



**POLICING
RESEARCH
PARTNERSHIP**

Annual Report 2024

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Foreword

Sir Andy Marsh, Chief Executive Officer, College of Policing, reflects on the partnership of the College and N8 PRP.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE ASKED TO write the foreword for this year's annual report from the N8 PRP.

The College of Policing has been a key supporter of N8 PRP since its inception in 2013, funding the initial of workshops and rapid evidence reviews that went on to inform the work of the partnership over the next few years. This year, the College became an inaugural member of N8 PRP's newly established Northern Evidence Based Policing Board. This long-standing relationship is a testament to the shared commitment of the College and N8 PRP to a collaborative, evidence-based to improving policing.

At the College of Policing, we are focused on strengthening innovation and implementing what works. Using the best available evidence to inform practice and support decision making can assist us to effectively prevent crime, build confidence, and provide a better service to the public. We are also committed to delivering capability-building activity,



Sir Andy Marsh

supporting policing to innovate and understand what works to prevent crime. However, we cannot achieve this alone. Collaborative activity with partners allows us to provide a route for local innovation and practice to be identified, shared, tested, and scaled more rapidly.

Looking forward, we will be conducting a

number of activities to support forces to share and embed 'what works', including the establishment of a centre for Police Productivity. This will involve partnership working to create a central hub for police data and will include expert teams who will be responsible for visiting police forces across the country to ensure high quality data is collected and shared.

Also, with the establishment of up to nine Police Academic Centres of Excellence, there will be an opportunity for greater collaboration between the College, academic institutions and police forces. We will also continue to strengthen the culture of evidence-police across the service, working with and relying upon partners to assist to do so.

N8 PRP is a valuable partner in delivering the work of the College, and we will continue to support N8 PRP as it progresses in its new phase.

N8 PRP is a valuable partner in delivering the work of the College

The priorities outlined in this report speak to the breadth of challenges to policing, and the vital importance of collaborative relationships across policing and with academic partners to address these challenges with an evidence-based approach. The potential of these relationships is best illustrated by what the N8 PRP has already achieved. The

co-produced research presented in this report will enable the police to improve its responses on pressing topics like Digitally Enabled Coercive Control and 'Cuckooing', as well as rethinking our approach to long-standing issues such as how we police drug markets.

I look forward to continuing the College's longstanding support for N8 PRP, as we work together to improve policing at every level so we can deliver an effective, equitable, and just service for everyone.



Newcastle, Ryan Booth

Message from the Co-Directors

Co-Directors **Prof. Geoff Pearson** and **Det. Supt. Ben Ewart** look back at the achievements of 2024, and lay out plans for 2025.

WELCOME TO THE N8 POLICING
Research Partnership Annual Report for 2024.

THE NEW PHASE.

In addition to the achievements set out in this report, 2024 has been a year of change and evolution for the N8 PRP. In October we moved into the third major phase of the partnership, having secured funding until September 2027 from N8 Research and 11 north-of-England police forces. The continued support of the N8 universities and police forces and PCCs is testament to the successes we have achieved in the past ten+ years in terms of the co-production of research, knowledge production, and continued professional development, but it is also evidence of a desire to support N8 PRP in developing further to meet the needs of both academia and policing.



Det Sup Ben Ewart (left) and Prof Geoff Pearson (right)

THE NORTHERN EVIDENCE BASED POLICING HUB

The third phase of N8 PRP is focused on developing and establishing mechanisms to respond in a more agile manner to evidence gaps identified by police partners and on identifying solutions to overcome entrenched barriers to academic research achieving its potential in terms of changing policy and practice

The new structures... aim to provide greater flexibility ”

in policing across the north of England and beyond. To this end, N8 PRP has established a Northern Evidence-Based Policing Hub. The NEBP Hub is a forum at which academics from the N8 universities, representatives of the partner forces,

and other relevant parties meet to identify and look to fill evidence gaps through a manner of different approaches.

The annual process is initiated by our partner forces, who work together to identify a number of shared police priorities for N8 PRP. These priorities are then worked over by academics in the N8 universities, who then consider potential research questions that

require answering and methods by which this can be achieved. The Hub then proposes which themes require further research through N8 PRP-funded Policing Priority Grants, which are more suited to agile evidence reviews conducted through the N8 PRP

New Researchers in Policing Network (NRiPN), and which should be the topics for future

webinars, further Hub discussions and knowledge-sharing, or Innovation Forums. The new structures and mechanisms aim to provide greater flexibility in terms of identifying solutions for evidence gaps, and for bringing the right academic expertise into the conversations.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

This year has also seen considerable change in personnel at N8 PRP. We have had to say farewell to our first Policing Co-director, Ngaire Waine, who retired from policing in October. Ngaire had been in post since 2021 and played an invaluable role in pushing forward N8 PRP in a way that best served its partner forces while also retaining the academic rigour of its work. We are sad to see Ngaire depart N8 PRP, thank her for all her work, and wish her all the best for the future.

We have, however, been able to appoint a new Policing Co-Director in Supt Ben Ewart of Greater Manchester Police (GMP). Ben is Head of Crime and Student Officer Training and Development with GMP People Branch and is keen to work with

Force N8 PRP SPOC's and senior leaders over the coming weeks to understand local EBP governance arrangements and strengthen how research questions are collaboratively coordinated and presented on behalf of all partner Forces.

The continued support of our partners is testament to the successes we have achieved in the past ten+ years ”

We have also said goodbye and thank you to a few other longstanding

members of N8 PRP whose expertise and efforts will be missed. In terms of academic leads/co-leads, Prof Joanna Shapland, Sheffield University, Dr Jill Clarke, Newcastle University, Prof David Allen, the University of Leeds, and Prof Nicole Westmarland, Durham University, have all been involved in the partnership since its inception, and leave big shoes to fill. We also have said farewell to Dr Eon Kim, the Director of the New Researchers in Policing Network, and Jo Cassidy, the N8 PRP policing administrator. We look forward to announcing replacements for these positions soon, and to the new insights and expertise that will come with this changing of the guard.

We hope you enjoy the 2024 Annual Report.

2024

Coming up 2025

January

N8 PARTNERSHIP BOARD
The N8 Universities approve funding for N8 PRP 2024-27.

February

STEERING GROUP

March

SMALL GRANT DELIVERED

C. Miles, *The Abuse of Women Runners: Perceptions, Fears and Experiences*

RESEARCH WEBINAR

C. Miles, *The Abuse of Women Runners: Perceptions, Fears and Experiences*

NRIPN

Excellence in Policing Research Webinar: *Policing and Violence: Trends and Emerging Research*

CONFERENCE

Preventing Gender Based Violence and Abuse, Leeds

May

SMALL GRANT DELIVERED

S.Flynn, *Risk and Recidivism of Registered Sex Offenders*

RESEARCH WEBINAR

S.Flynn, *Risk and Recidivism of Registered Sex Offenders*

STEERING GROUP

KE EVENT

Drug Checking Roundtable, University of Liverpool

August

SMALL GRANT DELIVERED

M. Bacon, *Conceptualising and Evaluating the Impact of Policing Drug Markets*

September

SMALL GRANT DELIVERED

L. Bainbridge, *Understanding and Preventing 'Cuckooing' Victimisation*

SMALL GRANT DELIVERED

H. Alderson, *Outcome 16 and racially minoritised women*

POLICING PRIORITY GRANT DELIVERED

A. Huber, *Digitally Enabled Coercive Control*

RESEARCH WEBINAR

H. Alderson, *Outcome 16 and racially minoritised women*

RESEARCH WEBINAR

M. Bacon, *Conceptualising and Evaluating the Impact of Policing Drug Markets*

RESEARCH WEBINAR

A. Huber, *Digitally Enabled Coercive Control*

NRIPN

Academic Knowledge Exchange Conference

POLICING CO-DIRECTOR

Ch. Supt. Ngaire Waine retires; Det. Supt. Ben Ewart appointed.

October

START OF PHASE 3

STEERING GROUP

NORTHERN EVIDENCE BASED POLICING HUB

NRIPN

Excellence in Policing Research Webinar: *Interdisciplinarity Research in Policing: Opportunities and Challenges*

November

FUNDING CALL

Policing Priority Research Grant Call Launched

NRIPN

Excellence in Policing Research Webinar: *Police Data Access for Early Career Researchers*

January

NORTHERN EVIDENCE BASED POLICING HUB

Missing Persons Knowledge Exchange Workshop, Leeds

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Policing Priority Research Grants

June

POLICING INNOVATION FORUM

Neurodiversity in the Criminal Justice System, York



Launching Phase 3

In October 2024, N8 PRP launched a new phase, with funding committed by the partners until 30 September 2027.

