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Altogether Better Policing

Restorative Approaches and Organised Crime Groups

N8 Staff Exchange Launch
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What we will talk about today

- ▶ Our Research: what we did and what we found out; we will also focus on what we intend to do next
 - ▶ How we went about forming the partnership between Durham Constabulary and the University of Sheffield
 - ▶ We also want to share some of our personal reflections with you
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Research Overview

- ▶ N8 Police Research Partnership
 - People Exchange Strand
- ▶ Exploratory study examining applicability of RA to OCGs: interviewing offenders, victims and expert RA practitioners
 - ‘Opening the door’ to this area of research.
- ▶ February 2016 – July 2016
 - Fieldwork carried out between March and June.

Methodology

- Literature review
 - Interviews with 16 OCG participants
 - Drug dealing, economic crime, human trafficking/CSE, environmental crime and high value commercial/dwelling thefts
 - Interviews with 13 victims of OCG activities
 - Victims of domestic burglaries, theft of sheep, assault and one corporate victim
 - Consultation with 14 expert RA practitioners
 - Two preliminary case studies
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OCG Nominal Interviews

▶ **Headline Findings**

- Nearly all interviewees indicate **willingness** to take part in RA (to apologise, provide reassurances and gain insight into impact to prevent reoffending and be accepted into community)
- However – several express doubt as to whether RA is applicable to their offending as belief that **there is no victim/”victimless crime**; some felt victims would have **“nothing to lose” by taking part**
- Evidence of **minimisation** of responsibility of offending, though some statements showed empathy
- **Case by case approach** may be most suitable going forward

OCG VICTIM INTERVIEWS



OCG Victim Interviews

▶ **Headline Findings**

- Interviewees considerably more **reluctant** (than offenders) to consider entering into RA process but timing is important; where willing, motivation centred around **Why Me questions and protection of assets**
- Several expressed scepticism of benefit of RA when dealing with **'career criminals'** but felt would work with juveniles who had committed low-level offences
- Concern regarding other OCG offenders who are still living in community/neighbourhood – **fear of reprisals**
- As with OCG nominals, **case by case approach** may be most appropriate

Expert Practitioner Consultation

▶ Headline Findings

- Broad enthusiasm for expansion of RA to new contexts (innovation) but evidence of **professional discomfort**
- Belief that RA *could* work with OCG nominals in the same ways it works with other types of offenders
- Concerns expressed about safety and vulnerability of victims including **re-victimisation** highlighted
- Specific, **tailored training and sound safeguarding** practice emphasized as key to making this work

Case Study: RA Conference

- ▶ Model Developed for pilot case

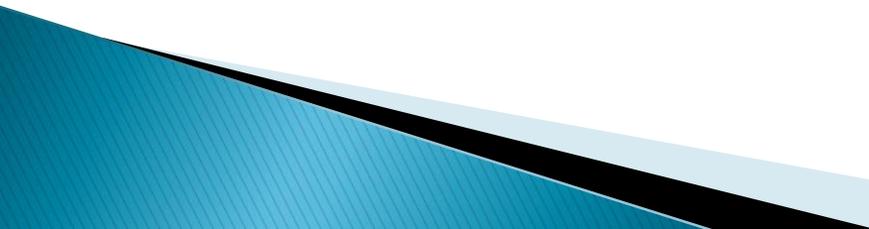


some key differences between RA in OCG context and non-OCG context i.e. due to risk to offender(s) and specialised nature of risk assessment arising due to membership of an OCG as well as specific victim vulnerabilities

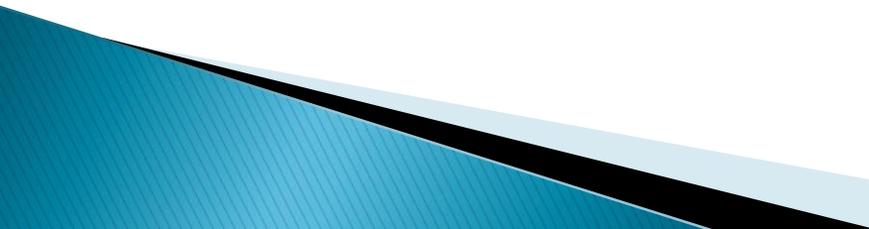
Strategic and Operational Implications

- Evidence of both offenders and victims showing willingness to participate in RA but **significant preparatory work** necessary with both sides
 - Development of **tailored training** essential to prepare practitioners for unique nature of offending and victimhood in context of OCG activities
 - **How officers inform victims of RA** about the detail of the approach may be significant (use of language)
 - **How police define the IP** is significant
 - **Case by case approach** most appropriate at this stage
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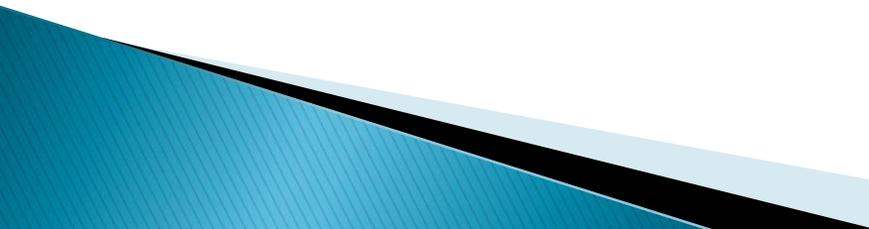
How did we go about it? Part 1

- ▶ Idea endorsed by CC and HO and accepted by N8 partnership under the human exchange strand
 - ▶ Advert for an academic partner
 - ▶ Lining up our ducks before the commencement of the pilot – what we actually did as part of the preparatory work prior to the start of the pilot
 - ▶ Vetting for academic partner
 - ▶ Applying for ethics approval from Durham Constabulary and University of Sheffield
 - ▶ Forming an Advisory Panel – how we chose members who could provide specialist expertise
 - ▶ Funding – how we prepared a draft budget sheet with anticipated expenditure
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How did we go about it? Part 2

- ▶ Literature Review
 - ▶ Designing the schedules, calling on the established Advisory Panel – methods of engagement with members
 - ▶ Selecting the Samples – calling on local partners to assist
 - ▶ MoJ application for approval and access – formal access gateways
 - ▶ Access to the prison population of OCG members
 - ▶ Access to victims in the community
 - ▶ Access to expert practitioners
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How did we go about it? Part 3

- ▶ Piloting the questionnaires with one offender, one victim and one expert i.e. one from each sample group
 - ▶ Making changes based on the piloting of surveys
 - ▶ Interviews using PACE machine in prison, dictaphone at home and business addresses and e-surveys/telephone interviews with experts
 - ▶ Transcription services
 - ▶ Analysis of Findings – currently underway
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So What's Next?

- ❑ Finalising the Analysis
- ❑ Joint blogs on the N8 website
- ❑ Dissemination of Research via co-presentations and Publications on joint basis—informing academic debates and inspiring further research
- ❑ Influencing Policing Practices and contributing to evidence-based policing



Our Reflections

What would we do the same?
What would we do differently?

What did we enjoy the least?
What did we enjoy the most?

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Any Questions?