

Public confidence and partnership in policing: a Police Community Relations sandpit

Tuesday 9th May 2017, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh
Anatomy Lecture Theatre

Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority are moving ahead with the development of a Policing 2026 strategy to focus activities and priorities over the next decade. Two themes have emerged as of key importance to the Police Community Relations network. Firstly, public confidence in the police, how it is built or eroded, and the particular challenges in cultivating it in the 21st century. Secondly, partnership between the Police and local stakeholders, with specific reference to the replacement of local Single Outcome Agreements with Local Outcome Improvement Plans, and how Police Scotland, Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships will negotiate their implementation.

The sandpit has two main **objectives**:

- It is about continuing to renew and refresh relationships and networks between researchers, police officers and partner practitioners who share interests in local policing and police community relations. It is also about creating new relationships and welcoming new people who wish to become involved in the network.
- It is about starting academic-police-practitioner conversations around issues of mutual interest in order to set an agenda for future collaborative working that allows developing policy and practice to be supported and tested through research and knowledge exchange. To this end, it is proposed that the sandpit should not be a talking shop but that participants should use it to identify topics for further ongoing collaboration and will be invited to submit proposals for research projects to be funded from a Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Fund (see below).

The two main themes that have been identified through dialogue with practitioners involved in Policing 2026 are:

- **Public confidence in the police** (specific topics within this could include: measuring public confidence; procedural justice and public confidence; social media and public confidence; information campaigns and public confidence; responsive service and public confidence; and good governance and public confidence).
- **Partnership and Local Outcome Improvement Plans** (specific topics within this could include: processes for negotiating LOIPs; role of Local Policing Plans in development of LOIPs; challenges of implementing LOIPs; measuring the effectiveness of LOIPs; similarities and differences in local development and implementation of LOIPs; challenging inequalities through LOIPs; and the role of evidence in the development of LOIPs).

The specific topics suggested are merely intended to act as prompts and are by no means exhaustive. The sandpit welcomes the introduction of new, challenging dimensions of these issues as well as approaches that draw on empirical findings and/or theoretical insights.

The sandpit: approach and organisation

The sandpit is open to all members of the SIPR network and all practitioners and organisations with an interest in police community relations. The idea is for the agenda to be open, and for there to be maximum opportunities for similarly minded participants to share ideas.

If you would like to participate, please register using the SIPR website at:
http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/sandpit_090517.php or contact Tim Heilbronn
(t.d.heilbronn@dundee.ac.uk)

When registering please be sure to include your **institutional affiliation** and if there is a **particular issue or topic in which you have an interest**. All participants will be asked to provide a **5 minute 'pitch'** of their field of interest/expertise and/or of any specific research ideas that they would actively like to share and engage potential collaborators with. In order to assist with the organisation of the event around participants' own contributions we urge you to *inform organisers at least 48 hrs in advance if it becomes apparent that you will not be able to attend*.

Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Funding

As noted, a key objective of the sandpit is that it should stimulate connections and ideas that can be taken forward and actioned beyond the sandpit itself. It is envisaged that there will be tangible outcomes and outputs that result from the sandpit. SIPR will award Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Funding grants to support ongoing activity that emerges from the sandpit. An in-exhaustive list of the kinds of thing that could be supported through these grants includes:

- A systematic review of evidence on a given topic & a process for promoting its use
- Series of workshops designed to disseminate existing research and/or forge links between different partners
- Practitioner fellowships and/or support for internships across agencies
- Small-scale collaborative research projects
- Scoping work designed as a precursor to a larger external funding bid or collaborative research studentship application
- Development of student-led engagement/research work with the SIPR community

Short presentations/posters of projects funded through the previous Police Community Relations sandpit will be included in this sandpit, to give feedback on the projects, and to give a sense of the kinds of project that have previously been successful.

Police Community Relations Collaborative Project Funding grants will be valued at up to £8,000. Grant application forms are already available through the SIPR website so that potential applicants can start working on ideas even prior to the sandpit itself. The forms set out clearly the **criteria that applications will be expected to meet**.

Applications should be submitted to Tim Heilbronn, SIPR Business & KT Manager (t.d.heilbronn@dundee.ac.uk) by 6th June 2017. These timelines are designed to allow potential collaborators to continue or start working together on proposals following the sandpit. All applications will be reviewed by the SIPR Executive Committee and the Police Community Relations Brokering Team and awards will be announced during the summer, with the expectation that projects would commence shortly afterwards, and by the autumn at the latest.

Dr. Alistair Henry, SIPR Associate Director, Police Community Relations
Edinburgh Law School
a.henry@ed.ac.uk