AIMS

1

Address structural challenges to collaboration & impact

2

Drive transformational, evidence-based change in policing

3

Retain & expand resilient channels of impact, KE & engagement

STRATEGY

N8 PRP activity will be informed by an annual Policing Research Priorities Statement identified by the N8 PRP Policing Partners.

N8 PRP activity will seek to advance shared understanding and action on the priorities below through the Northern Evidence Based Policing Hub (NEBP Hub), which will allocate resources for Policing Priority Projects Agile Evidence Reviews and Knowledge Exchange Events (including the Policing Innovation Forum, NEBP Hub meetings, and webinars).

DELIVERABLES

Northern Evidence Based Policing Hub

The NEBP Hub will drive transformational, evidence-based change in policing by building on the strengths and potential of the existing network, establishing agile and strategic pathways to impact for policing research, addressing structural barriers to collaboration, and increasing capacity to achieve region-wide operational impact.

Policing Innovation Forum

The annual N8 PRP Policing Innovation Forum brings together police, academics, and wider stakeholders for a day of knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration.

Annual Policing Research Priorities Statement

Co-ordinated across police partners to enable more effective use of existing and ongoing research and prompt innovative, socially significant research.

Policing Priority Grants

12 month collaborative, targeted research grants into high-priority areas, new challenges, and pressing concerns in policing.

NRiPN Agile Evidence Reviews

3 month NRiPN Project Grants identifying implementation opportunities and knowledge gaps.

NRiPN

The New Researchers in Policing Network Director funded at 10% fte with dedicated admin support, increasing capacity to deliver CPD opportunities.



Blackpool; Luke Ellis-Craven

2024-25 Priorities and Programme

In the new phase N8 PRP activity will be informed by an annual Statement of research priorities identified by Police Partners.

The 2024-2025 N8 PRP Policing Research Priorities Statement consists of 10 topics selected as having significance and value for all 11 police partners.

The topics were discussed at the inaugural Northern Evidence Based Policing Hub (NEBP Hub) meeting in October.

NEBP Hub members used the priorities to set out the 2024-2025 programme for N8 PRP.

2024-2025 PROGRAMME

It was agreed that as N8 PRP had not previously invested in research on priorities 1-8, these should be included in the Policing Priority Grants Call. The Call was announced in November.

Priorities 9-10 will be supported through, respectively, an extension to the existing Small Grant project, *Outcome 16 and racially minoritised women*, and a Knowledge Exchange event where practitioners and researchers can share best practice.

The 2025 Policing Innovation Forum, scheduled to be hosted by the University of York in June, will consider Priority 1, the experience of neurodivergence in the Criminal Justice System.

The next NEBP Hub meeting will consider Priority 3, causes and prevention of missing from home. The Hub will

begin with a keynote from DCC Catherine Hankinson, NPCC Lead for Missing Persons.

In addition, a collaborative KE event on Priority 8, Threats and Opportunities from AI, is planned with N8 PRP partner SPRITE +, a consortium led by the University of Manchester to increase engagement in research, practice, and policy relevant to trust, identity, privacy, and security in digital contexts.

Decisions on further events and project funds, included Agile Evidence Reviews, will be made following the Policing Priority Grant award decision in January.



Sheffield, Gary Butterfield

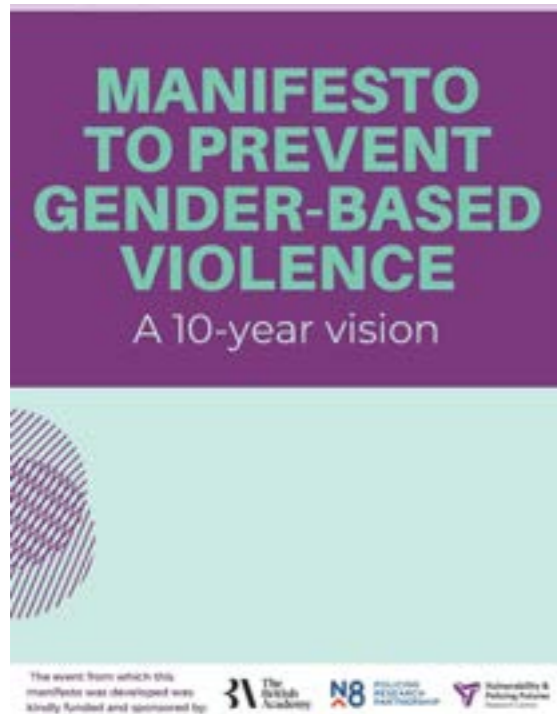
Policing Research Priorities Statement

The following priorities were identified by N8 PRP police partners to inform the N8 PRP programme from October 2024 -September 2025.

- 1 The experience of neurodivergent people in the Criminal Justice System
- 2 The use of social media in crime prevention
- 3 Causes and prevention of missing from home
- 4 What do we know about public confidence in policing, and how can we measure it?
- 5 Understanding and Managing Professional Conduct within Policing
- 6 Workforce Planning, Staff Retention and Police Mental Health
- 7 Developing inclusive, effective vetting that meets demand
- 8 What are the threats and opportunities from AI?
- 9 Understanding prosecution withdrawals and improving outcomes for victims
- 10 Reducing Harassment and Serious Violence in the Night Time Economy

Knowledge Exchange Events

In 2024, N8 PRP supported three significant knowledge exchange events across the region on gender-based violence, drug checking, and women in policing.



Preventing Gender-Based Violence

A 10-year vision

In March 2024, academics from Durham University and University of Central Lancashire chaired a two-day conference, 'How can we prevent gender-based violence? A 10-year vision'.

The event was funded by The British Academy and N8 PRP, with support from the ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre.

The sell-out event was attended by academics, practitioners, policy makers and victim-survivors. N8 PRP Co-Director Professor Geoff Pearson led the N8 PRP session on Criminal Justice Responses, where delegates heard

from panel members including Samantha Millar, the NPCC's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Programme Director

Following the conference, Academics from Durham University and University of Central Lancashire have launched a 10 year vision on how to prevent gender-based violence.

The manifesto was authored by Dr Charlotte Barlow (UCLAN), Professor Christine Barter (UCLAN), Professor Catherine Donovan (Durham University) and Professor Nicole Westmarland (Durham University).

The manifesto calls for urgent reform to implement a victim-survivor centred approach to criminal justice, emphasising perpetrator accountability. The authors specify this reform must address the implications of the crisis of prison overcrowding, early release and probation and court backlogs are cited as needed to be addressed. In addition, the authors say this reform requires greater understanding of the ways in which the criminal justice system harms marginalised and minoritised victim-survivors and offenders.

For more information, and to download the manifesto, go to <https://www.n8prp.org.uk/2024/07/08/launch-manifesto-prevent-gbv/>

NEPRN Women in Policing Conference

Recruitment, Retention and Progression

The North East Policing Research Network, chaired by Dr Nikki D'Souza (Northumbria University) and Dr Donna-Marie Brown (Durham University) held a 2-day event 16-17 May 2024 on their 'Women in Policing' workstream.

The conference aimed to examine the recruitment, retention and progression of women police officers and police staff using an intersectional lens, identify areas that would benefit from research evidence, share best practice and strengthen collaboration.

Day 1, co-hosted by Dr D'Souza and Supt. Kelly Martin (Durham Police) focused on input from policing, with keynotes from Chief Constable Vanessa Jardine (Northumbria Police), ACC Anita Grant (Sussex Police), Det Sgt Keri Alldritt (GMP) and ACC Tonya Antonis (Durham Police).

Delegates then attended breakout sessions. 60 delegates attended, with academic, police, and police and crime commissioner staff from across the country.

On Day 2, academics met to discuss and consolidate themes from the previous session and identify funding applications. Projects are planned by Prof Jenny Flemming (Southampton) and Prof Gosia Ciesielska (Sheffield Hallam).

