POLICE RESEARCH BULLETIN

Published by the Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies

Issue No. 5 October 2007

UNIVERSITY *of* PAISLEY

IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. Kenneth Scott has been named as Director of the new Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies.

The Centre is based at University Campus, Hamilton and is focused on providing academic programmes of study in both Criminal Justice and Police Studies, and to expand upon our research provision in these areas.

Current developments within the Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies:

• Review and validation of the BA (Hons) Criminal Justice

• Validation of the Masters degree programme in Policing
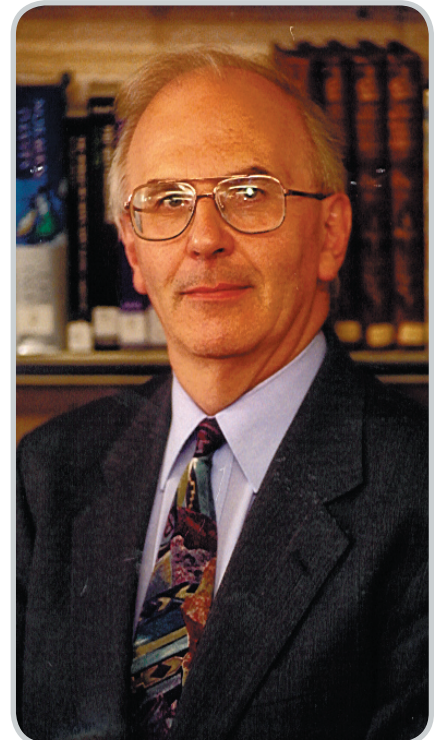
SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST MODERN UNIVERSITY HAS ARRIVED

The University of Paisley and Bell College merged on 1st August 2007, creating Scotland's largest modern University.

This four-campus regional University, which is unique due to its

geographical spread, has over 18,000 students, with campuses in Ayr, Dumfries, Hamilton and Paisley. It also has the country's largest School of Health, Nursing and Midwifery, with 5,000 students.

The increased size and reach of the University will open up higher education opportunities for many more thousands of people across the West of Scotland. This includes greater lifelong learning opportunities at degree and postgraduate level across the region. This commitment to lifelong learning coupled with the fact that the merged University provides local access for over 40% of Scotland's population, makes it ideally placed to respond to the demographic challenges currently facing the nation.

The merger is great news for Lanarkshire as it brings a University to Lanarkshire with degree awarding powers, which will lead to the extension of current full- and part-time degree and postgraduate courses in Hamilton over the coming years. Professor Seamus McDaid, Principal and Vice Chancellor of the merged institution, said: "The merger is great news, not just for both institutions, but for Scotland as a whole.
"We will continue to work with communities and stakeholders across the West of Scotland to deliver internationally informed higher education.
"We aim to have a transformational influence on the economic, social and cultural development of the West of Scotland through the provision of high-quality, inclusive higher education and innovative applied research."

The cost of merger, which includes significant support from Scottish Funding Council, is £21.2M over the next three years.

SCOTTISH INSTITUTE FOR POLICING RESEARCH (SIPR) HOLDS ITS FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Centre is pleased to be associated with the work of the new Scottish Institute for Policing Research. SIPR, which was launched in November 2006, is led by its Director, Professor Nick Fyfe, from the University of Dundee. The Bulletin hopes to support SIPR's work by continuing to draw attention to research either carried out by academics at Scottish universities or of relevance to policing in Scotland.

Among its early achievements, SIPR held its first annual conference at Pollock Halls Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh, in September of this year. The keynote address was given by Professor Wesley Skogan of Northwestern University in the United States, describing his research on the model of community policing in Chicago. Professor Skogan's presentation was well-received and aroused considerable interest not only amongst academic and police interests, but also from the policy community in Scotland.

