

PEOPLE, POLICING AND HEALTH

POLICING INNOVATION FORUM 2026

16 June 2026, Newcastle University



09:00 Registration and refreshments on arrival

09:30 **Welcome**

Professor Layla Skinns, N8 PRP Director and Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Sheffield and Dr Andrew Wooff, SiPR Director and Associate Professor of Criminology, Edinburgh Napier University

09:45 **Keynote**
Policing, People and Health: Why Sharing is Caring for Sustainable Collaboration

Gary Ritchie, retired ACC, Police Scotland; chair of international committee, SiPR

Policing and public health increasingly confront the same complex vulnerabilities: mental ill-health, addiction, exploitation, poverty and inequality. In a context of fiscal constraint, polarised politics and a resurgent appetite for “hard-line” responses, this keynote argues that if we share the problem, we must also share the response. It will introduce a “Share Continuum” as a way of thinking about how partners move from rhetoric about collaboration to sustained, practical joint work. Rather than rehearsing familiar debates about “mission creep” or service boundaries, the session will explore how siloed approaches simply displace harm and demand across the system. Using recent case studies as illustrations, the talk offers a timely challenge to partners tempted to retreat to core functions, and makes the case for preserving – and deepening – genuinely collaborative responses to pernicious vulnerability.

10:30 **Panel**
Community Wellbeing: considering preventative and harm reduction approaches in practice

Chair: Dr Andrew Wooff

Panellists: Professor Fiona Measham, University of Liverpool; Professor Liz Aston, Edinburgh Napier University; Professor Mark Monaghan, Loughborough University.

Chaired by Dr Andrew Wooff, this panel explores the practical challenges of centring community wellbeing in preventative and harm reduction approaches. Four short presentations will examine emerging evidence and practice: Professor Fiona Measham on the development and impact of drug checking; Professor Liz Aston on Health-Justice Nexus research and evolving preventative policing practices; Jason Kew on advocacy and training to embed diversion and harm-reduction responses; and Professor Mark Monaghan on findings from a large-scale evaluation of police-led drug diversion. A discussion will follow on opportunities, challenges, and future directions for wellbeing-focused policing.

11:20 Coffee Break

11:40 **Panel**
Interagency Working in Custody

Chair: Professor Layla Skinns

Panellists: Dr Gethin Rees, Newcastle University; Dr Iain McKinnon, Newcastle University; Dr Karen Goodall, University of Edinburgh; Dr Steph Scott, Newcastle University

Chaired by Professor Layla Skinns, this panel explores emerging evidence and challenges in interagency collaboration within police custody. Dr Gethin Rees examines what “equivalence” means in the context of police custody healthcare and how it is interpreted in practice. Dr Iain McKinnon presents findings from HELP-PC and the evaluation of Right Care, Right Person, focusing on crisis response pathways. Dr Karen Goodall discusses trauma-informed approaches and their implications for custody environments, and Dr Steph Scott will discuss her work on supporting families. Short presentations will be followed by a discussion on improving partnership working, safeguarding, and outcomes for people in custody.

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **NRiPN Poster Exhibition**
sponsored by Routledge

Presented by Gary Ritchie

13:45 **Stakeholder Roundtable**

Chair: Dr Inga Heyman, Edinburgh Napier University

Panellists: Claire Danskin, Royal Edinburgh Hospital REAS; Stacey Day, Mitie; Jason Kew, Centre for Justice Innovation; Heather McIntyre, NHS Trust North East Combined Health Authority

Chaired by Dr Inga Heyman, this roundtable brings together experts from healthcare and policing to reflect on the themes emerging from the preceding panels. Speakers from healthcare, policing, the third sector and the private sector will offer practitioner perspectives on interagency working in custody, responding to vulnerability, and the practical realities of implementing trauma-informed and health-focused approaches. The session will explore opportunities for improved collaboration, barriers to effective partnership working, and priorities for future research and practice. An open discussion will invite contributions from attendees to shape shared learning and next steps.

