



'Promoting Police-Academic Research Partnerships'

The Policing Authority, Ireland
'Children, Young People and the Police: Building Confidence and Trust', 10 September 2020

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The Power of Collaboration:



Built upon the N8 Research Partnership:



Policing Partners:



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A Brief Timeline

2012: Changes to Police governance: PCCs + College of Policing.

2013: Established as a platform for collaboration between N8 universities, PCCs, police and partners across northern England.

2014: Awarded College of Policing 'Innovation Grant'.

2015: Awarded HEFCE 'Catalyst Grant': A 5 year programme of research co-production and knowledge exchange (2015-2020).

"to enable and foster high quality, independent research and to facilitate research-based contributions to public debate, policing policy, governance and practice."

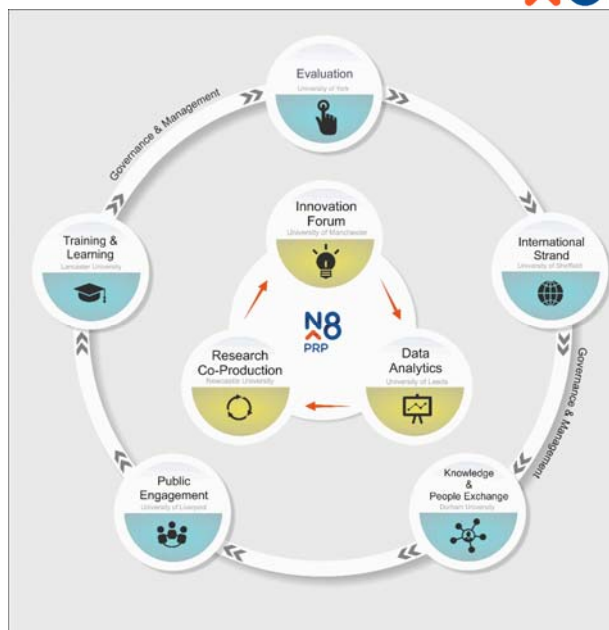
2020: Secured co-funding & co-governance partnership model.
Co-Directors: Chief Supt Ngaire Waine (Merseyside) & Dr Geoff Pearson (Manchester).

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Delivery Mechanisms:

A multi-pronged (interconnected) platform to foster sustainable relationships that deliver organisational change through research co-production, knowledge exchange and data / asset mobilisation.



Strand	Lead	Aims	Key Activities
Innovation	Manchester	<i>To support innovation through partnership working with diverse stakeholders.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Innovation Forum: cyber-crime, domestic abuse, early intervention, mental health; • ‘Pop up’ dialogues (i.e. public order policing).
Research Co-production	Newcastle	<i>To build research capacity and capability to tackle emerging fields of enquiry through co-production.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual ‘small grants’ funding scheme with steer linked to Innovation Forum theme; • Collaborative PhD studentships.
Data Analytics	Leeds	<i>To provide access to data and to open up avenues for data analysis and data exploitation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analytics Delivery Service (DADS) – portal service to support accessing data from policing partners; • Projects to foster data exploitation and utilisation;
Staff & Knowledge Exchange	Durham	<i>To foster mutual understanding and trust between partners via people exchange/staff mobility.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KE Fellowships (both practitioners and academics); • PhD internships and placements; • Bursaries for collaborative Masters dissertations.
Training & Learning	Lancaster	<i>To enhance research training and learning among policing partners and to secure impact and practical benefits from research.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training workshops and methodological skills development events drawing on research expertise; • Data analysts CPD programme; • Workshops and PhD ‘summer school’.
Public Engagement	Liverpool	<i>To embed public engagement and public understanding of policing into the programme of research.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding good practice in police models and practices of public engagement; • Deliberative forums around issues of public concern.
International	Sheffield	<i>To develop international collaborations and learn from international experiences in police/academic partnerships.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping international developments in police/academic partnerships and hosting an international conference; • Building international relations.
Evaluation	York	<i>To evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the programme of engagement in ways that inform its development and learning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process evaluation of working methods, relations, management and governance; • External review of impact and outcomes (Birkbeck)

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Research Co-production



- Combines producers and users of knowledge in a joint enterprise to address societal problems.
- Shift from revealing/describing problems to a focus on producing genuine change.
- A process of learning for both producers and users of knowledge.
- Benefits to both society and academy/science.
- Assumes mutual respect, no hierarchy of knowledge forms, fluid and permeable disciplinary boundaries, and a normative concern with action, not simply a focus on systematic analysis.

