

National Policing Improvement Agency Research Programme



The work of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) Research Programme informs the development of policing policy and practice by providing a valid and reliable evidence base for policing development and improvement. The programme contributes to the growth and use of the evidence base on policing issues by:

- Providing advice and support on the generation and use of research evidence in policing;
- Synthesising the available evidence to explicit standards;
- Carrying out and commissioning rigorous social research.

The research programme is structured under six subject teams with an additional two teams undertaking cross-cutting work that seeks to improve the quality and use of data and evidence across the police service. The subject areas reflect the NPIA policing priorities but the programme is designed to be flexible and the teams are able also to respond to requests for quick turnaround projects on new priority areas. The research teams are described with an overview of some of the work undertaken in each area. For general questions about social research in the NPIA, please contact the acting programme manager, Nerys Thomas, tel: +44 (0)20 7147 8440 or email: nerys.thomas@npia.pnn.police.uk

RESEARCH TEAMS

Citizen Focused Policing is concerned with public confidence and trust, and user satisfaction. The current and recent research includes:

- A large-scale programme of research looking at the impact that information about crime and policing has on public perceptions;
- Ongoing research to strengthen the evidence base around public confidence, and to understand how it shapes the legitimacy of the police;
- The development of a survey template to enable forces to measure the orientation of their workforce towards 'citizen focus'.

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Efficiency and Productivity is concerned with issues related to maximising the use of available policing resources. The current and recent research includes:

- A project exploring the use of analysis and analysts in police forces to inform the development of a strategy for intelligence and performance analysis in the police service. The objectives of the research were to assist forces to use their analytical functions to best effect; and to determine the structures they would need to have in place to support the future development of analysis and analysts;
- Providing support and advice to the evaluation of the impact of equipping frontline officers with mobile devices on outcomes such as the time that officers can spend out of the station.;
- Advising on the evaluation of the Equality Standard, which aims to integrate effective equality activity into all police force's business processes, to examine how well the Standard is being implemented in pilot forces and identify good practice/challenges faced in implementing the Standard.

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Investigations and Intelligence is concerned with criminal justice issues and effective police use of intelligence. The current and recent research includes:

- Evaluations of the effectiveness of bureaucracy cutting measures such as Streamlined Process and proportionate crime recording and investigation.;
- Provision of research options to assess the contribution of CCTV to investigations;
- Development of the investigation knowledge base through systematic literature searches ranging from identifying the support offered to witnesses, to what works in serious crime investigations.

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People and Development is concerned with leadership and police workforce issues. The current and recent research includes:

- Rapid evidence assessments on performance appraisal processes and career progression of under-represented groups;
- Rapid evidence assessment and cases study work on work-based assessment;
- Survey on police practices to promote equality, diversity and human rights;
- Data analysis on representation, progression and high potential of graduates in the police;
- Systematic searching on leadership competencies, behaviours, development programmes and succession planning in order to inform the development of a research programme on leadership in the police service.
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Protective Services is focused on collaboration between forces to fill gaps in dealing with cross force border issues such as serious crime and roads policing. The current and recent research includes:

- An evaluation of the Protective Services Demonstration Sites which aims to identify good practice in building Protective Services capability. Guidance is being distributed to forces throughout the course of the evaluation;
- The development of the National Protective Service Assessment Tool (NPSAT) to provide a national comparative view of the threats facing forces in the areas including major crime, Serious Organised and Cross-border crime and Strategic Roads policing.

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Risk in Policing is focused on examining attitudes to risk in the police service, and developing an overall 'systems approach' to risk in a policing context. The current and recent research includes:

- Developing the knowledge base through a series of systematic searches, exploring current approaches to risk in policing and organisational learning;
- The development of a Systems demonstration project - a 'systems approach' to risk seeks to identify and understand the latent conditions that reside in organisations and tackle them before they contribute to adverse events. The project will explore whether a systems approach to identifying and managing risk can be usefully applied to policing.

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Data Management is concerned with improving the quality and use of data, and minimising the burden on forces in the collection of data. The current and recent research includes:

- The development of data on police force personnel profiles to support forces in their workforce modernisation programmes.

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Knowledge Management is developing the storage, retrieval and sharing of evidence based research on policing to support learning and best practice. The current and recent research includes:

- A user requirement project exploring how knowledge and information is accessed and used within policing. The findings from this research will be used to improve the way the NPIA manages and communicates information to the wider police service and associated agencies;
- The development of a set of critical appraisal tools to support policing professionals' understanding and use of research evidence.

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