14:30 **Coffee Break**

14:45 **Innovation in Action Roundtables**

Featuring innovative interventions on policing and health, in this session delegates will circulate and discuss ongoing and recently completed projects with the project leads, with the opportunity to learn about innovative, practice-led work, consider how to implement the findings or interventions in their own organisations, and establish connections that will enable future partnerships.

Suicide Prevention of People Accused of Sexual Offences

Dr Emma Tuschick, Teesside University

This roundtable session explores suicide prevention among individuals under investigation for sexual offences, a population associated with exceptionally high and immediate suicide risk, yet one that remains largely overlooked within mainstream suicide prevention strategies. Drawing on emerging evidence and practice insights, the session highlights how risk is often concentrated during the earliest stages of investigation, particularly following disclosure, arrest, or awareness of police involvement. Current safeguarding approaches are frequently fragmented, reactive, and overly reliant on traditional mental health indicators, despite many individuals presenting with no prior psychiatric history. The discussion will examine how shame, identity disruption, fear of exposure, social exclusion, and prolonged uncertainty interact to create acute situational vulnerability. Moving beyond prediction-focused models, the session introduces a needs-based and systems-oriented approach centred on continuous safeguarding, compassionate communication, and coordinated multi-agency intervention. Participants will be invited to critically reflect on systemic gaps, barriers to implementation, and opportunities for earlier, more effective prevention responses.

Experiences of Autistic People during Arrest and Custody: Assessing needs and vulnerabilities, evaluating support structures

Dr Laura Naegler, University of Liverpool

A growing body of research shows that individuals with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) have higher rates of interaction with the criminal justice system whilst at the same time being at higher risk of experiencing these interactions negatively. Drawing from qualitative interviews with police officers and custody staff from two police forces in England and Wales and practitioners in roles supporting autistic people, I will outline the findings of a study examining the needs and vulnerabilities of, and challenges encountered by, autistic individuals in custody. I will focus primarily on existing support structures in custody - including police custody staff's ability to respond adequately to autistic people's needs - as well as factors that might negatively impact on this, including institutional limitations and a lack of knowledge about (gendered) differences across a non-linear autism spectrum. I will further illuminate the

dynamics of the non-disclosure of detainee's autism diagnosis and non-detection of autistic traits by custody staff, which engenders negative consequences for autistic individuals, such as lack of understanding and/or support in the custody situation. Exploring these challenges and how both custody staff and practitioners respond to them, I will also highlight areas of improvement required and examples of best practices, focussing on support structures, environmental factors, custody design and the provision of autism awareness training

Good Practice in Transfer of Care

Dr Martha Canfield, Glasgow Caledonian University

'Good Practice in Transfer of Care' is a rapid review funded by the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) that synthesises international evidence on models designed to improve how police transfer individuals experiencing a mental health crisis to healthcare services. Drawing on studies from six countries, the review highlights approaches such as co-response teams, liaison models, designated places of safety, and screening tools. These approaches are associated with reduced time in police custody, fewer emergency department attendances, and improved experiences for people in crisis. The review also identifies significant gaps in robust evaluation and calls for greater inclusion of lived-experience perspectives, alongside stronger coordination between police and health services.

This roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss the review findings, explore their implications for policy and practice, and identify priorities for future research. Particular attention will be given to evidence gaps, opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, and potential directions for strengthening the evidence base on effective transfer of care models and outcomes for people experiencing mental health crises.

Rethinking police custody for young people: Emerging findings from Australia

Dr Shelley Walker, Curtin University

Police custody is a largely hidden and under-examined site of detention in Australia. Despite longstanding concerns raised by human rights advocates and researchers, little is known about the experiences of young people held in police custody. This roundtable will draw on emerging findings from a large qualitative study examining young people's experiences of police custody across Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia. The study involves in-depth interviews with young people with lived experience of police custody, alongside interviews with professionals who work in, visit, or oversee custody settings, including lawyers and youth justice workers. Emerging findings highlight concerns relating to the suitability of police custody environments for young people, including in jurisdictions where they may be detained for days or even weeks. Interviews raise questions about access to care and support, responses to distress and vulnerability, and the impacts of detention in police custody on young people with histories of trauma and complex support needs.

