

## **Increasing Knowledge Exchange: Encouraging Police Officers to write about their experiences of policing.**

Dr. Liz Frondigoun, Glasgow Caledonian University and Dr. Rob Smith, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen are working collaboratively on a project to encourage the dissemination of practice and policy across the Scottish Police forces. This project - *ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS FOR POLICE OFFICERS: A SELF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES* - is being developed with support from Prof. Nick Fyfe and Tim Heilbronn to complement the fellowship scheme and to provide a more structured approach to writing for dissemination of policy and practice within Scottish Police Forces. It seeks to develop a number of pathways to encourage wider participation in particular for those officers who are apprehensive or reticent about taking up this challenge due to lack of time to devote to writing or inexperience of what is required to write an article.

There is much to be learnt from officers at all levels and stages in their career. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience on the challenges of implementing policy and the practice of good policing. It is recognised that they have many examples of innovative policing practice but that there is not as yet a format for the effective sharing of good practice across the forces.

Currently we are working with PC Geoff Smith of Strathclyde Police to write up his experience of being a Campus Officer. It is important to emphasise that the aim is to capture practitioner knowledge with a view to sharing good practice etc - in others words, taking the stories and anecdotes that officers routinely tell each other and 'packaging' them as a resource for the wider practitioner community. The anticipation is that by the end of the writing-up process there will be a series of practitioner notes for publication on SIPR's web page which will also provide the backbone of an article for future publication in one of the peer reviewed Policing Journals. Geoff was one of the first Campus Officers in Scotland to be appointed and therefore is well placed to report on how his role has become defined and refined over time.

We are keen to hear from other officers who would like to be supported in writing up practice notes or who would like to consider being supported to write of their policing experiences but require a more structured support than is currently available under the fellowship scheme. We can be contacted at:

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