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

MS Teams Meeting  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
14:00pm – 15:30pm

### **Action Note**

**In attendance:** Tom Halpin (Co-chair), Amanda Coulthard (SPA), Martin Smith (SPA), Jennifer Galbraith (SPA), Matthew Kirk (SPA), Victoria Morton (SPA – Forensics), Director Tom McMahon (Police Scotland), Superintendent Hilary Sloan (Police Scotland), Davina Fereday (Police Scotland), Kirsty-Louise Campbell (Police Scotland), Liz Aston (SIPR), and Amy Wilson (Scottish Government)

**Apologies:** ACC Gary Ritchie (Police Scotland), DCC Fiona Taylor (Police Scotland), Barry Sillers (SPA) and Nerys Thomas (College of Policing)

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The action log from the previous meeting was acknowledged and accepted by members.

#### **2. Workplan Development**

The plans for the workplan development were presented to the Forum members. In the discussion that followed it was noted that the aim is to make reference to wider areas of work which the Forum is interested in – adding to work via collaboration to create single picture around research evidence agenda. Members agreed that a workplan would be helpful and it was felt it could be reviewed against wider work programmes outwith the Forum.

Recognising that the Forum has been in existence for several years, it was highlighted that all previous minutes and action logs from meetings of the Forum can be reviewed to capture suggestions on what the workplan could contain.

Overall, it was noted that the need for a workplan is self-evident and that work should continue at pace.

**ACTION – Amanda Coulthard to circulate call to all members about representatives for the working group that will develop a Forum work plan.**

### **3. Update on Community Confidence Project**

Forum members were provided with an overview of a project which examines the relationship between deprivation and confidence in local policing. The project commenced in April 2021 and will run until April 2024 and is jointly run by the SPA and Police Scotland.

The discussion ranged from methodological considerations (e.g. research ethics, evaluation), the reception of the work in communities, the partnership working between Police Scotland and the SPA, and learning that could be embedded from other projects.

**ACTION: Develop an ethics checklist to reference good practice across all ethical frameworks. Members to provide relevant documents to Forum secretariat.**

### **4. Final Terms of Reference**

**DECISION: Terms of Reference have been approved.**

It was agreed to sight Police Scotland's international development unit of the work of the Forum.

**ACTION: Hilary Sloan to report back to Police Scotland's international development unit for inclusion in agendas and knowledge exchange events.**

### **5. Member Updates**

Members provided updates on past and future activity. Details are provided below.

#### **a. Scottish Government**

A second publication on the characteristics of recorded hate crime to be released on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Justice Analytical Services (JAS) are conducting work on the cost of living crisis and links with crime and justice. Notes there is no clear cut evidence between recessions and rises in crime, but JAS wants to understand where evidence might come through. This work shall be presented to the Justice Board on 19<sup>th</sup> January. AW is keen for further partnership work.

Qualitative research from Glasgow University on repeat victimisation will be concluding in early summer.

A contract has been signed for the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey for the next 3 years (until 2023-2024). This shall look at fraud and computer misuse for the first time, finally bringing Scotland in line with England and Wales.

A dashboard was also published in December on charge level disposals from Scottish courts and will be updated on a quarterly basis.

There will be a report on domestic abuse and child contact published end of January 2023 and a report into lived experience of coercive control and the justice system published in March 2023. In the next few months a compendium of ethnicity information from across the justice organisations will also be published, along with experimental statistics on the end to end journey times across the justice system.

Forum members were keen to be involved in various work being conducted by the Scottish Government.

**b. College of Policing**

Apologies sent.

**c. SIPR**

The SIPR annual report was published a couple of months ago. Three small grants have been awarded under the 'policing systems, capability and resilience' work stream. SIPR are currently finalising a call for VAWG research. The next responsive research fund will focus on mental health and demand. Regarding knowledge exchange there will be a focus this year on dissemination events. There are two new postgraduate co-ordinators and SIPR want to improve the Practitioner Fellowship Scheme. A full-time member of administrative staff is also now in place. There will be a jointly run seminar series with the Nordic Research Partnership. The current SIPR funding agreement ends in 2024 and there will need to be a new consortium agreement developed.

SIPR was also involved in chairing the IAG on Emerging Technologies in Policing (which has had involvement from partners and has a lot of learning on the role of research and engagement) and that a report was submitted to Scottish Government at the end of November 2023 and they are awaiting a publication date.

**d. SPA**

A next steps document is currently being written on the SPA's Mental Health, Vulnerability and Demand conference held in December 2023. Various positive commitments were made on the day and a videographer is also creating a short summary video which will be published shortly.

A recently organised children in conflict with the law event held by Police Scotland and the SPA was also described. It was noted that this event helped to develop recommendations for work in this area based on evidence and that a report is currently in draft form. It was highlighted that the Scottish Government are open to discussions regarding legislative change in this area.

**e. Police Scotland**

It was highlighted that Police Scotland's intention is to continue with the development of research priorities with executive and senior leadership teams

and to continue to build good relationships with SIPR, the Open University and other partners. They are also looking to develop a research forum to develop and commission research.

**6. AOB**

No other items of business were raised.

**7. Date of the next meeting**

Wednesday 26th April 10am to 11.30am

DRAFT