Feedback from delegates was that this was an important and inspiring event. For more information about the Conference, projects, and NEPRN, please contact Dr Nikki D'Souza at nikki.dsouza@northumbria.ac.uk.

On 30 May 2024, the University of Liverpool, N8 PRP and The Loop hosted a drug checking stakeholder roundtable for 40 invited senior officials - from government, police, PCCs, public health, drugs services and academia - to discuss the first five months of the Bristol drug checking service and to consider next steps in the rollout of drug checking across the UK.

Professor Fiona Measham, founder of The Loop, chaired the meeting. Sessions on Policy, and Delivery, were followed by workshops on the implications and challenges of delivering drug checking by region and by sector/agency.

Drug Checking Roundtable

Tackling Drug-Related Deaths

The first regular Home Office-licensed, local government-funded drug checking has been delivered by The Loop Drug Checking Service in Bristol since January 2024 with a particular focus on dependent **drug-checking** drug use, in line with government policy. Both The Loop and Scottish drug treatment services are currently working with a number of other UK cities to introduce more services in the near future.

Small Grants 2023-2024

N8 PRP Small Grants fund innovative, collaborative policing research with meaningful impact on policy, practice, and academic knowledge. 4 Small Grants and 1 Policing Priority Research Grant were delivered in 2024.

Abuse and Harassment of Women Runners: Perceptions, Fears and Experiences

Dr Caroline Miles (PI) and Professor Rose Broad (Co-I), University of Manchester, in partnership with Greater Manchester and Merseyside Police forces.

The project aimed to increase knowledge and understanding of the abuse experienced by women who run, whether they report this to the police, the barriers to reporting, women's safety concerns around running, and the measures employed by women to increase their feelings of safety when running.

3 sources of data were analysed: police data covering a two-year period across two forces; survey data from 498 women runners; and audio diaries from 10 women runners.

Findings

81 offences recorded by Greater Manchester and Merseyside Police 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022 involving the abuse of women runners. The majority involved sexual offences, followed by Public Order Section 4a offences, and physical assaults.

82% women said they have safety concerns around running and take a multitude of measures to increase their feelings of safety, including risk assessing when and where they run, who they run with, what they wear, and carrying items such as phones, keys, personal alarms, and tracking devices to increase feelings of safety.

68% of the 498 women survey respondents said they had experiences of being abused whilst out running, but **only 5% of these women had reported the abuse** to the police. Reasons included normalisation of abuse, not perceiving incidents as criminal offences, and low confidence in the willingness/ability of the police to take the report seriously.

Recommendations

Police prevention strategies informed by identifying when and where men are most likely to carry out this abuse.

Police responses to reported incidents need to be communicated back to victims, including why no further action has been taken.

Working with urban geographers to identify potential measures which increase women and girl's use of public space for exercise.

Increasing confidence in women to report
Women need to know reports will be taken seriously. Alternative ways to report incidents could be considered - e.g. recording their experiences on an app.

Changing perceptions that this is 'normal', especially for men and boys.

This must include educational work with children and campaigns aimed at boys and men targeting attitudes and bystander intervention.

Learn more about the experiences of women from every sector in society
The majority of women who responded to survey identified themselves as White (92%), despite our efforts to circulate the survey widely. This may reflect the ethnic breakdown of women who run, or the survey engagement from non-white women.


Engagement

Media and political coverage is linked below.

In addition, the research team met with GMCA, West Yorkshire Police, and a number of MPs, as well as presenting to Evidence Based Policing Boards at GMP, Merseyside and Cumbria, the GM Policy Hub Seminar, and the GM Moving Conference.


[Parliamentary Question - Response from Jess Phillips MP](#)


[GM Moving 'Rights to the Street' Project](#)


[Runners World Magazine](#)


[BBC News North West](#)


[Women's Running Magazine](#)


[The Guardian](#)

Risk and Recidivism of Registered Sex Offenders

Dr Sandra Flynn (PI), Dr Verity Wainwright, Dr Polly Turner (Co-Is) , and Lily Hill (Researcher), University of Manchester, in partnership with DCI Katie-Louise Allen, Greater Manchester Police

Understanding offending patterns of people suspected of committing Indecent Image of Children (IIOC) offences; to examine their history of offending; and to provide an analytical profile.

We analysed 188 criminal cases involving Indecent Images of Children (IIOC). Offenders were charged, summoned, or cautioned in half the crimes recorded.

1 Evidential difficulties, ever-evolving technology, and the use of sophisticated strategies in avoiding detection, make it **challenging for the police to pursue a charge**. The implications are:

a There is a substantial number of people known to the police as **a potential risk, but they are not prosecuted** and managed by the SOMU

b This has an impact on victims. The **permanence and unknown extent** of the distribution of images can have profound re-traumatising effects on victims.

c As many suspects are not charged, the **proportion of people who reoffend is also likely to be significantly underestimated**.

Findings

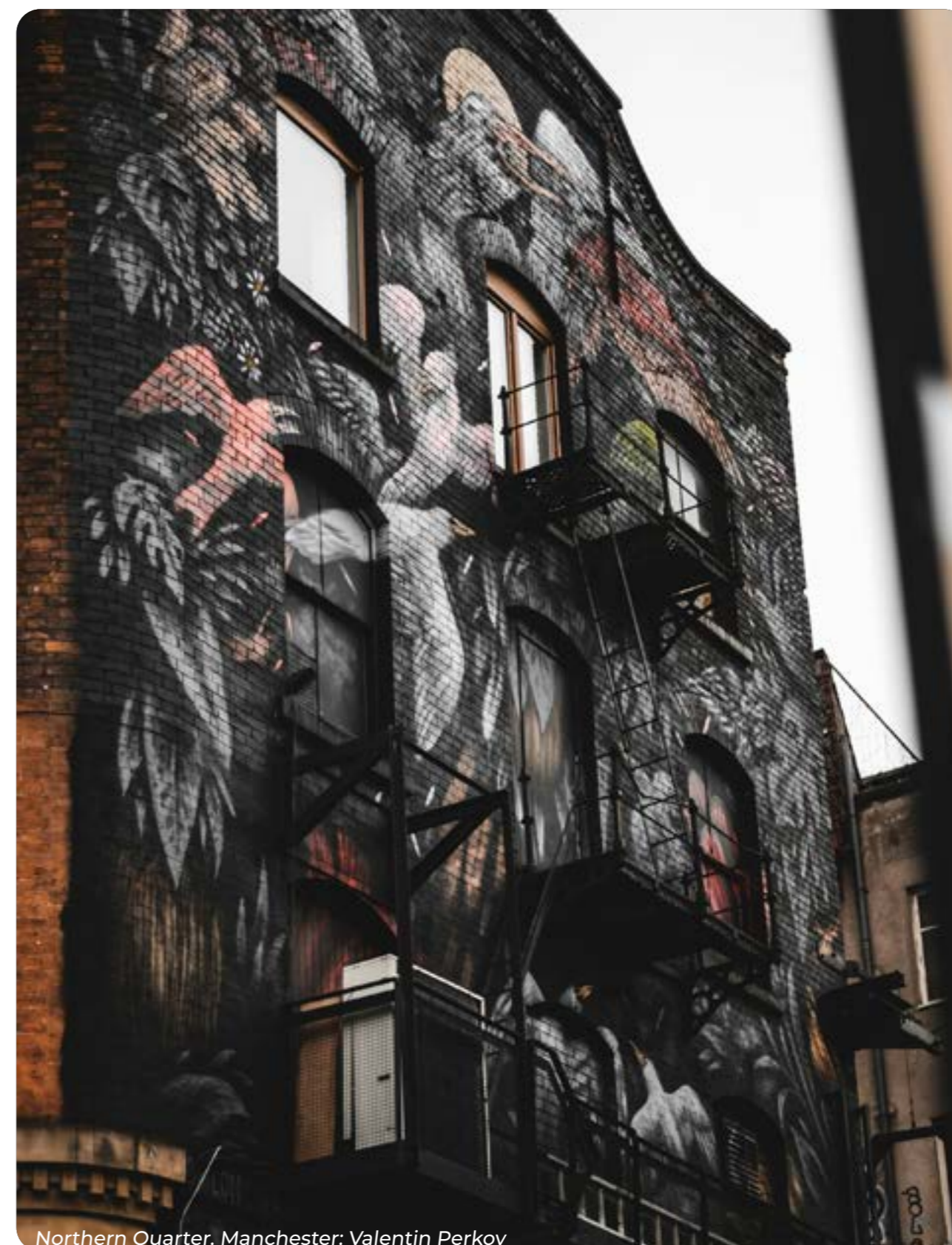
2 Recidivism rates will **inevitably be substantially higher** than shown in this study and the wider evidence base. Consequently, as the volume of offending continues to increase, the **strain on police resources becomes more acute**.

