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## **Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority Research and Evidence Forum**

MS Teams Meeting  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
14:00pm – 15:30pm

### **Action Note**

**In attendance:** Tom Halpin (Co-chair), Barry Sillers (SPA), Amanda Coulthard (SPA), Martin Smith (SPA), Jennifer Galbraith (SPA), Aidan Curran (SPA), Matthew Kirk (SPA), ACC Gary Ritchie (Police Scotland), Davina Fereday (Police Scotland), Liz Aston (SIPR) and Amy Wilson (Scottish Government).

**Apologies:** DCC Fiona Taylor (Police Scotland), Director Tom McMahon (Police Scotland), Kirsty-Louise Campbell (Police Scotland) and Nerys Thomas (College of Policing)

#### **1. Welcome and action log update**

**Tom Halpin (TH)** welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members agreed that the outstanding actions that had been carried over for a number of meetings were to be closed and a new action log started with the refresh of the Forum.

#### **2. Revised Terms of Reference – Discussion Draft**

**Martin Smith (MS)** provided an overview of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Forum.

Members welcomed the ToR and in the discussion that followed **Liz Aston (LA)** highlighted that the first outcome was slightly unclear and that there could be a role for the Forum in driving strategic priorities from within the policing system and filling gaps.

**Amy Wilson (AW)** noted that it would be useful to provide space for the Forum to discuss future collaborations not only work that is already underway and support and facilitate other work on policing outside of the Forum members.

**Amanda Coulthard (AC)** commented that an aim for the Forum was for it to become a 'clearing house' for wider strategic discussions to take place and

aligning work where possible. **AC** noted the work plan would be a key element of the Forum and give the opportunity for collective planning.

**MS** committed to circulating a revised ToR based on the discussion to members and giving two to three weeks to comment.

**DECISION: Terms of Reference approved once comments from members received.**

**DECISION: Revised core membership as suggested in Appendix A approved.**

**ACTION: Terms of reference to be circulated to Forum members for comment.**

### **3. Updates from Members**

#### **a. SPA**

##### **Mental Health Conference**

**AC** highlighted emerging work on a mental health conference organised by the SPA and scheduled to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> December. This conference wants to start the conversation on mental health, the demand it has on services, and discuss opportunities for services to work together. Members were supportive and **AC** committed to issuing information to Forum members as this work progresses.

**LA** highlighted that the event could be a springboard to understanding what the gaps are in research and evidence and if we want to target resources coming from SIPR and partners. **LA** offered to highlight potential speakers.

It was queried if there was enough time to plan the conference in two months.

**AC** highlighted that planning has already been undertaken and speakers need to be contacted – depending on speaker availability there is the potential to push it into 2023.

##### **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Seminar**

**AC** outlined the joint VAWG seminar at the end of August organised by SPA and COSLA and supported by DCC Graham to start conversations with organisations and local authority areas in this space and discuss the Police Scotland VAWG Strategy. It was noted Police Scotland were working on output report from the seminar which will inform the VAWG Strategy.

##### **Children and Young People Event**

**AC** informed members of an event taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> November and co-sponsored by Police Scotland and the SPA on care and children in contact with the law and the use of custody. The aspiration for this event is that it will promote a forward looking and aspirational discussion between Police Scotland, SPA and key stakeholders on what the barriers are and what can be done to improve provision in this area.

**TH** noted the solution to this is in wider system, not just police custody.

### **Community Confidence Action Research Project**

**AC** updated the Forum on the SPA and Police Scotland Community Confidence Action Research which developed from national research of SCJS. Currently the project has started in Letham and the team want to have conversations with communities around what actions can be taken by Police Scotland which will improve confidence in that area – informed by surveys and existing data. **AC** committed to providing updates at the Forum and to bringing a paper to next meeting of the Forum.

**ACTION: Community Confidence Action Research update paper to be presented at the next meeting of the Forum.**

**Barry Sillers (BS)** noted through research and events work we are creating spaces for discussions on sensitive topics and listening to partners instead of trying to generate immediate solutions. This gives a richer view on what the whole system challenges are.

**AW** asked about monitoring trends on those who experience mental health incidents with Police Scotland and who have also been flagged across multiple services to highlight intervention opportunities before crisis point. **ACC Ritchie** noted this linkage happened with Covid-19 and that sharing data and being more willing to share this type of data is a learning point. **LA** noted that while the attitude has changed but there is still work to be done to make it more available and accessible in a timely manner.

**Davina Fereday (DF)** highlighted that there can be difficulties in connecting data systems and that the scale of projects can impact the timeframe. The Academic Research service for Police Scotland has established a process with the data governance team to better support data requests and work is ongoing in Denis Hamil's area around open data. The Academic Research service continue to liaise with the academic community to ensure research requirements are communicated with the relevant area of policing and APU at the outset so these can be accommodated.

