidence. I believe that engagements with groups such as the N8 PRP, the College of Policing and universities in general is a critical component to being effective in a modern police force, and co-produced academic and police research is relevant to all areas of policing.

***Justin Partridge, Temporary ACO Collaboration for the North East Region***



*“Through the Empowering Data Specialists in Policing Continuing Professional Development Programme, the Data Analytics strand has worked to raise the profile of the police staff who extract, manipulate and report upon data. Harnessing the expertise of these staff and providing them with the theoretical understanding and data science skills needed to turn data into insight, makes a practical step towards the digital transformation of policing.”*

**Professor Corinne May-Chahal, Lancaster University**

# CO-PRODUCING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

The Small Grants Awards open call will provide pump-priming funds to support research into targeted and important areas of policing work and areas where the gaps in knowledge are most prominent and where research benefits are of greatest value. It will provide the necessary flexibility to move swiftly to respond to emergent areas of policing, new challenges and pressing concerns. Ideas generated via the Policing Innovation Forum activity strand are particularly welcomed as are proposals that link to other activity strands and ensure stakeholder involvement in the choice of topics for research co-production.

The intention is to support emergent collaborations and innovative partnerships between researchers and policing partners and research pilots that will result in

applications for larger funding grants. We are focusing the N8 PRP Small Grants Awards towards building multi-partner collaborations. The purpose of allocating funds is to facilitate and energise the development of proposals for collaborations – we expect this to take the form of short projects, delivering a proposal for larger scale collaborations. This funding is for the strategic development of research collaborations, as well as research itself.

*“Our philosophy is that those who are going to use research and apply the knowledge base should be involved in building it by co-producing the evidence”.*

**Professor Adam Crawford, University of Leeds**



## [Policing Bitcoin: investigating, evidencing and prosecuting crimes involving cryptocurrency](#)

*(Greater Manchester Police, North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, Birmingham City University and Crown Prosecution Service)*

## [Mapping the Contours of Modern Slavery](#)

*(University of Manchester, Greater Manchester Police and University of Leeds)*



## [Exploring Novel Psychoactive Substance \(NPS\) use and its consequences for police practitioners and substance users in the North East of England](#)

*(Newcastle University, Northumbria Police and Durham University)*





### Police Officer Responses to Coercive Control

*(Merseyside Police, Lancaster University, University of Liverpool, University of Central Lancashire, Women's Aid)*

### The Manipulative Presentation Techniques of Control and Coercive Offenders

*(Cheshire Constabulary, Lancaster University, University of Liverpool)*



### Exploring the impacts of Body Worn Video in Incidents of Domestic Abuse

*(Cumbria Constabulary, West Yorkshire Police, University of Leeds)*

### Innovation in Policing Domestic Violence: Understanding Success

*(North Yorkshire Police, Northumbria Police, West Yorkshire Police, Durham University, Northumbria University)*



### Policing Drugs in North Yorkshire

*(North Yorkshire Police, University of York, University of Leeds)*

**The third round of small grants saw four excellent projects awarded, these projects will conclude in April 2019:**

- Early Identification of honour based abuse, led by West Yorkshire Police, the University of Manchester and the Race Relations Resource Centre and Education Trust
- Policing vulnerability: An evaluation of the Sex Work Liaison Officer role, led by West Yorkshire Police and the Universities of Durham and York
- Mapping and identifying modern slavery vehicular activity: A proof-of-concept study, led by Lancashire Constabulary, West Yorkshire Police and the Universities of Liverpool and Hull
- Emerging Technology and Big Data Analytics: Realising the Potential of Automatic Number Plate Recognition, led by West Yorkshire Police, The North East Regional ANPR User Group, and the Universities of Leeds, and Leicester

# DATA ANALYTICS



## Untapping the Potential of Policing Data

People and data are two of the most important assets in any organisation and police forces are no exception. Data collection, in various forms, has long been a cornerstone of policing and the emergence of new technologies in recent years presents a wealth of new data sources. While the new data landscape presents many opportunities, realising the full value of the police data asset requires investment in data analytics to unlock the potential of big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence and predictive analytics. Police data are nuanced and challenging to understand, and interpreting trends and patterns relies on a contextual awareness that comes from within the organisation. Although the case for the quantitative methods and technologies that add value to data is compelling, the true benefit of investment in data analytics is determined by having the organisational capacity to exploit those tools effectively.