3 **Investment in alternative management solutions** is warranted to **reduce the impact caused by sexual offending** across communities, on SOMU officers, and on police resources.

Engagement

Following the project, two funding applications have been submitted and a paper has been submitted for publication.

The findings have been presented at the N8 PRP webinar, to GMP, and to the Nordic Research Network on Prevention of Childhood Sexual Offending.



Northern Quarter, Manchester; Valentin Perkov

Conceptualising and Evaluating the Impact of Policing Drug Markets

Matthew Bacon (University of Sheffield (UoS)), Xavier L'Hoiry (UoS), Amber Belk (South Yorkshire Police (SYP)), Reanna Garraghan (SYP), Charlotte Janusz (SYP), and Ashley Rogers (SYP)

Considering the policing of drug markets through the lens of harm reduction.

Drawing on interviews with police and non-police practitioners, an analysis of national, regional and local drug-related strategy documents, redacted case files, and a coproduction workshop, the study examines how police officers and staff understand police roles in drugs policing, as well as their perceptions of the breadth of harms occurring in this context.

The study responds to government calls for urgently needed research to address knowledge gaps concerning the impacts of policing interventions on drug markets and the potential for innovative approaches within the existing legal framework.

Engagement

Presentation - South Yorkshire Police Evidence Board

Workshop - South Yorkshire Police Evidence-Based Policing Conference, December 2024

Funding - ESRC University of Sheffield

Collaborating with South Yorkshire Police and the social enterprise Lived Expert to **develop and evaluate an innovative and research-informed training course on contemporary issues in drugs policing**. The course is being designed for the purpose of continuing professional development, to enable police practitioners and partner agencies to develop their knowledge and understanding of drug problems, policing and harm reduction.

Findings

Goals vs Roles

Police officers and staff commonly understand the police role vis-a-vis drugs policing as being **enforcement-focused** (the pursue element of the '4P' approach (i.e. prepare, prevent, protect, pursue)). However, research participants also described roles and **responsibilities that largely align with principles of harm reduction** policing. This includes roles usually associated with non-pursue activities that are more focused on prevention and protection.

Openness to mitigation

Police officers and staff showed an acute understanding of dealing with vulnerabilities in drugs policing and a willingness to explore how such vulnerabilities can be mitigated by police and partners, including via public health approaches.

Clear awareness of potential harms of drugs policing

Participants showed a clear awareness of the immense challenges of drugs policing, including the potential for exacerbating existing harms and vulnerabilities via unintended consequences of police interventions. It was often felt that not enough was being done to limit the potential impacts of such harms.

Appetite for training

Participants expressed a desire to develop their education on drug-related harms and policing drug markets, with some highlighting the value of development through occupational experiences and diverse job roles. Diversionary activities and their impacts were identified by many respondents as a theme they wanted to learn more about.

Outputs, not outcomes, dominate evaluation

Participants expressed concerns about the lack of robust evaluation of drugs policing interventions, with a focus on outputs rather than outcomes dominating post-intervention reviews.

Performance metrics poorly designed, counterproductive

Despite an ongoing reliance on traditional performance measures in drugs policing detailed in national, regional and local strategy documents (e.g. arrests, seizures), police officers and staff showed broad dissatisfaction with these metrics. They were described as providing an incomplete picture, being difficult to evaluate in terms of impact, often being misunderstood/poorly defined (e.g. disruption), and even at times being counterproductive to achieving desired aims.

Outcome 16 and racially minoritised women

Dr Hayley Alderson, Professor Ruth McGovern, Dr Kausiki Sarma, Dr Claire Smiles (Newcastle University), Dr William McGovern, Dr Nikki D'Souza (Northumbria University) and Professor Geetanjali Gangoli (Durham University).

Investigating the police responses to and support of minoritised adult women victims-survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse and the factors that influence the decision to withdraw charges.

A second report from the project, focused on victim-survivor accounts of their experience, will be published April 2025.

Co-location of police and VCS organisations

including specialist police personnel co-located at VCS sites to increase empathy and understanding between professionals in relation to acknowledging each sector's perspective and organisational processes to better address survivors needs.

NPCC leads need to work together to address the clear post code lottery between and within forces in relation to professional practices when policing minority communities. **Specialist compulsory training** and refresher training should be introduced for police staff on cultural diversity, how to respond to victims in a trauma-informed way, how to avoid victim blaming language and increased knowledge regarding honour-based abuse and how best to support survivors.

Findings

Police to harness the role of community elders/leaders as gatekeepers to diverse communities due to the belief that diverse communities lack trust in the police and withhold a deep-seated culture which secures keeping issues of a criminal nature within the family to address.

The impact of significant court delays on Outcome 16 to be monitored within forces and on a national basis to ascertain 'the tipping point' at which point this becomes the primary reason for them not wishing to pursue a prosecution. A robust process should be established to ensure that at each point in the criminal justice process **a reassessment of need** is undertaken to accommodate the changing needs of the survivor.

Consideration to be given to **whether Outcomes 16 should be considered a failed outcome for police**. Currently, it is largely construed as a failure due to the monitoring/accountability of the measure, but this can be at odds with survivors' needs. Police recognise that they want to keep the 'door open' for repeat victims to reach out for police help when needed rather than to alienate them from further support. It was proposed that victim satisfaction measures should be given greater prominence rather than Outcome 16, focusing on service quality instead of case outcome.



This poster was produced by Sian McArthur, an artist with More Than Minutes, in collaboration with the research team and workshop participants.

It compares participant's ideas on what contributes to positive experience for victim-survivors (in orange) and what contributes to a negative outcome (in purple).

Understanding and Preventing 'Cuckooing' Victimisation

Dr Laura Bainbridge (PI) and Dr Amy Loughery (Co-I), University of Leeds, in partnership with West Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Police, Durham Constabulary, Humberside Police, Merseyside Police, Cumbria Police and the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership.

Cuckooing Responses are Not Force-Wide

a Promising police and partner initiatives to tackle cuckooing have been implemented in England and Wales. However, such initiatives are often short-term and rarely span an entire force area.

b Specific cuckooing legislation should define cuckooing and clarify statutory responsibility for its prevention and detection. New civil legislation, such as a Cuckooing Closure Order, could strengthen safeguarding mechanisms without unduly criminalising vulnerable victims;

c Introducing cuckooing flags/markers on all police and safeguarding IT systems could improve intelligence sharing and enable cuckooing statistics and trends to be monitored over time.

Cuckooing Relationships are Complex

a Cuckooing often commences with adult grooming. Victims of cuckooing may be engaged in transactional, social, or sexual relationships with perpetrators and may not be viewed, or perceive themselves, as victims.

b Some victims of cuckooing have been criminalised for their role in the commission of drug offences or offences related to organised crime, including where they have been coerced or forced to cooperate with criminal operatives

c Ongoing support from partnership agencies and wraparound services for victims of cuckooing would reduce the likelihood of repeat victimisation.

Investigating the mechanics, lived experience of, and potential preventative measures for, cuckooing.

Cuckooing Victims are Vulnerable

a Primary targets for cuckooing perpetrators are vulnerable people who suffer from drug or alcohol dependency, have a physical disability, a mental health condition, and/or a learning disability.

b Early intervention by schools, children's services, housing providers, mental health services, and adult social care could reduce cuckooing victimisation;

c Effective partnership working between police, housing providers, mental health services, drug and alcohol services, adult social care, and the third sector is crucial to disrupting cuckooing victimisation.

Cuckooing is Often a Hidden Crime

a Professionals should exercise professional curiosity when engaging with vulnerable people and entering their homes.

b Public awareness campaigns may improve reporting.

Engagement

Cuckooing Toolkit

Resources designed to improve awareness of cuckooing victimisation, encourage professional and public curiosity, and improve reporting and intervention.

Available for download from University of Leeds.