15:45 **Innovation in Action Roundtables Feedback**

Professor Layla Skinns

Professor Skinns will invite feedback from each of the roundtable sessions, with time for a brief discussion.

16:00 **Summary of the Day**

Layla Skinns, N8 PRP Director and Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Sheffield

16:15 **Close**

COMMUNITY WELLBEING: CONSIDERING PREVENTATIVE AND HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES IN PRACTICE

Policing, public health and drugs in Scotland: what's the police's role in relation to community wellbeing?

Professor Liz Aston, Edinburgh Napier University

Scottish legislation (2012) positioned the enhancement of community safety and wellbeing as a core purpose of policing. But how has public health-oriented policing been enacted? Changes of relevance to drugs include the roll-out of police-carriage of Naloxone, extension of Recorded Police Warnings, piloting of a Safer Consumption Facility and plans for community-based Drug Checking services. However, there is a policy-practice gap and more needs to be done to embed evidence-based approaches, including police-led diversion.

Thus far, findings from the policing strand of the Health-Justice Nexus project suggest the focus on community wellbeing has fluctuated over time, disrupted by organisational reform and characterised by shifting central narratives and structural barriers, including funding constraints and organisational silos. Despite this, local initiatives, including multi-agency collaboration and diversion from prosecution to support services, sustain elements of a public health model. However, various conditions need to change to embed preventative, health-oriented approaches systematically.

Drug Checking

Professor Fiona Measham, University of Liverpool

'Drug checking' is a health service which combines chemical analysis of surrendered substances of concern with tailored healthcare consultations for the purpose of harm reduction and has existed for over 60 years globally and for nearly 10 years in the UK.

In this presentation the progress of drug checking in the UK is summarised, from its introduction at festivals in 2016, assisted by strong support from police, press, the public and parents, through to regular Home Office-licensed drug checking services launching in cities across the UK in 2026.

Alongside growing evidence of effectiveness at reducing drug-related harm in drug using communities, drug checking also can shed light on the relationship between illegal drug markets, user/dealer interactions and policing. The wider challenges can be further explored regarding delivering rapid and accurate risk communications in a high profile, politically, legally and commercially sensitive environment and dependent on alignment of policy and practice in multi agency partnerships.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING: CONSIDERING PREVENTATIVE AND HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES IN PRACTICE

Understanding Police Led Drug Diversion for People Caught in Possession of Controlled Drugs: A Realist Programme Theory Based on a Large, Mixed Methods Evaluation in England

Professor Mark Monaghan, Loughborough University

This paper develops a refined programme theory based on a large realist evaluation of police drug diversion (PDD) schemes for people caught in possession of controlled drugs in England. PDD schemes for drug possession divert eligible people away from criminalisation and prosecution into an educative intervention that does not create a criminal record. Our realist evaluation was based on an evidence-informed provisional programme theory. To test and develop this theory, we used qualitative data from 221 participants in qualitative interviews and focus groups across three police forces. We also used data on 32,435 incidents over involving 29,917 individuals for cases of drug possession, linking data from police forces records, the National Drug Treatment System and the Police National Computer. These data showed that PDD was associated with lower risk of reoffending, both at the level of police forces with PDD schemes and individuals who were diverted.

Our refined programme theory examines how PDD schemes work, for whom, and under what conditions. Our findings suggest that schemes addressing simple drug possession offences should be of low intensity, optimally operating through potential causal pathways which enable people to avoid the harms of criminalisation. For some participants, the experience of police contact prompts immediate behavioural change due to shock; for others, brief educational input supports reflection on drug use, future opportunities, and wider harms triggering more consequentialist reflection. These impacts are strongest when police discretion is used consistently, triage is proportionate, and the intervention is delivered in a procedurally fair, respectful manner. PDD schemes for drug possession can support reduced reoffending when diversion is timely, credible, and supports participants' readiness to engage. However, diversionary interventions may not be necessary or suitable for all people who possess controlled drugs.