## Data Specialists CPD Programme

With the aim of understanding the appetite for improving data analytics capacity within policing, the Data Analytics strand – in collaboration with the Training & Learning strand – undertook a training needs

analysis with police staff that was used to inform the development of a comprehensive training programme to meet demand. Using a model of co-production and co-delivery, policing colleagues and researchers, together with the wider academic community (including non-N8 institutions) have created a ground-breaking professional development programme “Empowering Data Specialists in Policing” that draws upon the latest thinking in academia and policing. Through the eight module CPD programme, the N8 PRP has worked to raise the profile of the police analytic staff that extract, manipulate and report upon data. Harnessing the expertise of these staff and providing them with the understanding and data science skills needed to turn data into insight, makes a practical and tangible step towards the digital transformation of policing. In 2018, an initial cohort of 33 data specialists undertook the CPD Programme, with an additional ten attending at least one module on an ad-hoc basis.



## Data Analytics Digital Service

Working closely with three advisory networks the Data Analytic strand has developed a bespoke cloud-based platform informed by best practice in other sectors. This platform, the [Data Analytics Digital Service](#) (N8 DADS), is now available to N8 PRP partners to provide the tools, resources and knowledge base to support both police and academic staff. In building this platform input from the advisory networks has been vital. The advisory networks include:

- Academics working with or wish to collaborate with police services in the area of data analytics – including those in non-N8 universities.
- Police data analysts (including data scientists and business intelligence experts).
- Key individuals that play a role in data governance and management within police services and universities.

N8 DADS includes:

- A standardised process and on-line tool to streamline data sharing between police and academics.
- A data observatory that provides a gateway to a range of relevant data sources.
- A portal to relevant training and learning events and resources, which has already supported the CPD programme.
- A collaboration workspace for police and academic partners to share opportunities, develop new projects and share expertise.

This provides police services with both tools to manage demand and business intelligence and tools to understand research being undertaken by users of the service.

The strand is also consulting with the advisory networks and other partners on the creation of a certified analytical software repository that could be accessed through the service.

*“This represents a potentially huge possibility for forces and academics to use police data (in the widest sense of the meaning) to improve both academic research and the impact of that research on the delivery of policing services to the public. The infrastructure that has been developed will simplify the requests to forces for data and allow forces themselves to compare data between each other. The move towards increased evidence-based*

*practice in policing means that we will be fielding more requests for police data from our own staff as well as external academics, and the N8 DADS infrastructure provides a scalable model to make this work to the benefit of all parties. Ideally this should be developed into a nationally accredited model for accessing police data.”* Justin Partridge, Humberside Police

The strand continues to work with policing partners to unpick the legal barriers to data sharing and provide a common approach to data sharing agreements in the form of a ‘data sharing toolkit’. Recognising the importance of this as a national issue the strand are co-operating with both the College of Policing and the East Midlands Policing Academic Collaboration (EMPAC) and have produced a decision tool for forces and universities to use and a template standardised data sharing agreement.

The networks created by this strand have been leveraged by partners to develop new funding proposals to support collaborative work between the universities and the police. These research collaborations provide opportunities to better understand the infrastructure used by police forces and the processes involved in data sharing. One piece of work (led by Professor David Allen, Fiona McLaughlin and Dr Nicholas Malleson) will focus on understanding the use of data science within the N8 PRP forces, identifying improving practice and barriers to implementing new methodologies. A second project (led by Dr Daniel Birks) will provide N8 PRP police partners with an assessment of the potential effectiveness of resource deployment analytics – software that aims to prospectively identify future locations of increased crime risk to enhance the targeting of proactive problem solving. It will aim to involve N8 partners in the design and development of new analytics designed to better reflect the changing nature of policing.

The focus over the next year will be on working with N8 PRP partners to refine and support the use of the services offered through N8 DADS. Given that many of the issues faced by policing partners are common to other agencies, understanding and resolving these issues requires data from the wider public sector and this presents the possibility of developing N8 DADS into a multi-agency service. We therefore intend to start a consultation process with partners to decide the future direction of N8 DADS. A governance board has been formed to guide this process.