Amongst the contributions made at the Conference were a number focusing on new and developing research work on policing in Scotland. These included: Keith Hayton and Vincent Perry from GEN Consulting on Community Wardens, Nick Hopkins (University of Dundee) on 'Minority group members' understandings of inter-group contact encounters', Steve Ritchie (Grampian Police) on learning from performance management, Joe McGallagly (University of Glasgow) on serious organized crime in Scotland, and Dan Donnelly on the growth of municipal policing. In addition, there were a significant number of contributions from police practitioners, including Neil Richardson (Lothian and Borders Police) on police and communities, Ian Hamilton (Scottish Police Services Authority) on 'Scientific aspects of cold case reviews', and Elliot McKenzie (Strathclyde Police) on ' An international investigation case study of the Kriss Donald murder'.

The conference drew a large number of delegates and feedback on the event was generally very positive. Fuller details of the proceedings can be found on the Institute's website at www.sipr.ac.uk. The website also contains information about the work of SIPR and its three networks, and there is a section on 'Research Resources' which will be of interest to anyone developing research into policing.

RECENT BOOKS

Fergus McNeill and Bill Whyte (2007) Reducing Reoffending: Social Work and Community Justice in Scotland. Devon: Willan Publishing.
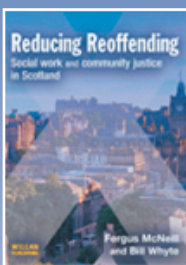
This book, by the Senior Lecturer in the Glasgow School of Social Work (Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde) and the Director of the Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre at the University of Edinburgh, provides a critical overview of social work with offenders in Scotland.
An analysis is provided of the challenges currently faced in community justice, particularly that of reducing re-offending. An account is given of the legal contexts of criminal justice social work services in Scotland, for example, in the sentencing process, the legal basis for community disposals, and prison-based work and resettlement. The final part of the book questions how the practice of supervising offenders in the community might best be developed to reduce re-offending.

Tim Newburn, Tom Williamson and Alan Wright [eds.] (2007) Handbook of Criminal Investigation. Devon: Willan Publishing.
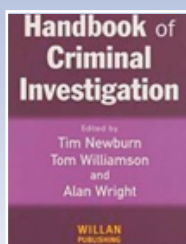
This addition to Willan Publishing's growing Handbook series includes two contributions from Scotland. In the section on Forensic Techniques, Professor Jim Fraser of University of Strathclyde writes on 'The application of forensic science to criminal investigation', a theme taken up more specifically in one of the recently awarded SIPR-sponsored studentships. Professor Nick Fyfe, Director of SIPR, in collaboration with Kevin Smith of the National Centre for Policing Excellence, looks at 'Victims and witnesses in criminal investigation', with particular reference to developments in witness protection.

Mike Maguire, Rod Morgan and Robert Reiner [eds.] (2007) The Oxford Handbook of Criminology, 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
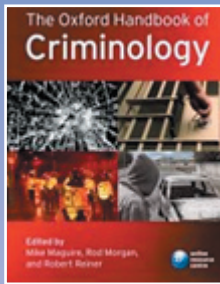
The latest edition of OUP's comprehensive review of the fields of criminology and criminal justice has now appeared, complete with an online resource centre. Policing receives most direct attention in the chapter by Newburn and Reiner on 'Policing and the Police'. While continuing the accounts from previous editions on policing research and police discretion, the authors give due weight to developing themes such as pluralization and internationalization of policing. Appropriate reference is made to the police in a number of other chapters: by Reiner in the section on the representation of crime in the media; the Lawrence inquiry receives attention in Phillips and Bowling's chapter on ethnicities, racism, crime and criminal justice; and issues relating to police decisions 'on the street' and detention in the police station are addressed by Sanders and Young in 'From Suspect to Trial'. However, references to the Scottish situation, apart from the children's hearings system, remain fairly limited.

K. Bullock., R. Erol., and N. Tilley (Eds) (2006) Problem-oriented policing and partnerships: Implementing an evidence-based approach to crime reduction.
Crime Science Series. Devon, Willan

This book examines attempts to introduce problem-oriented policing in Britain, with a specific focus on its implementation within organizations and specific local initiatives. The central issue surrounding the problems associated with implementing problem-oriented policing is thoroughly explored against a range of backdrops such as technical – in relation to analysis and evaluation; local initiatives; government agendas and the move towards evidence-based policy and practice. The book explores the links between problem-oriented policing and developments that are more specific to policing and crime reduction with a focus on interagency crime reduction, intelligence-led policing and neighbourhood policing. The book aims to adopt a UK wide approach and although there is little reference to Scotland, the conclusion summarizes what has been learned from the best efforts and what this means for evidence-based policy and practice in policing.

