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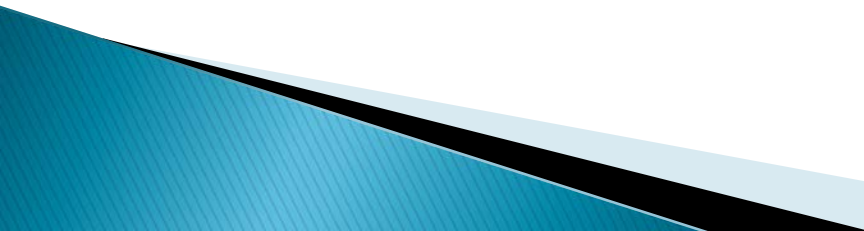
*Altogether Better Policing*

# Restorative Approaches and Serious & Organised Crime Offending

N8 PRP Summer School  
Celebrating Research and its Impact on Policing  
Lancaster University  
4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Nikki D'Souza, Durham Constabulary and  
University of Sheffield

# The Path to this Innovative Research

- ▶ Recognition that there was a significant gap in service provision and not meeting obligations under the Victims Code (2015)
  - ▶ Led to time-limited pilot project under Staff Exchange Scheme of the N8 Research Partnership with Dr. Xavier L'Hoiry from the University of Sheffield to “open the door” to this area of research; perception study interviewing offenders, victims and experts
  - ▶ Directly influenced embarking on PhD path
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# N8 Pilot: OCG Offender Interviews x 16

- ❖ Interviewees show evidence of understanding values and concepts of RA
- ❖ Nearly all interviewees indicate willingness to take part in RA expressing
  - a desire to apologise to victim
  - to address victim fears about being personally targeted
  - to dissuade them from future offending and
  - help forge a pathway towards re-integration into society
- ❖ However – several express doubt as to whether RA is applicable to their offending with some evidence of minimisation of responsibility and struggles to identify tangible victims or recognise impact on community

# N8 Pilot: OCG VICTIM INTERVIEWS



## N8 Pilot: OCG Victim Interviews x 13

- ▶ Interviewees considerably more reluctant (than offenders) to consider entering into RA processes though timing is significant.
- ▶ This was due to
  1. *perceived* nature of organised crime
  2. belief that it would not be possible to find offenders willing to participate
  3. belief that RA would not work with ‘career criminals’ but would work with juveniles/low-level offenders
  4. concerns about reprisals and
  5. fact that other offenders are still living in community/neighbourhood.
- ▶ Nevertheless, some level of willingness to try

## N8 Pilot: Expert Practitioner Consultation x 15

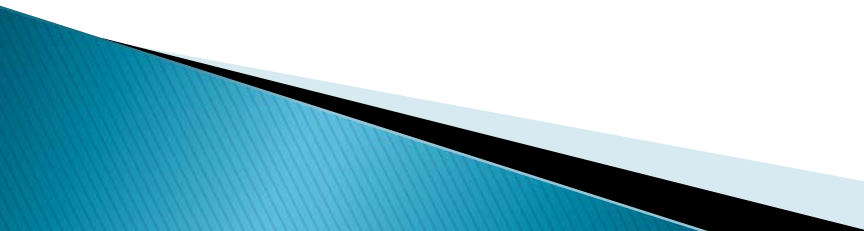
- Broad enthusiasm for expansion of RA to new contexts (innovation) and flexible nature of RA celebrated but evidence of professional discomfort
- Belief that RA *could* work with OCG nominals in the same ways it works with other types of offenders
- Concerns expressed about safety and vulnerability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

# Case Study: Shuttle Mediation



- ▶ Model Developed for pilot case (fraud and money laundering) to test RJ suitability to serious and organised crime offending
- ▶ Form of videotaped shuttle mediation deployed
- ▶ All parties reported positive experiences arising from the event
- ▶ Specifically, all three victims (aged 60s – 80s) expressed closure and appreciation of opportunity
- ▶ Case study has limitations but demonstrates possibilities

# PhD Progress so far

1. How do we know that this is really innovative – are there examples of practice within the English and Welsh forces? National Survey – 76% response rate
  2. What do SOC experts think? National Survey with 36 police SOC experts (from 32 force areas and 3 regional organised crime units)
  3. Also the views of 17 more RJ experts to build on the N8 pilot
  4. Interviewed 12 OCG offenders across 7 prisons
  5. Interviewed 5 offenders in the community across 3 force areas
  6. Interviewed 6 victims (mostly elderly), all for experiences of fraud across 3 force areas
  7. 8 case studies
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Thank you

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