**Professor David Allen and Fiona McLaughlin,  
University of Leeds**

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, POLICING AND THE N8 PRP

## **Moving domestic violence and abuse from the margins to the centre of policing and criminology.**

Embarking on such a challenging and complex project with so many different dimensions is one of the things that makes the N8 Policing Research Partnership simultaneously exciting but also daunting. The focus of the N8 PRP on building relationships and points of interface and exchange between researchers and practitioners has required us to think about how the broad strategic objectives of the N8 PRP project can be realised in a concrete way. In other words, how do the broader objectives of research co-production, knowledge/people exchange and data mobilisation between the police and academics become operationalised and meaningful for those participating within it? This has led to a very organic process in how specified policing challenges have become embedded into the work of the partnership.

Of particular personal interest is how the theme of domestic violence and abuse has risen to the top of the policing challenges currently being pursued by the N8 PRP, as a primary area of application for the project. That this topic has arisen not specifically because of academic interests or because of practitioner or feminist activist demands, but predominantly from policing partners has been particularly interesting. On top of this has been the way that other criminologists involved in the N8 PRP have become interested in researching domestic violence and abuse. This shift, moving domestic violence and abuse from the margins to the centre of both policing policy and practice, and of criminological research has been a significant achievement of the N8 PRP over the first half of its current catalyst funding.

Looking back, it is possible to trace how police and academic partnerships in the area of domestic and sexual violence and abuse have developed over time. In the UK, this has undergone four broad phases. Phase One, lasting from the 1960s until approximately 1990, was characterised by minimal engagement, some animosity, little understanding,

and the absence of much desire from feminist academics or police to work together. Often feminist academics were also activists who were deeply critical of the police response to violence against women and did not view police as potential research partners. In a small number of cases, academics were able to conduct interviews with the police as part of a wider project – most notably Jalna Hanmer's project in West Yorkshire which used research interviews to document police officers' views on policing domestic violence and child sexual abuse. It is likely that West Yorkshire was particularly ahead of its time in terms of its highly active women's movement, Women's Aid groups, and Rape Crisis Centres. The strength of the West Yorkshire women's movement was linked in part to the West Yorkshire Police's response to women during the Peter Sutcliffe investigation and feminist activists' highly visible anti-pornography actions in the region. Hanmer's research was therefore unusual, taking place under a specific set of circumstances, and was undoubtedly only made possible through extensive negotiations and a high level of trust between the researcher and the police.



Phase Two lasted from about 1990 until 2000 and was characterised by an acceptance by the police and government organisations that academic research was needed to improve their responses to domestic violence and rape (other forms of gender-based violence and abuse were largely overlooked).





Acceptance of the widespread and serious nature of violence and abuse against women was beginning to increase, and there were an increasing number of women speaking out about poor practice by the police and judges in particular. Police and government organisations did not have a strong enough relationship with feminist academics to work with or commission them to conduct this research. Instead they used their own researchers to produce reports, some of which went on to be highly influential in policing/governmental terms and within academia. Examples include Liz Kelly and colleagues' (1999) study 'Domestic Violence Matters' and Mirrlees-Black and colleagues' (1999) analysis of the British Crime Survey (now known as the Crime Survey for England and Wales). In this phase research was beginning to be deemed important, but the partnership working in research terms was not yet well developed. Where it did exist, it tended to be mediated in some way by the Home Office or Scottish Office, typically as part of a broader policy approach funded by central government. Academics, however, were very influential in the multi-agency fora that were starting to spread across the UK in the 1990s, largely led by voluntary sector women's groups and local activists. The police were also invited to these groups, and better working relationships started to grow during the latter stages of this period.

Phase Three lasted from about 2000 until the early 2010s and saw a huge increase in the level of domestic violence and abuse research that was conducted by criminology and policing academics. During this period the ESRC Violence Initiative (1999-2002) was introduced. Led by Betsy Stanko, it was designed to expand and enhance understanding of different forms of violence against the person, to facilitate the prevention, reduction or elimination of such violence. This phase also saw the introduction of the Crime Reduction Programme (1999-2002), within which was nested the

Violence Against Women Initiative. Led by Alana Diamond it aimed to 'identify the most appropriate and cost-effective approaches to reducing domestic violence, rape and sexual assault by known perpetrators'. The Crime Reduction Programme, originally conceived as research-driven with an emphasis on learning through evaluation at a level unprecedented in UK criminology, however, suffered from a number of problems and ultimately failed to deliver on what many saw as an overly ambitious programme of work.

