

Local Approaches to Policing: a Police Community Relations sandpit

Thursday 7th June 2018, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh
Outreach Centre, Holyrood Road

Local Approaches to Policing (LAP) is an ambitious and diverse programme of work being developed by Police Scotland in pursuance of Policing 2026. It seeks to encourage creative and evidence-based practice both at the level of front-line local service delivery, and in relation to the support and call handling systems that provide essential support for that work. LAP provides the focus for this sandpit event and for the Collaborative Project funding call that is attached to it.

The sandpit has two main **objectives**:

- It is about continuing to renew and refresh relationships and networks between researchers, police and partner practitioners who share interests in local policing and police community relations. It is also about creating new relationships and welcoming and including new people (and disciplines) who wish to become involved in the network.
- It is about facilitating academic-police-practitioner conversations around questions of mutual interest that directly connect with the LAP programme. Sandpits are not talking shops. They are designed so that participants can identify other researchers and practitioners with similar interests and begin conversations that lead to tangible research activities for which they can submit proposals to the Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Fund (see below).

There are eight themes/areas of work that have been identified through dialogue with the LAP team as being of particular interest:

ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) is a trauma informed approach to public health aimed at improving life chances of young people, particularly vulnerable young people. How this approach might be rolled out, existing practice benchmarked, and future work evaluated is a LAP priority;

The Contact Assessment Model (CAM) is the process through which first point of service contacts from the public are assessed and police assets allocated to respond. Development of this process and use of risk assessment tools to identify risk, harm and vulnerability that can inform best targeting of police resources is also a priority. Specifically there is interest in the THRIVE (Threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability, engagement) model used elsewhere in the UK;

Schools-based officers' projects involve the police working in partnership with local schools. Evidence of how different kinds of approach (adoption of a narrower 'law enforcement' focus, or a broader welfare or pastoral focus), and different kinds of activities within them, work and benefit young people, how such partnership working arrangements work, and evidence of 'good practice' are of particular interest;

Special constables are volunteer members of the public who receive training, carry police powers, and provide important police service to their communities in both urban and rural setting. There is a general need for evaluation of Specials and their work. In particular there is interest in: mapping of existing activity; evidence of their effectiveness in in both response and community policing roles, including partnership activities; and exploration of the links between the Special Constabulary and pathways into Police Scotland;



Partnership crisis response models to mental health and distress is an emerging partnership between Police Scotland, the NHS and the Scottish Ambulance Service. It reflects recognition of the fact that an increasing amount of police business has a mental health dimension and that sharing expertise across these sectors is a vital part of providing vulnerable members of the public with appropriate service. The LAP team are interested in hearing about any international evidence in this field that might support development of practice in Scotland. The development and evaluation of pilot work would also be of interest;

Public confidence and satisfaction are key aims of local policing. A confident public is a public that is more likely to engage with the police and communicate problems that are happening. Drivers of public confidence and satisfaction (e.g. social media use; procedural justice approaches; information campaigns) and support in evaluating them are ongoing areas of work in the LAP team;

Impact and Effectiveness of Response Policing. Academic research has regularly explored the impact and effectiveness of Community and Neighbourhood Policing but what impact and influence do dedicated Response Officers have on communities across Scotland?

Centralism and localism. How does Police Scotland provide central services, direction and stability while empowering Local Leaders, Officers and Communities to focus on local needs across remote, rural and urban communities?

Participants **must** align any contributions (see below) to one of these themes/areas of work. However, the characterizations of them here are merely to provide some prompts as to how they might be explored further and are by no means exhaustive. The sandpit welcomes the introduction of new, challenging dimensions of these issues as well as approaches that draw on empirical findings and/or theoretical insights.

The sandpit: approach and organisation

The sandpit is open to all members of the SIPR network and all practitioners and organisations with an interest in the themes of the LAP programme. The idea is for the agenda to be open, and for there to be maximum opportunities for similarly minded participants to share ideas.

If you would like to participate, please register, by Friday 25th May, using the SIPR website at:
http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/sandpit_080618.php or contact Tim Heilbronn
(t.d.heilbronn@dundee.ac.uk)

When registering please be sure to include your **institutional affiliation** and what **particular theme/area of work you have a specific interest in**. All participants (academic and practitioner) will be asked to provide a **5 minute 'pitch'** of their field of interest/expertise and/or of any specific research ideas that they would actively like to share and engage potential collaborators with. In order to assist with the organisation of the event around participants' own contributions we urge you to *inform organisers at least 48 hrs in advance if it becomes apparent that you will not be able to attend*.

Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Funding

As noted, a key objective of the sandpit is that it should stimulate connections and ideas that can be taken forward and actioned beyond the sandpit itself. It is envisaged that there will be tangible outcomes and outputs that result from the sandpit. SIPR will award Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Funding grants to support ongoing activity that emerges from the sandpit. An in-exhaustive list of the kinds of thing that could be supported through these grants includes:

- A systematic review of evidence on a given topic & a process for promoting its use

- Series of workshops designed to disseminate existing research and/or forge links between different partners
- Practitioner fellowships and/or support for internships across agencies
- Small-scale collaborative research projects
- Scoping work designed as a precursor to a larger external funding bid or collaborative research studentship application
- Larger pieces of new research and evaluation tailored to the LAP programme

There is a pot of **£100k** attached to this competitive call for Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Funding. **Awards of up to £20k will be made for larger pieces of new research or evaluation.** Applications for smaller relevant projects will also be warmly welcomed. Grant application forms will be available through the SIPR website prior to the sandpit so that potential applicants can start working on ideas in advance. The forms set out clearly the **criteria that applications will be expected to meet.**

Applications should be submitted to Tim Heilbronn, SIPR Business & KT Manager (t.d.heilbronn@dundee.ac.uk) by **Friday 28th September 2018**. These timelines are designed to allow potential collaborators to continue or start working together on proposals over the summer. Strong evidence of collaboration (across disciplines or Universities, and/or involving police or partners) will be expected. All applications will be reviewed by the SIPR Executive Committee, the Police Community Relations Brokering Team, and externally appointed reviewers. Awards will be announced in October/early November 2018, with the expectation that projects would normally commence shortly afterwards, and before the close of the calendar year at the latest.

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