[What is Cuckooing? - An Accessible Introduction \(Animation\)](#)

CUCKOOING
is when criminals take over a vulnerable person's home and use it:

- To deal, store or take drugs
- To hide weapons or stolen goods
- For sexual exploitation
- To facilitate financial abuse
- As a place to stay

Know the signs

- The occupant has not been seen for a while
- The occupant has distanced themselves from family, friends or support services
- Curtains or blinds are closed during the day
- An increase in litter, theft and anti-social behaviour in the local area
- Frequent loss of door keys or access fobs
- Damage to windows
- An increase in bikes, mopeds and cars parked outside of a property
- Unfamiliar people entering and leaving a property, often at unsociable hours
- Secure doors are wedged open



If you suspect a property is being cuckooed call **101**, in an emergency call **999**. To report information anonymously call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or use the QR code to report online

CUCKOOING
RESEARCH & PREVENTION NETWORK

The Cuckooing Research & Prevention Network

The Network facilitates the exchange of cuckooing knowledge and promising practice between members from academic, practitioner and policy-making spheres and the local, regional and national levels. Currently 300+ members, funded by Research England, Launched in January 2024.

The Network has held **3 Symposiums** to date. Calls from prominent members of the Network to make Cuckooing a criminal offence have been featured on **BBC News** and BBC Radio 4 Today Programme.

[Join the mailing list](#) or follow us @end_cuckooing

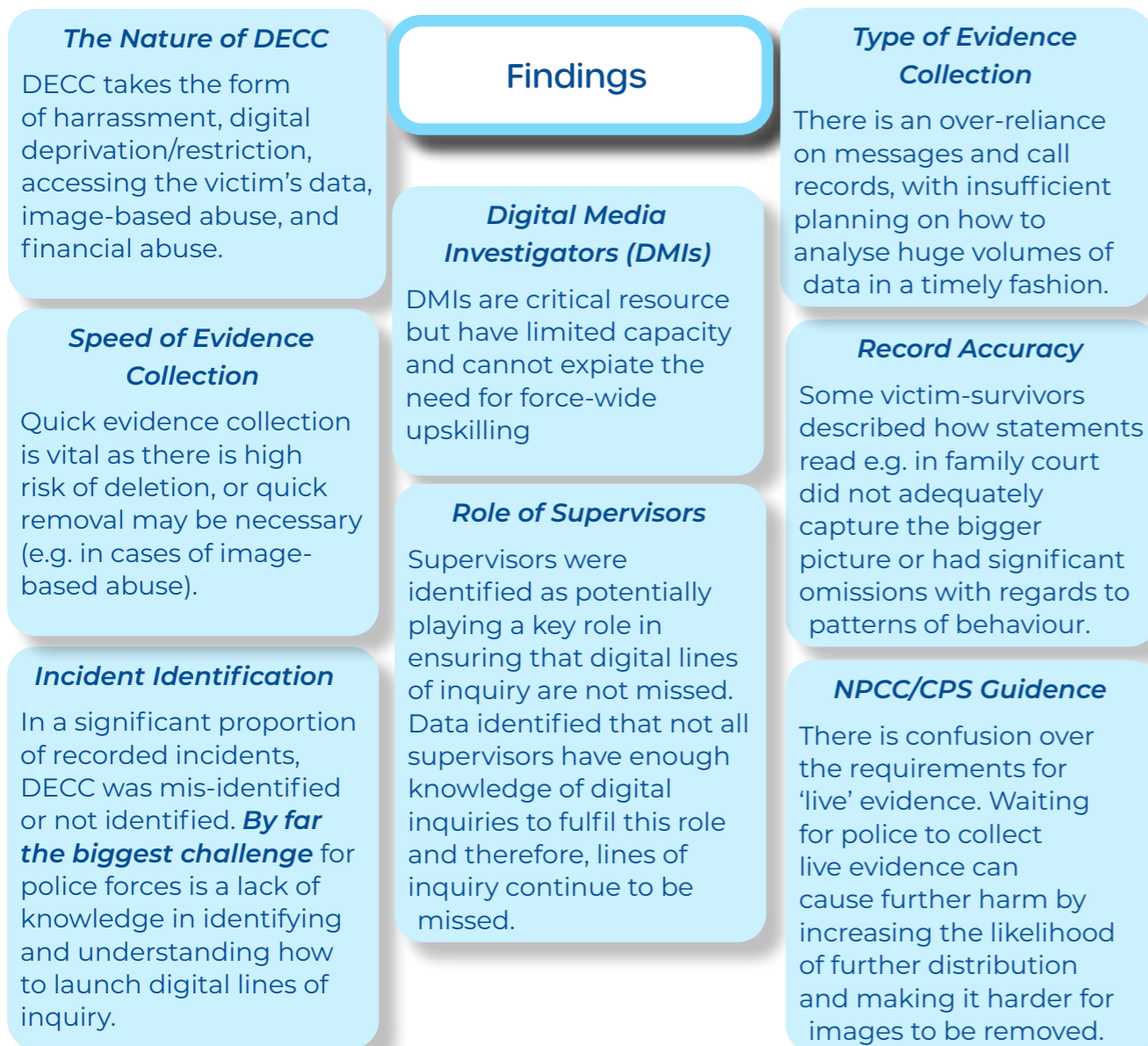
Police Priority Research Project

Digitally Enabled Coercive Control

Dr Antoinette Huber (PI) and Professor Barry Godfrey (Co-I), University of Liverpool, in partnership with Cumbria, Durham, and Merseyside Police forces

This project investigated the nature of digitally enabled coercive control (DECC), the police responses currently in use and how these can be improved, with the aim of developed the tools and training and tools police officers need.

The project was proposed by Cumbria Constabulary, who identified the knowledge and evidence gap on DECC investigations.



Recommendations

Incident report and evidence collection

Possible offences need to be identified quickly, recorded accurately and transparently, and evidence seized as soon as possible.

- Call handlers should be trained on how to identify key signs of coercive control and to obtain initial digital information.
- First Responders need to be able to make the most of the 'golden hour' of evidence collection when called to an incident.
- Call handlers, first responders, and investigators must ensure that victim-survivors accounts are recorded correctly, and that the victim-survivor understands how their accounts are being recorded.

Guidance and Tools

- NPCC and CPS should provide detailed guidance on the quality of evidence, e.g. how to balance the necessity of live evidence against the harm caused to the victim-survivor.
- Risk assessment and safeguarding tools should include questions about use of digital devices to control the behaviour of the victim-survivor.

Investigation

Investigators should pay close attention to the context of incidents and look for patterns of behaviour. This includes:

- Home visits to look at which digital devices are being used and for other physical signs of coercive control (e.g. locks, holes in the walls).
- Awareness of how disabilities can be taken advantage of in coercive control contexts (e.g. removal of aids), and ensure that children are not asked to translate for deaf victim-survivors
- Using police records of previous contact to see if a pattern of abusive behaviour exists.

Training Recommendations

- Digital training should be embedded within basic training for new recruits. Police forces should aim for 'digital policing' to become standard policing practice.
- Specialist DMIs should be used to supplement an already high level of capability in response and investigative officers.
- Regular updates on digital lines of inquiry should be consistently

rolled out to ensure that forces are up to date with the latest technological developments and changes, as well as latest information on what information service providers supply to law enforcement.

- Specialist digital teams such as digital forensics teams and DMIs should have access to regular CPD to ensure that they are able to keep abreast of changes and opportunities to digital lines of inquiry and how to execute these, include access to relevant software.
- Ideally, all CID officers would be trained up to DMI level and have some level of open-source training, however this may not be possible, and forces may opt for the use of dedicated DMIs to assist investigating officers.
- Supervisors should also be trained, at minimum, to the same level as detectives and preferably hold a DMI certification.the victim-survivor.

The full report, including recommendations for minimum training requirements, can be accessed through the report page on the N8 PRP website.

NRiPN - New Researchers in Policing Network

The New Researchers in Policing Network (NRiPN) is a community of Post Graduate and Early Career Researchers in the N8 PRP region that supports research, bids, events, collaboration, and impact. In 2024, NRiPN Director **Dr Eon Kim** organised 3 Excellence in Policing Research Webinars and, in collaboration with the Vulnerability and Policing Futures, an Academic Knowledge Exchange Conference.

Dr Kim will be stepping down at the end of 2024 to pursue a fulltime fellowship with the Home Office.