**TH** noted there is need of a framework for events e.g. what event names mean (e.g. conference, seminar), what other events are happening etc.

**ACTION: SPA officers to develop framework for events.**

### **Qualitative Interview Reporting**

**AC, Jennifer Galbraith (JG)** and **Aidan Curran (AC)** outlined the model for reviewing qualitative interview reporting. Feedback from members was possible with **LA** offering to share with SIPR colleagues. **TH** noted feedback can be provided for next meeting.

**ACTION: Forum members to provide feedback on the model for qualitative interview reporting.**

**b. Police Scotland DF** provided an update on Police Scotland activity including progress made against the plan for evidence-led policing as agreed by the Senior Leadership Board in December 2021. This includes embedding effective research processes, governance, quality assurance and professional advice; enhancing access and collaboration with academics and networks; commissioning research, building capacity for evidence led policing; building our evidence bank and visibility; and enabling colleague participation.

All ACCs and the CFO have been involved in developing our approach to evidence-led policing and identifying priorities for research for the service. These are being incorporated in Police Scotland's research programme.

The academic research team has managed approximately 50 research studies across a diverse range of policing topics in the last 12 months (all strategically aligned). There are approximately 70 live studies and 30 under review. The team has support 35 projects where Police Scotland officers enrolled in University of Sunderland 'Applied Investigations' degree.

A dashboard has been developed and can be circulated to the forum and an evidence insights bank from commissioned and Police Scotland research is being established.

**ACTION: Davina Fereday to share dashboard on current projects and collation of historic projects with members at the next meeting of the Forum.**

A series of academic challenge sessions has taken place with senior police leaders where subject matter experts discuss emerging research evidence and areas to consider for the development of speak to senior police leaders on a theme that relates to the VAWG strategy. The challenge sessions have been introduced as one of the approaches for supporting policy and practice.

Other work has included supporting the research practitioners of the PSoS/SIPR/SPA funded seldom-heard studies, facilitating access to colleagues and data and ensuring alignment with our public confidence work and areas of focus for practical implementation. This has also involved organising the event with SIPR on the 21<sup>st</sup> November which will involve presentations from the researchers of their findings and a panel discussion.

The team are also supporting engagement with 3rd sector groups and enhancing Police Scotland's presence and participation at events with subject matter experts (Gender-Based Violence and Learning Disability Conference – March 2023; Global Child Protection Conference, Nov 2023)

**c. SIPR**

**LA** provided an update on SIPR activity and highlighted that the SIPR annual report will be published next week. Currently they are embedding 'think big leverage' funding' which is leveraging external funding when applying for funding. The developing effective policing systems grant closed and they have a

responsive research fund and looking for ideas in the policing system on where we should be filling gaps.

There are a series of knowledge exchange events and publications this year – including with SPA and PS at the end of November with those given funding as part of the Seldom Heard Communities Grants. They are hoping to pick the international postgraduate summer school back up and will also be running seminar series with Nordic Police Research Network. **LA** committed to linking in with the Forum on the seminar series when planning starts.

#### **d. Scottish Government**

**AW** updated on Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services' activities and highlighted there is an ongoing programme of work in increasing VAWG understanding. Understanding experiences of children involved in DACA cases is due to be published later this year and an international review of domestic homicide is starting now. They also have a grant project nearing completion on the experiences of South Asian women and domestic abuse.

There are regular statistics being published and **AW** noted Scottish Government have moved to quarterly national statistics on recorded crime. Statistics on homicide are due in October 2022 and police recorded domestic abuse due in November 2022. There will also be statistics on police recorded hate crime later this year. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is still in the field and will be collecting data for year ending October 2022 – they are also re-procuring the SCJS and working on developing modules on cybercrime victimisation and improved evidence in VAWG.

Results from the repeat violent victimisation project at the University of Glasgow are due for publication in Spring 2023, and there is work on CCTV in terms of understanding international approaches and public benefit to help inform actions in Scotland. They are also working in collaboration with COPFS, Police Scotland and courts to produce new statistics on overall journey times through the justice system. The Cross Justice Working Group on Race Data and Evidence is working to produce a compendium on race and justice to show what is known and where there are gaps in knowledge.

**TH** noted they would like to Forum to develop what is done with the update information.

**ACTION: SPA officers to develop an approach for what is done with the update information and present to Forum members at the next meeting.**

#### **4. AOB**

**TH** invited open reflection on what the Forum should discuss.

**LA** noted a focus needs to be on how we take research evidence and bring about evidence based policing and maximise pathways to impact. **DF** highlighted that this can be related to communication as there has been a lot of evidence based policing in Police Scotland.

**AW** highlighted that written updates would be particularly helpful, not just verbal.

**5. Date of the next meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

DRAFT