Phase Four, lasting from the early 2010s until the present day, has seen police and academics working closer together in a more partnership-focused approach than a 'researcher/researched' relation. The co-production of knowledge and partnership working has become generally more promoted within research, which has had an impact on the way that research is designed and the methods that are used. Police are now far more involved in the design of research, and in many cases are far more transparent and open to researchers, including in areas where they may face criticism. The N8 PRP, with the development of sustainable partnerships between academics and policing partners at its core, is a key example of this as expressed in its stated aims 'to enable and foster research collaborations that will help address the problems of policing in the 21st century and achieve international excellence in policing research'. Its objectives include transforming the ways in which researchers engage with policing partners in research co-production, fostering knowledge exchange internationally, sharing data and exploiting data analytics, and pioneering a model for sustainable collaborations.

In this short piece I have tried to demonstrate that, just as the nature of policing research has changed, and that the N8 PRP is a prime example in this regard, so has the place that domestic violence research and policing is situated within this. While policing research has become less 'us and them' and much more collaborative in focus, the topic of domestic violence and abuse has moved up in priority and has moved from the margins to the centre in terms of policing policy and practice and criminological research.



***Professor Nicole Westmarland, Durham University & N8 PRP Deputy Director***

# EARLY INTERVENTION: AN INNOVATION FOCUS

A common theme emerging from discussions was the need for early intervention. With that in mind the 2017 Policing Innovation Forum (PIF) kept a focus on Domestic Abuse but within the context of early intervention based on trigger behaviours, and further explored the learning that could be applied from other policing and other public authority preventative areas.

Research has consistently shown that early intervention and effective prevention are inextricably aligned across a range of social issues including child delinquency, youth homelessness, women's homelessness and rough sleeping (including the impact of domestic abuse as a contributory factor), self-harm, major affective disorders and anxiety disorders, to name some examples. 'Trigger behaviours' are equally diverse including long-term effects of intimate partner violence on adolescent mothers. Many of these antecedent behaviours will be 'hidden' to most but 'known' to some agencies, thus supporting the need for multi-agency engagement at the forum.

Early intervention is an accepted form of evidence-based action, based on the identification of antecedent factors that are clearly linked to the occurrence of challenging behaviours whose removal is achievable, acceptable, and appropriate. Accepted approaches can include cognitive-behavioural strategies to aid self-management and self-control, and of equal importance, improving ability to work within the wider system supporting those who perpetrate challenging behaviours on others and in supporting victims who are subject to these behaviours.

**Encouraging Early Intervention based on Trigger Behaviours in the area of Domestic Abuse: Learning from other Social Challenges.**

The need to expand on the attendance of representatives of wider agencies will be critical to future innovation event success.

Early intervention has the potential of targeting diminishing resources effectively, a benefit that will be recognised by policing partners. However, it does have a number of challenges. For example, the DASH method does not lend itself to early intervention and, by the time a victim scores high enough to warrant positive action, this would not be an early intervention. In addition, many such crimes go unreported and the ability to identify 'trigger' factors would be problematic for these victims. Conversely, neither should our decision be dictated by these challenges but, rather, viewed as a critical and innovative area of research to focus on.

The reality is that domestic abuse is characteristic of so-called 'wicked problems' and, as we know, such problems cannot be resolved in the short-term if at all. By focusing on early intervention and trigger behaviours, we set the scene during the morning of the PIF with a range of sessions directly related to Domestic Abuse and support this in the afternoon with a range of workshops from other areas of policing challenges and beyond.

***Dr Steve Brookes, University of Manchester & N8 PRP Deputy Director***



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: A STREET SURVEY

In late summer 2017 a face-to-face street survey of 2218 adults living in the North of England was conducted in 22 different on-street locations. The objective of the survey was to capture more in-depth information about people's views on police and universities working together.

The survey covered a range of questions:

1. Respondents were asked to indicate how much interest they had in issues to do with the police.
2. What are the issues the public most expects the police to be dealing with?
3. Do the public think the police have the necessary understanding to be effective in dealing with these issues?
4. Do the public think police and universities should work together?
5. Do different parts of the public think differently about this issue?

Responses varied with influencing factors such as recent victim of crime, lack of obvious policing activity, personal connection to policing, apathy in the subject due to a feeling of being unable to change anything. A high percentage (75%) of respondents only thought about policing when they had a need (due to an issue).

The data also highlighted that crimes such as burglary and anti-social behaviour were common responses with over 200 respondents expressing concerns, due in part to a sense of personal safety to both person and home.