For more information on NRiPN and how to join, [visit our website](#).



Academic Knowledge Exchange Conference

Monday 9 September, 14:00-16:00

Co-hosted by NRiPN and the Vulnerability and Policing Futures PhD Network, this online event gave members the opportunity to present their work, receive feedback, and gain experience in an academic setting.

SESSION 1: VIOLENCE, AND POLICY REFLECTIONS

Panel

Larissa Engelmann, University of Leeds;

Sandra Walklate, University of Liverpool

Presentations

Dismantling the discourse of domestic violence and abuse: Reflections on policy constructions of adult family violence

Lily Graham, University of Central Lancashire

The experiences of men convicted of sexual offences and Restorative Justice in England and Wales

Phil Cawley, Lancashire

Police/Liverpool John Moores University

The operational barriers police face to achieve justice for victims of non-consensually shared intimate images

Georgina Mclocklin, Nottingham Trent University

SESSION 2: POLICING AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Panel

Mike Rowe, University of Liverpool; Dave Thompson Leeds Beckett University; Phoebe Usher, University of Sunderland

The racial ideology of the British police: protecting and serving the interests of the white institution

Nikhaela Wicks, University of Kent

Interview Strategies with People Suspected of Sexual Offences against Children and Adults

Jo Curtis, University of Gloucestershire

2024 Excellence in Policing Research Webinars



Policing and Violence: Trends and Emerging Research

Tuesday 5 March, 15:00-16:00

PGRs and ECRs joined a discussion about the current and future research landscape of policing violence, current government priorities, and identifying evidence gaps. Attendees heard from experienced practitioners Lynsey Blas, Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence, and Caroline Hemingway, Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, and leading domestic and gender-based violence academic, Professor Nicole Westmarland.



Interdisciplinarity Research in Policing: Opportunities and Challenges

Friday 4 October 2024, 13:00 – 14:00

PGRs and ECRs are invited to join a discussion about 'Interdisciplinary Research in Policing'. Attendees heard from leading academics Dr Anja Johansen, University of Dundee, and Dr Daragh Murray, Queen Mary School of Law, about their experiences and the challenges they have encountered.



Police Data Access for Early Career Researchers

Friday 22 November, 14:00-15:00

NRiPN learned about the practical challenges and support needs in accessing police data. Police explained current practices, protocols, and best approaches for requesting data, and insights support mechanisms to bridge data access gaps. Attendees heard from Kevin Price, Cleveland Police, Laura Zeniou, Lancashire Constabulary, and Daniel Southern, North Yorkshire Police.

N8 PRP Police Profiles

THREE N8 PRP POLICE PARTNERS report on the value of impact of the partnership for their institutions.

The investment of Northumbria Police in N8 PRP continues to be instrumental in the ongoing pursuit of embedding evidence based policing throughout the organisation.

N8 PRP has facilitated knowledge exchange between practitioners and academic researchers through attendance at a range of online and in person events organised by N8 PRP. The Drugs Checking Roundtable attended by our portfolio lead demonstrates the value of such knowledge exchange, as the insights from this event were shared at local combatting drugs partnerships meeting with key public health partners.

Furthermore, outputs and recommendations from N8 PRP generated research are routinely shared with SMEs and portfolio leads to enable police practitioners to be informed of developing research evidence relating to their area of business. Information from recommendations such as those from small grants study on Cuckooing have been incorporated into guidance, cascading the learning to police practitioners.

JO ISHIDA, Corporate Development Manager

ANU WATSON, Evaluation & Quality Assurance Adviser.

Northumbria Police

Through police SPOC working group we have been part of developing the Police Priority Research areas which has been fundamentally important in driving research that aligns with agenda relevant to policing practice. We have also collaborated on several research projects with professional researchers and PhD students from N8PRP institutions, and our SME's have also contributed to N8 research in an advisory capacity. This collaborative work is inclusive of projects and events generated through the NEPRN network which aligns and has received support from N8PRP, thus further fostering impactful academic research collaboration.



Bamburgh Castle, Northumbria; Bruce Edwards

Merseyside Police

LOUISA LAVEBACK
EBP Co-ordinator

N8 PRP plays an important role in Merseyside Police's continued efforts to develop and embed evidence-based practices across the organisation. N8 PRP facilitates invaluable insights into complex problems through formal research projects and knowledge exchange events, and assists in building stronger connections with local and regional academic researchers, as well as with our neighbouring police forces – assisting with knowledge exchange between police forces in our efforts to embed EBP and learning from each other's successes and challenges.

The researchers we have collaborated with through the N8 PRP have all been central to circulating their findings with our organisation and have made themselves available to assist in cascading learning to police practitioners. In some cases, project engagement has resulted in the development of longer-term projects bespoke to emerging issues – for example, we are intending to continue research into Digitally-enabled Coercive Control, led by Dr Antoinette Huber and Prof Barry Godfrey at the University of Liverpool.

Having the opportunity to help shape N8 PRP's new Police Priority Research areas ensured that we as an organisation could continue our engagement with the network, with confidence that we are being heard.

in conjunction with academic partners, including N8 PRP. This event was a real highlight in bringing together operational staff and officers with academic colleagues and has created new and refreshed professional relationships.

South Yorkshire continues to develop outputs from our PCDA student officers' EBP projects. The force offers guidance on projects and themes from the Force Management Statement and ensures recommendations from these projects are considered by our leaders. Some of this work has led to changes in policy and practice.

As we move into 2025, the force will begin to focus efforts on a new initiative, EVOLVE (*Evidence Based Policing and Organisational Learning: From Vision to Excellence*), which will bring together EBP and learning initiatives and make them accessible to everyone to further expand the forces EBP network; ultimately improving how we serve our communities with an evidence-based approach.

South Yorkshire Police

ROSS GREENWOOD, Strategic Delivery Unit

South Yorkshire Police's membership of N8 PRP has facilitated knowledge exchange between our policing leads and academic partners; bringing positive development and improvements to how we police our communities.

The Drugs Markets Small Grant has seen particular success, leading to a number of developments including training opportunities.

In 2024, South Yorkshire Police held its first Evidence Based Policing Conference

N8 PRP Profiles

IN THE FOLLOWING profiles, the N8 Universities outline their research strengths and expertise in relation to policing, with current research institutes, groups, and major projects.

University of York

DR GEOFF PAGE
School for Business and Society

The University of York has several ongoing policing research initiatives. Firstly, the *ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre* (co-led University of Leeds) has added significantly to impact-facing policing research. The Centre's inaugural conference in September 2024 brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to share insights on how to reshape the relationship between vulnerability and policing. The Centre has published several accessible research summaries and coordinated the Child of the North report offering pathways to address childhood vulnerability, crime and justice. Additionally, Co-Director Professor Adam Crawford addressed police chiefs and commissioners at the APCC & NPCC Partnership



Summit 2024 on the importance of improving local police interactions to build public trust.

The ESRC-funded research programme *Understanding Criminality in the Third Sector* is entering its second year. This project seeks to define the criminal opportunities within the private rented sector and is being delivered in partnership with the Universities of Sheffield and Northumbria, supported by three force areas. The past year saw the delivery of several webinars on diverse topics including modern day slavery, cannabis farming, and brothel closures; further dissemination plans include a special edition of the journal *Trends in Organised Crime*. Project leaders welcome engagement from interested police partners.

Finally, York – in collaboration with Hull – has launched an **£11m NIHR-funded Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research**. The Centre's first five years will focus on drug and mental health problems in young people, across a diverse range of communities in some of the UK's most deprived areas.

York; SincerelyMedia

University of Sheffield

DR ADAM WHITE
School of Law

Sheffield University Policing Research Group

Policing research at Sheffield is coordinated through the Sheffield University Policing Research Group (SUPRG) – part of the Centre for Criminological Research (CCR) – which brings together University academics and practitioners from the region.

Over the past year, its academic members have led numerous knowledge exchange and impact initiatives.

Custody Information Guides

Professor Layla Skinns and ECR colleagues have been working on an ESRC IAA-funded project developing, implementing and evaluating digital and paper-based police custody information guides for adult suspects in Norfolk and Suffolk Police

NPCC Custody Forum

The CCR co-hosted the annual NPCC Custody Forum attended by representatives from all police forces and national police custody stakeholders. At the Forum, SUPRG members presented on the above information guide,

vulnerability in police custody in England and Poland and the welfare role of Appropriate Adults in South Yorkshire.

