

N8 Policing Research Partnership: Innovation Forum on Cybercrime

Market Place Discussions

1. Understanding, Defining and Resourcing Cyber-Crime

The Research Idea	Deepen our understanding of online harassment to enable action to prevent it occurring and work with stakeholders to respond appropriately (range of qual and quant measures identified)
Stakeholders	
Resources Required	
Funding Sources	
Key contacts from Innovation Forum	GMP – Paul White Leeds University – David Wall WYP – Vanessa Smith York University – Kelly Benneworth-Grey College of Policing – Frank Pike Leeds Beckett University – Emlyn Butterfield
Next Steps/Who will do What and When?	

Rapporteur Notes:

- **What is the nature of cybercrime?**

Police will investigate the harm and risk of crime not specifically the ‘cyber’ aspect of the crime. The onus is on the harm and risk not cyber. This allows police to prioritise; as a result police deal with those cybercrimes which have higher levels of harm and risk.

- **Cybercrime resources need to be divided in to:**

- a) The ability of the police to find evidence of crime
- b) The ability of the police to prevent cyber crime

- **There is too much onus on the word ‘cyber’. Cybercrime is an undefined type of mass.**

This can lead to a stretching of resources when the crimes can be dealt with using existing practices of investigation within the police. For example if an individual was being harassed over the internet via Facebook. The police would investigate the harassment aspect of the complaint; the investigation would not have to be put through to a specialist unit that deals with cybercrime.

- **Does it create confusion if you have specialised cybercrime units?**

New recruits into the police are of the digital age so knowledge and awareness of cybercrime will eventually move into mainstream policing but how do we facilitate this?

Notes for main research question from session

- **Explore the different areas of cybercrime – choose one to explore in more detail – the group were keen to focus on online harassment and bullying**
 - Explore victim experiences of harassment and also how police deal with reported incidents.
 - Examine ‘triggers’ and patterns of harassment, repeat offending/targeting etc.

- Explore which agencies deal with harassment cases and if the police, victims etc. utilise the support these agencies can offer.
 - Map police experience of dealing with cybercrime against those of victim (this links back to point from morning discussion relating to how police view cybercrime and is it part of their remit).
 - Define problem from police perspective and how much time and cost is involved to investigate a reported incident.
 - Generate a deeper understanding of the crime type and MO so we can then move to the use of situational crime prevention, i.e. 'designing out' the crime where possible, and putting pressure on site hosts etc.
- **Need to evidence type of cybercrime using both quantitative and qualitative methods.**

Devise a catalogue to evidence base for example cyber harassment. This will assist in identifying the issues around this type of cybercrime, what are the commonalities of victims and which preventative strategies can be used.

Qualitative data

- Conversations with victims – offences range from common teenage behaviour to serious harassment and stalking
- Understanding elements of reporting – why some cases are and some aren't
- Qualitative analysis of examples – screen grabs, snapchats, texts etc. – what does the harassment 'look like'?
- Victim and police officer stories – and offender stories if possible

Quantitative data

- Link to the work of West Yorks – Vanessa Smith
- Operational data fields from police forces to see what is flagged (and identify gaps).

Re Qualitative -One way of combining both victim and police accounts would be to map victims of cybercrime experiences through the criminal justice process from initial report to the police, to the court case if possible. Alongside this speak to investigating officers, cps and other support agencies involved in those cases. This would allow the locating of other agencies involved and which areas could be improved for victims, police and the CPS. Few case studies to show all sides.

Those interested in being involved in the research (contact details in conference details):

Paul White, Greater Manchester Police

Professor David Wall, University of Leeds

Vanessa White, West Yorkshire Police

Kelly Benneworth-Gray – University of York

Frank Pike (or colleague) – College of Policing (Centre for What Works)

Emlyn Butterfield, Leeds Beckett University

Also link to: Get Safe Online (Government Funded) and Cyber Streetwise Campaign