There was strong support for the idea of police and university researchers working together to make policing more effective. Although a majority of respondents (65%) also agreed with the statement that "the police know better than anyone else how best to do their job" a significant minority thought that the police did not have the necessary knowledge to be effective in dealing with the issues that mattered to them.

The survey also highlighted the differences between different groups of respondents in terms of their views with regards to age, education, gender and ethnicity.

In conclusion, the survey results offer an overview of the top-line findings. Further analysis will enable more detail to be extracted from the data.

The key messages from this initial analysis though are:

- Only a minority of people have a significant level of interest in policing. Most people are only interested when it affects them or people close to them.
- Acquisitive crimes such as burglary or theft, and anti-social behaviour are the issues that people are most likely to mention when asked about the police issues that matter to them personally.
- A significant minority of people (about 1 in 3) do not think that the police have the necessary understanding to be effective in dealing with the issues that matter to them. Confidence appears to be lower in relation to some issues compared to others (for example child abuse/protection and domestic abuse).
- Across different parts of the public there is strong support for the idea that police and universities should work together, coupled with a clear preference for researchers to be given the freedom to do research on police organisations and publish their findings, even when these are critical of police.

The full [findings](#) can be found on the [N8 PRP](#) website under Public Engagement.





## AWARD WINNING INTERN

*Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC) and Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA). Intern Natacha Chenevoy recently received an award from the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA) for her work with Lancashire Constabulary on identifying online hate crime.*

***Natacha is photographed with Scott Keay (left) and Andrew Wright (right), Lancashire Constabulary***

Three analysts have received awards for their work in helping Lancashire Constabulary improve road safety, hate crime awareness and community safety.

Scott, a senior analyst at the force, received the IALEIA Award for Excellence: Executive or Supervisor. He was nominated for writing a paper focusing on the role of the analyst, in particular how evidence-based policing can tackle crime. The academic paper has been published and received international praise, with recognition from police forces around the world, including America and Australia.

Scott said: "The growing emphasis on evidence-based policing, where police forces improve the scientific rigour of research and analysis to support police decision-making is becoming more important than ever before, in particular during times of budget cuts and greater public scrutiny.

"My paper was aimed at raising awareness of how to improve this. I was delighted to be nominated and am honoured to have been recognised by the IALEIA judging panel."

Andrew Wright, a road safety analyst, received an IALEIA Award for Individual Excellence in Analysis for road safety. His work analysing road usage, collision hotspots and the cause of collisions, helped secure funding for the development of new safety cameras across the county. This in turn helped to increase road safety, reducing casualties.

Natacha Chenevoy, a PhD student in data science and criminology at the University of Leeds, helped to support Lancashire Constabulary by monitoring hate in the county using social media. Natacha, who scooped the IALEIA Award for Excellence: category Individual, developed a machine learning algorithm which captures hate speech on Twitter.



Her algorithm identifies hotspots of online hate and can be used to monitor the level of hate speech on Twitter in real time.

Ian Billsborough, Head of Intelligence at Lancashire Constabulary, added: "These awards are fantastic recognition of the hard work by Scott, Andrew and Natacha. They have produced some tremendous analysis and reporting, which, in turn, has provided a better understanding of some of the challenges we face, including road safety and hate crime awareness. I must congratulate them and look forward to their continued efforts supporting Lancashire Police."

*Before 1980, no organisation dedicated to represent analytical personnel in law enforcement existed. To fill this need, a small group of professional intelligence analysts and managers held their inaugural meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in October 1981. They created the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts, Inc. (IALEIA).*

*Today, IALEIA's membership includes members and chapters throughout the world. These members are united to promote standards of excellence in law enforcement analysis by enhancing the mutual exchange of ideas, supporting analytical standards and providing training. Award winners this year included forces from the UK, USA and Canada.*



# AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNEY



*Dr Layla Skinns, Professor Joanna Shapland,  
Dr Adam White and Dr Matt Bacon,  
University of Sheffield*

Three years ago, the N8 PRP tasked its new International Strand team, based at the University of Sheffield, with ‘mapping and exploring international developments in police-academic partnerships and collaborations’. The team is now reporting back on the ensuing journey which has spanned multiple continents, involved hosting four international events, taken in three international research trips and led to the publication of a journal special issue.