Criminality and Vulnerability in the Private Rental Sector

Drs Xavier L'Hoiry and Loren Parton have organised a series of webinars attended by academics and practitioners as part of their ESRC-funded project exploring criminality and vulnerability in the private rented sector.

Sexual Trafficking Identification Matrix

Dr L'Hoiry also continues to collaborate with police practitioners and NGOs in the development of the Sexual Trafficking Identification Matrix, a tool generated through his research and used by several police forces in the UK and abroad.

Drugs Policing

Drs Matthew Bacon and L'Hoiry are collaborating with South Yorkshire

Police and the social enterprise Lived Expert to develop an innovative and research-informed course on contemporary issues in drugs policing. The course is being designed for the purpose of continuing professional development, enabling police practitioners and partner agencies to develop their knowledge and understanding of drug problems, policing and harm reduction.

Police-Led Drug Diversion

Professor Alex Stevens, Dr Bacon and Dr Rivka Smith are also working with a large team on a Cabinet Office-funded project evaluating police-led drug diversion for adult offenders. The project explores whether and how drug diversion works, for whom, when and why.

Restorative Justice

Professor Joanna Shapland and colleagues continue to promote their report [restorativejustice.org.uk] for the Scottish Government on mitigation and risk in relation to restorative justice, including through a recent podcast [securityinconversation.com] in the popular Security Thought Leadership series.



Manchester, Steven Roussel

Newcastle University

PROFESSOR JILL CLARK

Education, Communication and Language Sciences

2024 has been another exciting year of policing and policing-related research at the University of Manchester. Work continues across many departments, from criminology, law, psychology, business and management, pharmacy, public health, to computer science, and in our research centres and collaborative networks, including [Sprite+](#) (Security, Privacy, Identity, Trust in the Digital Economy), the [Centre for Digital Trust and Security](#), the Alliance Manchester Business School's [National Consortium for Societal Resilience](#), and the [Health and Justice Research Network](#).

Prof Rose Board and Dr Caroline Miles, from the Criminology Department, delivered their N8 PRP small grant on 'The Abuse of Women Runners:

After 10 years in the role of Newcastle University Academic lead, Professor Jill Clark is stepping down. Dr Jenny Johnstone has been appointed as her successor.

Newcastle University continues to develop our expertise around the delivery of healthcare to detained persons. The ESRC Standard Grant that Gethin Rees leads on "What is equivalence in police custody healthcare?" (Jill Clark is on the advisory group) is coming to an end and is starting to generate

impact. They engaged with the Parliamentary Office Science and Technology Horizon Scanning project on criminal justice, and their response was largely focused on Public Health and Policing. Their contribution has been included in a parliamentary release that was recently published <https://post.parliament.uk/policing-a-public-health-approach/>. A book is planned, with a contract being finalised with Routledge: Care Detained: A critical analysis of healthcare delivery in police custody suites.

University of Manchester

PROFESSOR GEOFF PEARSON, School of Law

Perceptions, Fears and Experiences'. The project received considerable national media attention, including from the [BBC](#) and [The Guardian](#).

Our prestigious Criminology department also celebrated [three decades of quantitative criminology](#) at the University of Manchester in an event in March.

In the Psychology Department and Centre for Mental Health and Safety, Dr Sandra Flynn delivered the N8 PRP Small Grant project, 'Risk and Recidivism: Managing Registered Sex Offenders', hosting an N8 PRP webinar in May and presenting at the Nordic Research Network on Prevention of Childhood Sexual Offending in October.

Digitally Enabled Coercive Control

In 2024 N8 PRP funded Professor Barry Godfrey and Dr Antoinette Huber to carry out research on digitally enabled coercive control. Following dissemination of the report's recommendations about the need to improve police response to a growing problem, Cumbria updated their Pillar 6 Soteria and domestic abuse policies, key points were shared with Digital Media Investigators, neighbourhood response teams were briefed, and the report was discussed at the Vulnerability Board by senior officers. At the request of Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, and Merseyside forces, Huber, Godfrey, and Saunders began to design training packages on digital lines of inquiry which are intended to be delivered to forces in 2025.

University of Liverpool

Drug Checking

Professor Fiona Measham's action research and impact project introducing drug checking and drug testing for harm reduction and market intelligence purposes made significant leaps forward in 2024. The Loop (the charity she founded) launched the first regular, Home Office-licensed drug checking service in the UK, funded by Bristol city council and in partnership with Avon and Somerset police, from January onwards, utilising a 'test case' drug checking licence. The Loop then started the first Home Office-licensed drug testing onsite within festivals and nightclubs, in partnership with the Metropolitan, Greater Manchester and Lincolnshire police forces. A joint University of Liverpool/ N8 PRP/ The Loop stakeholder roundtable was held at the university, attended by key stakeholders from across the UK, to further progress this initiative. A briefing paper reviewing the first year of the 'test case' licence was presented to the Home Office in December 2024. Further details, along with academic, media and social media outputs, are available at WWW.WEARETHELOOP.ORG.



Liverpool, Ryan Warburton

**PROFESSOR FIONA MEASHAM
School of Law and Social Justice**

Coercive Control

Emanating from an N8 PRP Small Grant Project entitled 'Who is the Victim? Identifying Victims and Perpetrators in Cases of Coercive Control', Professor Sandra Walkate and Charlotte Barlow (ULCAN) presented their findings at the British Criminology Conference, to Lancashire Police and Birmingham's Children Trust. Charlotte has also presented this work at a conference in Nova Scotia, Canada. They have three papers out for review with different journals stemming from this work. Further to their joint policing focused work more generally, they presented a policy brief, Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes (Clare's Law): 10 Years On, to the College of Policing principles group and aspects of this work have now been adopted by the College of Policing. Their collective work on DVDS (in the UK and Australia) has contributed to a bid for further work to the ESRC submitted in early 2024 (outcome pending).

Provocations: How Humanities Research can help the Criminal Justice System

The university also held the first in what is anticipated to be a series of 'Provocations' relating to policing and the wider criminal justice system, where Humanities researchers together with practitioners from key stakeholder groups explore topics through immersive workshops and active dialogue. Attendees included representatives from the N8 PRP. Please contact Dr Chris Williams for further information cmw@liverpool.ac.uk.

Safer Parks

Dr Anna Barker's research into park safety perceptions led to the **'Safer Parks: Improving Access for Women and Girls'** guidance, adopted by the Green Flag Award. This guidance, which provides principles for park design and management, has been used locally, nationally, and internationally, influencing park audit and assessment schemes, design and management practices, transit strategies, award programmes, bystander training, design-out-crime officer training, and parliamentary discussions.

DA Educational Resources

Dr Rebecca Shaw is leading a project on **'Changing the Narrative of Domestic Abuse'** with Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Behind Closed Doors and +Choices. Funded by ESRC, this research will develop new educational resources for secondary school children in Leeds aimed at challenging problematic narratives around domestic abuse, including harmful myths, stereotypes and biases which persist regarding this crime.

ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre

The establishment of the ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre at the University of Leeds (along with the University of York) has added significantly to the capacity of impact-facing policing research at the University. The Centre's recent inaugural annual conference brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to share insights and build on its work reshaping the relationship between vulnerability and policing. Its extensive programme of events, funding programmes and partnerships enables it to share research findings with representatives from government departments, policing and NGOs. It has published several research summaries of its projects and recently coordinated the Child of the North report **'An evidence-based plan for addressing childhood vulnerability, crime and justice'**.

Missing Persons

Dr Toby Davies undertook research, funded by the Home Office STAR initiative, examining the **algorithmic assessment of risk in missing persons cases**. The findings have been presented to the National Discussion Group on Missing Persons and informed discussions of the NPCC to develop refinements to the risk assessment process.

Cuckooing

Dr Laura Bainbridge led a project focused on improving understanding and reporting of cuckooing victimisation. Funded by the N8PRP and Research England, it has led to the co-production of a comprehensive cuckooing 'toolkit' for police and practitioners, and established the national **Cuckooing Research & Prevention Network**.

DR GRAHAM FARRELL
School of Law

University of Leeds

Tool theft

A recent Home Office review of the stolen goods markets associated with neighbourhood acquisitive offences identified tools and machinery as the most commonly stolen item across specific offence between 2018 and 2022.