INTERAGENCY WORKING IN CUSTODY

Interagency Collaboration in Police Custody: The good, the bad and the ugly

Dr Gethin Rees, Newcastle University

Healthcare Professionals have been practising within police custody suites in England and Wales for over 20 years, providing healthcare support to detained persons. Over that period, as a professional group they have developed an important role for themselves, enabling interagency collaboration with the police Custody Sergeants and the Detention Officers. Based on the ESRC funded project “What is Equivalence in Police Custody Healthcare”, here I will show the ways that those relationships have developed as well as some of the consequences. Using interagency collaboration as a jumping off point to discuss some of the other findings of the project, I will show the ways that the funding structure of healthcare in police custody is resulting in Custody Sergeants feeling increasingly at risk of adverse health events (leading to substantial rises in ambulance call-outs), and also further reproducing and reinforcing stigmatised practices, attitudes and beliefs about detainees, producing further harm. The presentation will end with some recommendations for how to further improve collaboration, reduce risk, and most importantly challenge stigmatised attitudes and practices.

Trauma knowledge and police custody practice; a qualitative study

Dr Karen Goodall, Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, University of Edinburgh

Trauma is an integral characteristic of police custody, as people detained in custody frequently have lived experience of trauma, while detention in custody has the potential to re-traumatise. This study set out to examine how knowledge about trauma interacts with day-to-day interactions in custody. It capitalised on a single custody suite where all staff had received NHS-approved trauma training. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with custody officers and civilian staff (n = 16), senior officers (n = 4) and keyworkers from an aligned support service (n = 3).

Thematic analysis was used to generate themes indicating that trauma awareness was linked to: Identifying root causes of behaviour, empowering speaking up and positioning police custody as an opportunity for intervention. Barriers to effective working included: public perceptions of police; individual differences in motivation and attitude towards referral and systemic barriers to inter-agency working.

INTERAGENCY WORKING IN CUSTODY

Moving Beyond ‘Divided Households’: developing whole system support for children and young people impacted by family justice-involvement

Dr Steph Scott, Newcastle University

Growing up in a household where someone has spent time in prison is an Adverse Childhood Experience. However, until recently, this population of children and young people have received very little policy and research attention, particularly in the UK, rendering them unseen and unheard. Based on an ESRC and NIHR funded programme of work, this presentation will first give voice to children and young people’s experiences of family imprisonment. I will unpack profound impacts to children and young people’s wellbeing including anxiety, concealment of circumstances and grief. Meanwhile, children and young people also discussed feeling unsupported and stigmatised by professional organisations, with this work highlighting that support received tended to come from outside of the justice system. The presentation will conclude with next steps including how we’ve begun to harness this work in continued partnership with the sector to foster a broader understanding of having a justice-involved family member, spanning arrest to release, as well as community punishment, in order to develop a whole system approach to best support children and young people’s health and care needs.

EVENT CHAIRS



Professor Layla Skinns is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Sheffield. A leading academic in the field of police detention, over the last 15 years Professor Skinns has led large police custody projects funded by the British Academy, the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Economic and Social Research Council. The most recent of these is the ‘good’ police custody study, which sought to ‘robustly’ examine what is meant by ‘good’ police custody and to instigate changes to police custody policies and practices in England and Wales. Her recent publications include *Police Powers and Citizens’ Rights* (Routledge, 2019) and *Criminal Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2021). In addition to her role with N8 PRP, Professor Skinns is Director of the Centre for Criminological Research and Deputy Director of Research for Knowledge Exchange and Impact at the University of Sheffield.