The team started its journey in 2015 by hosting two international workshops. The first was at the European Agency for Law Enforcement Training annual conference in Lisbon. The second was at the American Society of Criminology annual conference in Washington. Both brought together approximately 40 scholars and practitioners to think about the theory and practice of police-academic collaborations. Later that year, the team also undertook its first research trip, promoting the work of the International Strand at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, an annual event organized by the Swedish National Council of Crime Prevention.

In 2016, the team used the resulting ideas and contacts as the foundation for an international conference hosted at the University of Sheffield. The two day conference, entitled ‘Working with the Police on Policing’, brought together around 40 scholars and practitioners from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and United States. During the twelve panels, in which academics and practitioners presented together, participants drew upon their experiences of police-academic collaborations to reflect upon a range of issues, including the research process, outputs and outcomes, partnership models and lesson drawing.

During 2017, the team turned these presentations into a special issue of the *European Journal of Policing Studies*, available [here](#). In total, eight were made into articles critically discussing police-academic collaborations in Australia, Belgium, Canada and the United Kingdom.

In the same year, the team also began reviewing the extant international literature on police-academic collaborations, producing papers on six themes:

- concepts and typologies
- context and history
- culture
- money and resources
- sustainability
- policy transfer.

In 2018, the team embarked on two more international research trips. The first was to the Oregon Center for Policing Excellence and Portland State University. The second was to the Norwegian Police University College (NPUC), Norwegian and Swedish police forces and Universities of Oslo, Gothenburg and Malmö. During these trips, the team conducted 28 interviews exploring the degree to which the six themes identified in the literature review resonated with the lived experiences of scholars and practitioners. The team then invited new contacts made during its travels back to the University of Sheffield for a final workshop to further develop these themes before reporting back to the N8 PRP.



# THE EVOLUTION OF THE N8 PRP



In March 2018, the Evaluation and Monitoring team based at the University of York delivered an [interim report](#) on the first two years of the N8 PRP.

This represented a landmark in the progress of the collaboration to date, meeting the first key report deliverable and helping to focus the work streams for the coming two years. Following consultation with policing and academic partners the evaluation is consequently engaged in five of the work streams, following those activity strands identified as offering the most fertile ground for supporting co-productive work.

They are as follows:

- A second round of interviews with Steering Group representatives from all forces, and key academic partners (strand leads, and key academic staff) was completed. These interviews focus on changes that have taken place over the last year, and the current operations and activities of the N8 PRP.
- The Data Analytics (Leeds) and Training and Learning (Lancaster) strands have developed a continuing professional development (CPD) programme for over data specialists. In addition to attending several of the training days, the next phase of evaluation will recruit a full sample for semi-structured interviews. This has two key benefits: capturing participants' experiences of one of the N8 PRP's substantive (and ongoing) partnerships; and exploring understandings and experiences of the N8 PRP with a group of individuals who are not heavily engaged in other N8 PRP activities or events.

- Small Grants (Newcastle) have consistently been identified as one of the N8 PRP's 'big wins,' supporting the development of co-productive research partnerships. To this end, a number of interviews with police partners and academics have been conducted with those who have secured Small Grants funding over the past three years; there are plans to interview those who submitted unsuccessful applications in the 2018 recent funding round.
- In response to a request from the Community Engagement strand (Liverpool), a collaborative evaluation of a two-day Deliberative Event focused on restorative justice was completed. Two days of participant observation were followed up with interviews with all available attendees, allowing swift feedback to the Liverpool team. This has supported some changes to the structure of future events, particularly in regard to recruitment processes.
- The Policing Innovation Forum has also been identified as one of the visible successes of the programme. To this end, in 2019 a plan to track the development of the Innovation Forum from initial concept to delivery will be completed.



Finally, an external evaluation of the work of the N8 PRP by Birkbeck's Institute for Criminal Policy Research will be commissioned in late 2018.

**Charlie Lloyd and Dr Geoff Page, University of York**

# COMMUNICATION

21 reports published

97 events supported

*"Developing practices, transforming cultures and changing the ways in which research evidence is produced, valued and applied."*

Over £3M in follow-on awards (11 projects)

£259K awarded in Small Grants

1,087 newsletter recipients



528 registered experts

*"Transforming the ways in which academics engage with policing partners in research co-production and the ways in which policing practitioners utilise and mobilise evidence that is rigorous and relevant."*

Over 1,000 event delegates



1683 Twitter followers



## Get in touch

<https://n8prp.org.uk>

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