THE FUTURE OF TRADITIONAL POLICING IN SCOTLAND AND POLICE REFORM

DR DANIEL DONNELLY, Senior Research Fellow at the Scottish Centre for Police Studies, was a guest speaker at the 2007 Annual Conferences of the Scottish Police Federation, the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland respectively. The key themes in his speeches are summarised here.

The 21st century witnesses an exciting time for policing, but also one that generates concern and caution for the future of traditional policing. This paper draws attention to current trends and changes in the world of community safety that presently impact on local policing in Scotland or will do so in the future.

In the year 2007 we find ourselves at a major crossroads in policing when policing is not the sole domain of the sworn police officer. Police functions are changing and it is highly likely that public expectations will be more and more satisfied by non police agents such as local authority officers and private and voluntary sector workers, as they become more proficient in their new roles. Modern policing involves a mix of resources, which include sub-contracting, outsourcing and direct payment for services - engaging new ways of problem-solving through local democratic management, explanation and consultation. In the future local communities will have at their command some form of police enforcement mechanism that will not always include the sworn police officer. And with little immediate prospect of increased funding for the police one way of improving local community safety is by giving local authorities additional powers and budgets - this seems to be more acceptable to politicians and a way round the persistent funding and resource problems facing the police.

What we are witnessing in the present day is a trend towards the enforcement work of sworn police officers being entrusted to locally employed auxiliary wardens and support officers, empowered to tackle low level crime and offences which traditionally, due to lack of resources the police have been unable to do. There are many titles and labels for this new army of municipal soldiers - they range from anti-social behaviour and environmental officers, community safety and support officers to community wardens and park rangers. And recent additions include investigative officers, case management officers and statement taking officers – work that was once the sole domain of the police officer. One upshot to this advancement of municipal policing is the rise of non police agencies reporting offences direct to the Procurator Fiscal and the expansive use of fixed penalties – all missing out the police officer.

Policing at the local level will progressively be done in partnership with other agencies with a diminishing involvement of the police. And as a result of performance measurement, new technologies, increased scrutiny and inspection, additional local authority powers for policing and crime reduction, and new statutory bodies empowered to monitor policing – a new breed of locally elected members will be in a unique and statutory position to monitor and control policing in their area like never before.

The policing landscape in the new century will also take the form of multi-tier policing with its mix of police and professional support. The first level is the lower municipal tier; the second is the traditional divisional or regional level of the 8 Scottish forces; on another level we have the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and the Scottish Police Services Authority; then there is the national level governed by the 8 chief constables in an assortment of committees tackling issues such as terrorism, national security, special branch and related intelligence; and at the global level we have our contribution towards European and International policing. The danger is that multi – tiered policing generates a porridge of bureaucracy, lack of clarity and co-ordination, causes poor communication and leads to ambiguous accountabilities. More importantly this type of police structure and organisation impacts on the role of the chief constable and begs the question – who is responsible and accountable for Scottish Policing ? A question not easily answered in modern day Scotland.

It is highly likely a future model of police, professional and auxiliary staff working together in local neighbourhood teams will evolve, probably within set boundaries or wards across Scotland. Such a set-up would lead to a uniformity of service across the nation that in reality does not happen at present and Force boundaries will, over time, become less necessary. This in turn, should lead to less duplication with police officers being released to perform more essential police work. And in addition, police and civilian personnel will be allowed to move more freely across Scotland and a more open and modern system of career development and personnel management will exist.

The new model of local municipal policing will require all players, particularly police authorities to understand policing in more depth. For, if you have a statutory responsibility to monitor, scrutinise and audit local policing then you need to understand the workings of the organisation. This means that police management will have a crucial role to inform communities and elected members on all aspects of policing and not just operational information.

