Delivering What Works: Transitioning to a What Works Centre Approach

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Policing in England and Wales

• 43 territorial forces

• Each led by a Chief Constable accountable to the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

• Regional collaboration on specialist areas e.g. firearms

• A number of national bodies

• Approx. 20% budget cuts since 2010

• c. 200k police officers and staff.

• c.123k police officers; lowest since 1996
The role of the College of Policing

“To provide those working in policing with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent crime, protect the public and secure public trust”
What makes the College unique?

- National Policing Curriculum
- National Standards and Guidance
- Levers
- Selection and Assessment
- Training

- Professional body for policing
- What Works Centre
Making ‘what works’ part of practice

National guidelines

• Developed by inclusive committees
• Based on best available evidence
• Transparent and replicable method
• Clear recommendations for practice

Neighbourhood policing guidelines
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Getting evidence used in practice

Surveys show officers rely on and prefer professional experience rather than research

BUT

The more they know about research the less they believe the police alone have enough information about crime and what to do about it AND

The more they are exposed to research the more likely they are to be willing to do experiments

SO

When research is part of their professional experience - they will be much more likely to use it!

Palmer (2011) Survey of inspectors and chief inspectors in Greater Manchester Police
Lum et al (2012) Receptivity to research in Policing
Professional development levers

Core competency and values framework

National Policing Curriculum

- Identify opportunities for and support the exploration of new ways of working and innovation in policing, applying critical thinking to identify solutions to problems in line with evidence based practice within own area of work.
- Support the implementation of evidence based policing initiatives by championing and applying relevant approaches to own, the team's and/or stakeholder practice.
Investing in building the evidence

Inspector Gareth Twigg, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

During my 22-year police service, problem solving has generally been based on operational experience and traditional practices, none of which is evaluated. ExPERT introduced me to evidence-based policing, giving me tools to identify tried, tested and therefore more successful solutions. It has also given me the confidence to test my own assumptions, to develop new approaches. This helps me to provide a more effective service to the communities I serve. The course has shown me that academic principles aren’t beyond me and has inspired me so much that I am soon to start an MSc in Criminology.

ExPERT
Thank you!

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