Dr Andrew Wooff is Director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and Associate Professor of Criminology at Edinburgh Napier University, where he also leads the Social Sciences subject group. His research explores the everyday realities of policing, with particular interests in rural policing, police custody, vulnerability, volunteering in policing, and partnership working. He has published widely across criminology and policing journals and has led a range of projects with policing and community partners. Andrew is committed to fostering collaboration between academics, practitioners, and policy-makers, ensuring that high-quality research supports the development of evidence-based policing in Scotland and beyond.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Gary Ritchie is a senior public safety leader with over 30 years of policing experience, known for his strategic command, public-health-led approaches, and leadership in national resilience planning. Gary joined Strathclyde Police in 1991, where he held roles including Chief Inspector Area Commander and Superintendent, helping shape divisional structures and community policing models during the creation of Police Scotland.

He later served in major command roles in Edinburgh and Dumfries and Galloway and became Assistant Chief Constable in 2019. As director of Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing, he advanced public-health approaches to reduce harm and support vulnerable communities.

As head of Drug Strategy, he authored Police Scotland's first dedicated drug strategy and led Scotland to become the world's first nation to equip all frontline officers with Naloxone, contributing to hundreds of life-saving overdose interventions. He subsequently headed the Operational Support directorate and chaired the Scottish Resilience Partnership, advising the First Minister on emergency preparedness.

Ritchie is currently a Visiting Professor at Napier University and sits on the boards of Cranstoun and the Cross-Sector Security Communications charity.

PANEL

COMMUNITY WELLBEING: CONSIDERING PREVENTATIVE AND HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES IN PRACTICE



Professor Liz Aston is a Professor of Criminology at Edinburgh Napier University. Her expertise centres on local policing and her current research focuses on technology in policing, and the intersect between policing and drugs. In 2021 Liz was awarded an ESRC Open Call Grant as Principal Investigator for [the INTERACT project](#). In addition she is a Co-Investigator on the EPSRC-funded [3PO](#) project and on the [Scottish Drug Checking project](#).

Liz has a strong record of collaborative research on policing both in Scotland and in Europe and is experienced in knowledge exchange and building research-practitioner relationships. In 2020 she was appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to establish and Chair an [Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing](#).

Liz is the co-editor of [Palgrave's Critical Policing Studies Series](#) and sits on a number of governance and advisory boards, including for the [ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre](#), Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and Police Scotland's Drug Strategy Board. Prior to her SIPR role, she was Head of Social Sciences at Edinburgh Napier University.

PANEL**COMMUNITY WELLBEING: CONSIDERING PREVENTATIVE AND HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES IN PRACTICE**

Professor Fiona Measham is Chair in Criminology at the University of Liverpool and has been an academic for over 35 years, researching trends in alcohol and other drugs, drug markets, drug policy, harm reduction, and the wider socio-cultural contexts to consumption.

In the policy field, Fiona has been a UK government advisor continuously since 2008, serving on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, for ten years on Council and subsequently as a permanent member of two ACMD standing committees. She has participated in multiple select committees and expert panels and is a founding member of the Drug Science drug policy think tank. Most recently Fiona sat on the London Nightlife Taskforce Advisory Board and currently the EUDA EU QUALITY International Advisory Board.

Fiona founded The Loop in 2012, a harm reduction charity best known for introducing drug checking in the UK in 2016. She continues to champion approaches that promote informed choice, reduced stigma, and a broadening of our understanding of drugs and their impact.

PANEL**COMMUNITY WELLBEING: CONSIDERING PREVENTATIVE AND HARM REDUCTION APPROACHES IN PRACTICE**

Professor Mark Monaghan is a Professor of Criminology at Loughborough University, UK where he is Head of the Department of Criminology, Sociology and Social Policy. Mark's research primarily concentrates on the turbulent relationship between evidence, science, research and policy formulation. From 2022 – 2024 Mark was a Parliamentary Academic Fellow in the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology and from 2025 to 2026 he was a Ministry of Justice Improving Outcomes Fellow funded by UKRI. Mark is currently a co-Investigator on the Cabinet Office Funded Project looking at Police-Lead Drug Diversion Schemes with colleagues from the College of Policing, Open University and the Universities of Kent and Sheffield. Mark is also a co-Investigator on an NIHR funded project undertaking a Realist Evaluation of Lived Experience Recovery Organisations (LEROs) as part of the Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery System in England and Wales.