Dr Kate Tudor, in partnership with the College of Policing is working under the NPCC SOAC portfolio to reduce opportunities for the sale of stolen tools.

The team have participated in media tours to raise awareness of the issue across over thirty radio stations and have attended key events at Ford Motors HQ and the Construction Industry Theft Solutions Group.

The is in discussions to influence secondary legislation associated with the Equipment Theft Prevention Act.

The research is currently being extended to a second phase to include analysis of the networks involved in the theft and distribution of stolen goods.

Read more on Analysis of Stolen Goods Markets in the UK at <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/Luv118DZ4eC6K>

Durham University

DR DONNA MARIE BROWN

DR MICHELLE ADDISION

School of Sociology

Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse

Professor Nicole Westmarland is working with Durham Constabulary and the College of Policing to investigate whether forensic marking devices can reduce domestic abuse, make victims feel safer and have more freedom, increase trust and confidence in policing, and bring more perpetrators to justice.

Memorandum of Understanding

Durham University has finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Durham Constabulary and the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner. The MoU formalises the relationship and will lead to further collaboration, including on joint projects, the introduction of new technologies, and further areas of research. More information can be found here: University-Police MoU - Durham University

VAWG in Football

Professor Stacey Pope is an expert on the experiences of women at football matches. She is co-designing a project between Durham University and police forces that will bring together academic research on women fans with expertise in match day policing to develop evidence-base solutions to tackle gendered violence and abuse in men's football to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for women fans.

Leadership in Policing

Dr Nora Alomar, Professor Les Graham and Natalie Brown have recently completed a project to design and deliver an educational intervention on leadership, motivation and ethical behaviour to reduce sexism, racism etc. in policing. They worked with 2,700 front-line supervisors from five forces trained to date. Research and impact activities are currently being undertaken with Lancashire Constabulary, Durham Constabulary, Cheshire Constabulary, and An Garda Síochána on research topics including leadership, culture, motivation, ethical behaviour and wellbeing.

University of Lancaster

DR SOPHIE NIGHTINGALE
School of Psychology

Deepfakes Fellowship

Sophie Nightingale (Psychology) has been awarded a £1.75m Future Leaders Fellowship titled **“Mapping and mitigating the threats to ordinary people from deepfakes”**. Press release with more detail is available here: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/news/175m-future-leaders-fellowship-for-sophie-nightingale>

Interviewee Disclosure and Decision Making

David Neequaye (Psychology) is conducting research that examines the mechanisms underlying disclosure in investigative interviews.

In 2024, David published [understating how interviewees flag their interviewer’s objectives](#) and on research addressing [interviewees’ decision-making in interviews](#). This addresses a gap in the research on what precisely people disclose and why they choose to share the information they do.

Cannabis and Violent Crime

In 2024, Olly Fitton (Criminology), Gary Potter, and Thaddeus Muller began work on **Policing cannabis factories and its relation to violent and organised crime**, investigating how police establish links between cannabis production and violent crime.

Self-Efficacy in Use of Force

Working in collaboration with Lancashire Constabulary, Olly has begun data collection for his project on Self-Efficacy and Public and Professional Safety (defensive tactics) Training. In January 2025 he will present a conference paper on **‘Good’ vs. ‘Bad’ use of force: Establishing a research agenda to inform martial arts training for police officers**.

Security Lancaster

Security Lancaster is one of the largest interdisciplinary security research institutes in the UK with 130 staff from 15 academic departments. It is home to the ESRC UK national hub for social science research on security threats (CREST) and the EPSRC Trustworthy Autonomous Systems Node in Security (TAS-S).

The Policing theme includes 12 academics, with recent publications on joint working between UK emergency services and the ethical challenges of visual digital data.

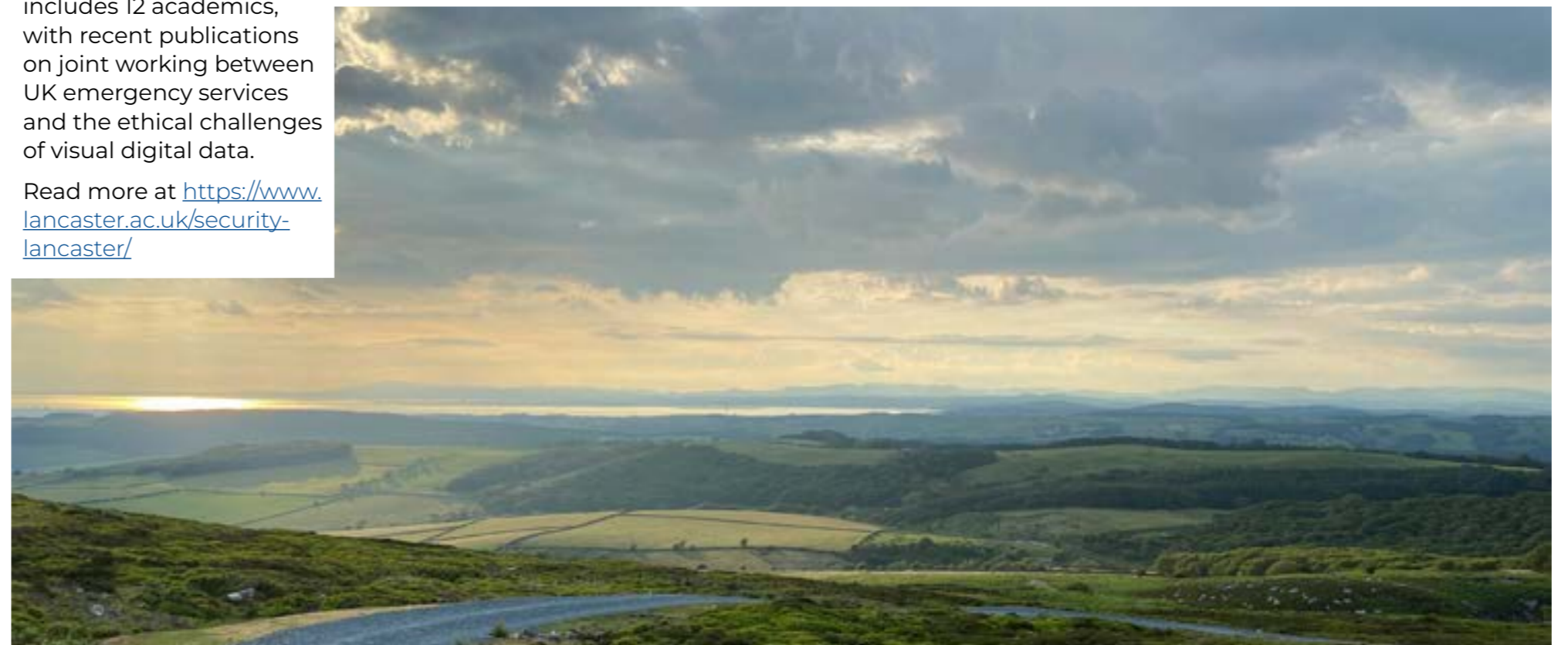
Read more at <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/security-lancaster/>

Police Uniform

Camilla Camargo (Criminology) continues her work on “When the uniform doesn’t fit” which is a project designed to positively impact the lived experiences of every police uniform wearer in the UK.

Focus groups and one-to-one interviews were undertaken in five police forces, speaking to 84 women in total, the first project of its kind to look specifically at the ill-fitting nature of police uniforms and its significant repercussions on health and safety, retention, and psycho-social wellbeing. Using data from “When the uniform doesn’t fit” as an evidence base, Camilla and Stephanie Wallace (Criminology) created the **first ever National Police Uniform and Equipment Survey**, working in collaboration with the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW). This collaboration is their first ever university partnership, and also benefitted from support from the National Police Chief’s Council, the College of Policing, the Superintendent’s Association, the Home Office, UNISON, and Blue Light Commercial. The survey closed in August 2024 with 16,927 responses and 30,629 qualitative comments which will be used to make impactful changes to uniform policies at a national level. This is the largest uniform survey ever conducted, both locally and internationally.

In November 2024, Camilla submitted an application to the Police STAR Fund (Home Office funded) on **‘Next Generation Uniform’** in collaboration with the National Uniform Portfolio lead (National Police Chief’s Council).



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**POLICING
RESEARCH
PARTNERSHIP**

Annual Report 2024