

# Scottish Institute for Policing Research: Overview of Impacts 2019-20

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# The Scottish Institute for Policing Research

*“To support internationally excellent, multi-disciplinary policing research to enable evidence informed policy & practice.”*

Established in 2007, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) has now entered its fourth phase covering the period 2019 until 2024. Given this new chapter, we have revisited the overall mission, aims, and objectives of the institute to ensure that SIPR remains relevant and continues to support the practical and academic needs of policing within Scotland and internationally.

OUR AIMS			
<b>1. RESEARCH</b> 	<b>2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE</b> 	<b>3. LEARNING AND INNOVATION</b> 	<b>4. PARTNERSHIPS</b> 
Facilitating internationally excellent, independent research of relevance to policing.	Engaging in a range of knowledge exchange activities to strengthen the evidence base on which policy and practice are improved & developed nationally and internationally.	Nurturing a culture of learning & innovation.	Promoting the development of national & international partnerships with researcher, practitioner and policing communities.
5 YEAR PLAN OBJECTIVES: Within these four aims we will strive to achieve the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting internationally excellent policing research under three strategic research themes in order to shape strategic focus and respond to external drivers.</li> <li>Enhance excellence of SIPR policing research through improvements to quality assurance processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate events and enhance knowledge exchange tools with international reach.</li> <li>Support evidence to practice routes and develop pathways to enable and document impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nurture learning and innovation in policing organisations and universities, supporting the postgraduate community and the next generation of researchers and practitioners.</li> <li>Foster links between higher education and policing organisations and partners to support training, education, leadership, and innovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate networking and collaboration between academics, practitioners, and policy makers nationally and internationally.</li> <li>Develop strategic links with new and existing partners.</li> </ul>

## SIPR Impact Review (SFC, 2017): value created for stakeholders

- “
- ✓ A key **culture change** in relationship between academics and the police in Scotland
  - ✓ A better informed and more widely discussed **debate on future policing** demand and provision, contributing to the overall aim of securing a safer environment for the people of Scotland
  - ✓ The opportunity that SIPR has provided to **strategically engage with the police** on a regular basis



## SIPR's Partnership with Police Scotland & SPA



- Core members of **SIPR Collaborative Agreement** (together with 14 HEIs)
- **Representation** across all key governance structure of the institute including:  
Board of Governance, Executive Committee, International Advisory Committee, Network Steering Groups
- **Shared research priorities** focus on the strategic outcomes and objectives for policing in Scotland.
- Policing-Academic collaboration builds capacity for **evidence-based policing** in Scotland.
- **SIPR representation** on key Policing Boards, Reference and Advisory Groups

## Law Enforcement and Public Health

- Scottish International Policing Conference 2018, **International LEPH Conference Edinburgh, 2019**
- SIPR key role in LEPH conference organization and co-hosted, with Police Scotland, a networking reception for 500 international delegates (50 countries)
- SIPR founding member of **Scottish Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health (SCLEPH)**
- Event played an important role in bringing to life opportunities for coproduction & impacted further work e.g. Police Scotland's **public health policing principles**
- SIPR/DRNS event on Approaches to Policing of Drugs 2020, SIPR input to **Police Scotland Drug Strategy**, Drug Strategy Board, Naloxone Test of Change Delivery Steering Group





## **Moving towards Trauma-Informed policing: An exploration of police officers' attitudes and perceptions towards Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Dr Karri Gillespie-Smith et al. awarded SIPR Local Approaches to Policing research funding in 2018

Aimed to examine whether this screening influenced *police perceptions and attitudes* towards becoming a trauma-informed force

The report provided several *recommendations for the police* including:

1. Screenings, such as the Resilience documentary, may be a useful starting point in raising awareness, particularly during initial training.
2. The acceptability and usefulness of the such events would be improved by basing it on material tailored to policing specifically.
3. Multi-agency screenings with smaller audiences would expose attendees to a range of views and support active participation and networking.
4. Practical information on how ACEs-awareness could be applied to specific policing work is required.

## Technology & digital policing

- SIPR membership & Chairing of Police Scotland External Reference Group on **Cyber Kiosks** – input to improve e.g. toolkit, consultation, informed consent (public information leaflet etc.)
- Support of SPA **Digital Forensics** workshops
- SIPR input to Parliamentary Justice Inquiry on **Facial Recognition** hearing, report & decision
- Appointment by Scottish Government of Director of SIPR to Chair **Independent Advisory Group** on New and Emerging Technologies in Policing



SIPC 2019, 170 policing academics & practitioners, positive feedback:

“The event had the right content and blend of sectors with the relevant people at various levels, with opportunities to discuss during and between inputs. This has **influenced considerations for strategy** I am developing and helped focus stakeholder engagement, with a view to building a future digital landscape that will improve conventional approaches and can serve as a blueprint for others”

## Special Constables

SIPR has supported efforts to recruit and retain Special Constables



- Launched first University **on-campus training** programme 2019-20 (led by Dr Andrew Wooff at ENU and delivered in collaboration with Police Scotland)
- 5 Special Constables trained so far with new cohorts due to commence in 2021 –extending to three other Universities
- **Research** funded through 2018 SIPR Local Approaches to Policing to explore **retention of the Special Constabulary.**
- Several recommendations provided which are shaping strategy to:
  1. Enhance the future *experience* of Special Constables;
  2. Increase the *recruitment and retention* of Special Constables;
  3. Allow Police Scotland to *target and recruit* particular types of Special Constable;
  4. Improve the *training and support* of all Special Constables, and;
  5. Support Divisional and National Coordinators within Police Scotland in managing Special Constables as a resource.



## Changing policy and practice in the investigation and search for missing people

- SIPR research led by Dr Woolnough has made an outstanding contribution to the policy and practice of searching for missing people. Systematically examined missing person behaviour leading to new knowledge that has:
  - 1) Had an unprecedented **impact on operational practice in Scotland** and the wider UK via (a) implementation of *behavioural profiling guidance*, (b) delivery of *behaviour changing training* to SIOs at SPC and PoSAs at the Police National Search Centre, and (c) provision of case-specific profiling
  - **Informed UK public policy** (2), including the National Police Chiefs Council Guidance on the Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons and Police Search Management Manual.
  - Collectively, this work has significantly contributed to **improving investigation and search for vulnerable missing people**, ensuring rapid location and protection from harm (including saving lives).



## Improving Stop and Search policy & practice

- Legislative change, code of practice, **impact on policy & practice**
- Improved **training, data recording, internal governance, transparency & accountability**
- Key role of research & knowledge exchange
- Lessons learned provided **lasting impact on policing** e.g. engagement with research, governance, recording & data on police powers (all inform approach to policing of COVID-19)
- European COST Action on Police Stops network of 29 countries (interest in improving governance & practice across



# Infrastructure facilitated support & scrutiny of policing the pandemic

- Developed '**Research Evidence in Policing: Pandemics**' series to collate evidence (from Scotland & further afield) to support policing responses to the pandemic e.g. cybercrime & social media
- International Policing the Lockdown **Blog**
- Supported (via international partners) **review of publications** on coronavirus international Policing responses (Scottish Government, 2020)
- SIPR support of Independent Advisory Group on temporary police powers COVID-19, chairing **IAG/SPA Webinars**, weekly Police Scotland **OpTICAL** meetings