PANEL
INTERAGENCY WORKING IN CUSTODY

Dr Gethin Rees is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Newcastle University. His research focuses on the intersection of healthcare and criminal justice, whether that is embodied in healthcare professionals who work in criminal justice contexts (e.g. police stations and prisons), or scientific and/or medical experts presenting evidence in criminal trials. His current projects include the ESRC-funded [What is Equivalence in Police Custody Healthcare](#) and a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship, *Forensic Medicine: A Sociological Analysis*. Dr Rees is the co-founder of the Comparative Analysis in Rape Research Network (CAiRRN), an interdisciplinary collection of scholars interested in the treatment of rape victims by criminal justice personnel.

PANEL INTERAGENCY WORKING IN CUSTODY



Dr Iain McKinnon is an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer in Psychiatry at Newcastle University and a Consultant Psychiatrist in Cumbria Northumberland Tyne and Wear (CNTW) NHS Foundation Trust. His work specialises in the intersections between forensic mental health, vulnerable populations, and the criminal justice system, with a particular interest in multimorbidity. His work has shaped police custody healthcare in the UK, including the development of new screening procedures and interventions for people with complex health needs. He has held major NIHR and ESRC awards, and currently leads the NIHR-funded PIONEER-MH study on police involvement in crisis mental health pathways. Over the past decade he has secured more than £3m in research funding.

He co-leads the Mental Health, Dementia and Neurodegeneration Theme in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and mentors clinicians in developing research careers. Clinically, he is a Consultant Psychiatrist in secure services at CNTW, where he has led significant service redevelopment and quality improvement initiatives. He also contributes to national and European professional bodies, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the European Association of Mental Health and Intellectual Disability.

PANEL
INTERAGENCY WORKING IN CUSTODY

Dr Karen Goodall is currently Senior Lecturer in the department of Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. Karen is a developmental psychologist working in attachment, ACEs and trauma. She has a particular interest in trauma-informed policing. Recent projects include a case study of trauma in police custody, evaluations of officer perceptions of ACEs and trauma-informed approaches and the development of an attachment-informed relational workshop for police. She is a member of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research.

PANEL INTERAGENCY WORKING IN CUSTODY



Dr Steph Scott is a Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University. She is a social scientist with inter-disciplinary expertise across applied public health, sociology and criminology and holds a Trustee role with the charity NE Youth. Steph has secured research income with a total value of over £23 million (£3 million as PI), including the recent award of two prestigious ESRC grants and a forthcoming NIHR career fellowship award. Her research focuses on health and care inequalities within the criminal justice system and spans four strands: (1) family justice-involvement; (2) integration of health, care and justice systems; (3) vulnerability, victimhood and marginalisation; and (4) methodological innovation in health and justice research. Methodologically, Steph is a highly experienced qualitative researcher with particular expertise in advanced qualitative skills such as longitudinal methods; co-created and equitable data collection and analysis; ethics and care; and visual or creative methodologies such as diary elicitation and poetry.

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE



Dr Inga Heyman is an Associate Professor in Policing and Public Health at Edinburgh Napier University. She is a dual registered adult and mental health nurse, and qualitative researcher, with a clinical, educational, and research career spanning over 45 years across Australia and Scotland.

Her professional practice, teaching, and research focus is on the intersection of policing and public health. This work is underpinned by clinical experience across a wide range of health, policing, and public protection services, including substance use harm reduction, police custody healthcare, and emergency mental health care.

Most recently, Inga led the evaluation of the national consensus statements between Emergency Services and Public Health from the perspective of system leaders. She works with a range of national and international partners in an advisory capacity, supporting the development of policy, practice, and research.

Inga is an Honorary Forensic Nurse Consultant, a Fellow of the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association, and an Honorary Member of the UK Faculty of Public Health. She enjoys a strong and ongoing affiliation with the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and Police Scotland.