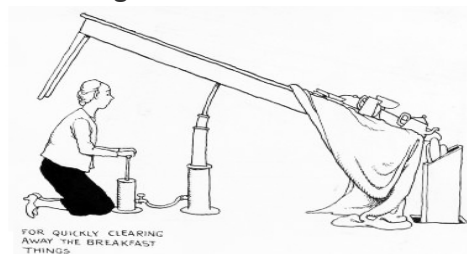


Co-production as Method

- Co-production involves bringing together parties that may have markedly different priorities and preoccupations, with the aim of working together towards a mutually-agreed knowledge 'production'.
- It assumes that knowledge is socially dispersed not the sole preserve of (elite) academics.
- Knowledge co-production is relational and arises through sometimes small, iterative processes of mutual learning.
- Advantage derives not simply in the combination of perspectives but in framing and shaping questions, methodologies and impacts differently.
- Co-production implies a reformed conception of what constitutes knowledge, how it is mobilised and used.

Mechanisms to deliver change

“Transforming the ways in which academic researchers engage with policing partners in research co-production and the ways in which policing practitioners utilise and mobilise evidence that is rigorous and relevant.”



“Our philosophy is that those who are going to use research and apply the knowledge base should be involved in building it by actively co-producing the evidence.”

Challenges of co-production in policing:



- Traditional 'dialogue of the deaf' (Bradley & Nixon 2009).
- Very different organisational cultures, priorities, interests and working practices.
- Mutual misunderstanding, suspicion and disengagement.
- Police antipathy to research evidence; policing as 'craft'.
- Ingrained culture of institutional defensiveness.
- Police as powerful and authoritative actors – can deploy significant legal powers, personnel and resources.
- Politicisation of policing – PCCs.
- The importance of 'communications policing' – 'doomed to succeed'.
- Policing as a normative enterprise – foregrounds power, politics and ethical concerns.



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Challenges for co-production:



1. Co-production is difficult:

- Differential power relations, structural conflicts and hierarchies – *contrary to the co-productionist 'cooking' (soup) and 'colour' (green) metaphors!*

2. Co-production is 'messy':

- Translation of ideas into practice – through adaptations, concessions, adjustments and compromises.
- Boundary crossing and boundary work.

3. Needs clear principles of engagement:

- Open, dynamic and flexible nature of co-production means that these challenges are never settled.
- Mutual recognition and respect for difference.
- Research integrity - 'independent interdependence'.

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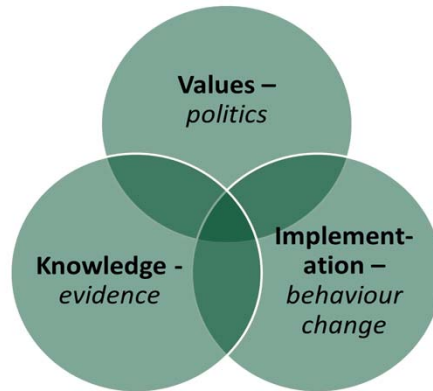
Types of Knowledge

'Science alone is not enough' to ensure the utilisation of evidence.

Complex interplay between:

'Evidence alone does not solve problems... myriad elements of context – including different professional, organisational and sectoral cultures and the role of power and politics – are critical considerations'

Policy-making is as much about values as it is about science or robust evidence



How to find out more?

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Crawford, A. (2017) 'Research Co-production and Knowledge Mobilisation in Policing', in J. Knutsson and L. Thompson (eds) *Advances in Evidence Based Policing*, [Routledge](#), 195-213.

Crawford, A. (2020) 'Effecting Change in Policing Through Police/Academic Partnerships: The Challenges of (and for) Co-production', in N. Fielding, K. Bullock and S. Holdaway (eds) *Critical Reflections on Evidence-Based Policing*, [Routledge](#), pp. 175-197.

Crawford, A. (2019) "Societal Impact as "Rituals of Verification" or the Co-production of Knowledge?" *British Journal of Criminology*, 60(3): 493–518.



Discussion

1. What are the skills and resources needed to make police-academic partnerships work?
2. What are the particular challenges for building police-academic partnerships in relation to young people interactions with policing?
3. How do we best effect change at the frontline of policing that is informed by the research evidence? How do we ensure that research is translated into practice?
4. How do we ensure the integrity of research in the face of practical and organisational pressures?