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE



Stacey Day is the Clinical Director for Mitie Care & Custody with a strong focus on innovation in police custody healthcare. A registered nurse and advanced practitioner, Stacey has worked in forensic healthcare since 2015 and brings extensive experience across custody, sexual assault services, and complex mental health care. Her quality improvement work centres on designing practical solutions to improve safety, consistency and outcomes for vulnerable individuals in custody. Currently, Stacey is leading the development and pilot of a structured HCP pre-release suicide risk assessment framework in partnership with Dyfed-Powys Police. The project is aiming to strengthen decision-making at the point of release, improve communication between healthcare professionals and custody staff, and reduce variation in HCP risk assessment practices. Alongside her innovation work, Stacey contributes to national guidance through her roles with the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine, advocating for evidence-based practice and collaborative approaches to complex risk in custodial environments.

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE



Claire Danskin is the Clinical Nurse Manager for Forensic Healthcare across Southeast Scotland, a service delivered through the Royal Edinburgh Hospital's REAS. In this role, she provides senior clinical leadership at the interface of healthcare, justice, and social care, working in collaboration with Police Scotland, local authority social work services, and the Scottish Government to strengthen and develop healthcare provision for individuals in police custody and for victims of rape and sexual assault.

Claire holds a Masters by Research in Mental Health and Counselling, with her dissertation examining nurses' attitudes toward risk and approaches to risk assessment. She applies this specialist expertise to advance evidence-based, trauma-informed practice within forensic healthcare. Claire also serves as a Visiting Fellow at Napier University, contributing to research, academic development, and the advancement of professional practice across the forensic and mental health fields.

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE



Jason Kew is Senior Practice Specialist at the Centre for Justice Innovation. A retired Detective Chief Inspector and former Thames Valley Police Drug Strategy Lead, he is an NPCC Expert Adviser, Honorary Member of the Faculty of Public Health, and Berkshire Combating Drugs Partnership Coordinator. He works nationally and internationally — including with the UNODC — on harm reduction, pre-arrest diversion, and criminal justice reform, and holds visiting academic roles at the University of South Wales and Queen Mary's University London.

INNOVATION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE



Emma Tuschick is a doctoral candidate, lecturer, and research associate in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Law at Teesside University. Her research focuses on community reintegration for men convicted of sexual offenses, as well as suicide risk in this population. She has a background in forensic psychology and has previously worked in prisons.



Dr Martha Canfield is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Glasgow Caledonian University. Her primary research interests focus on substance use, particularly its intersection with mental health, social determinants of health, and the wider impact of these co-occurring issues on families and society. Underpinning her research is a commitment to improving services, policy and outcomes for people in vulnerable and marginalised situations. Martha has an established international research profile. Her work supports cross-cultural research collaboration and contributes to the global understanding of substance use and related health inequalities.

INNOVATION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

Dr Laura Naegler is a criminologist in the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology at the University of Liverpool. Her research expertise lies within the areas of neurodiversity in the criminal justice system, social justice and policing responses, the interplays between urban control and forms of localised political governance regulation, and mixed, unclear and fluid forms of extremism at points of intersection with male supremacist and far-right ideologies.



Dr Shelly Walker is a social science researcher and Research Fellow at the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, based in Melbourne, Australia. She has a background in nursing, youth work, and community development. Her research is focused on understanding the lived experiences of criminalised and marginalised populations, including young people, people who use drugs, and people with experiences of incarceration. She is particularly interested in research that centres lived experience and contributes to evidence-informed policy and practice change. Shelley is currently leading a nationally funded research project examining young people's experiences of police custody across the Australian jurisdictions of Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia. Her study aims to generate new understandings of police custody as a largely hidden and under-examined site of detention, and to inform evidence-based responses that improve the human rights, care and safety of young people held there.

N8 POLICING RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

N8 PRP is an academic-police collaboration that champions, enables, and supports research taking on the challenges of 21st century policing.

N8 PRP was established by the N8 Research Partnership. It is a collaboration between 8 research intensive universities and 11 police forces in the North of England who work together to champion, enable, and support policing research and its impact.

To find out more about our work, visit:



n8prp.org.uk



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