Future communities in Scotland will play a major part in policing themselves and have a more visible role to play in crime prevention and crime reduction, thus satisfying the perennial call for increased local democracy. Moves are already afoot to give communities more say in local community safety issues - in the form of 'naming and shaming', restorative justice, community courts, community services, community service officers and community prosecutors.

So how will these changes impact on the police ? Well, the police will have to deal with a new breed of local councillor and community representative who will have increased powers of scrutiny and control over local policing in their area. This will bring new challenges as the police will not always be the lead agent in community safety and will have to hone their partnership skills of consultation, co-operation and compromise and develop additional networking skills. In addition, through public participation, future citizens in Scotland will have more opportunity to get involved in those services that directly affect them leading to a more robust system of local democracy and accountability. A different skill base will emerge and resultant training packages will come on line. And over time problem-solving strategies will see less and less involvement of the sworn police officer.

The concept of Community Policing will in the future be more than the iconic lone patrol officer – but a mix of partners under the community safety umbrella but not always with the involvement of a sworn police officer. Stark realities will have to be faced. For example, what is good for the community is not necessarily good for the police organisation and politicians have recently shown a willingness to be on the side of the citizen.

Other tools available to the community include the use of CCTV surveillance technology which has a positive impact on many aspects of policing. And although there is little research on its effect on crime and disorder those individuals who are in daily contact with its use feel positive about its contribution. Again this is an area gradually being taken over by non police agencies in the private and public sector, at a time when CCTV technology is playing a vital role in municipal policing.

Where do these changes leave the police? and What of the future of policing in Scotland? Well, only nine months ago the head of the SCDEA went on record that it was time for a national police service and recently the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents made it clear that the current 8 force structure is unsustainable in 21st Century Scotland. Even the new Cabinet Secretary for Justice has commented that there was a debate to be had on policing in Scotland. I am aware of some of the reasons against change – that there is no will for structural change! Which I interpret as individuals not having the pros and cons explained to them - that there will be disruption and an opportunity cost! - that there will be a financial bill to pay for reform! I am sure this was the case in 1962 at the time of the Royal Commission and in 1975 during regionalisation – but it did not prevent reform from happening!

It is important to point out that ensuring a corporate image, having the same uniforms, batons, body armour and logos is important, but it is not the police reform that I and many others believe to be necessary. It also goes without saying that major reform in a public service such as the police would need to be carried out in tandem with changes to other public services and alterations to the way local authorities function.

Like so many others I believe the time has come for a full review of policing in Scotland, not tinkering from within the organisation or the piecemeal changes made by government but an in depth analysis and examination, that should include the pros and cons of force mergers or a national police service. Such a project would assist in the production of the best policing model for the Scottish people in the 21st Century. In recent years such a call has been made by academics, journalists, politicians, Police Federation, Superintendents Association and the HMCIC, but not the Scottish Chief Constables. With the advent of a new Scottish Executive in 2007, the Scottish Police Chiefs have an historic opportunity to influence the future of policing in Scotland by persuading politicians and communities of the need for a review and reform of Scottish policing. The Scottish people and their police have no reason to be afraid.

ABSTRACTS

Daniel Donnelly and Kenneth B Scott (2006) 'All Together Now: A National Police Service for Scotland', The Police Journal, vol. 79, no. 4, 293 – 304.

Debate has emerged in Scotland about restructuring the eight police forces into a single national service. The main drivers of that debate are identified and the major elements contributing to the case for such a restructuring are presented. The role of local community policing and changes to police accountability mechanisms within such a national structure are discussed. The article concludes that a national police service is the best way forward for policing in Scotland.

Chris Eades (2006) 'The year of the knife', Criminal Justice Matters, no. 66, Winter 2006/07, 10 -11, 41.

A discussion of the report produced by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at King's College, London on "Knife Crime: Ineffective Reactions to a Distracting Problem ? A Review of Evidence and Policy'. The article argues that the facts about knife crime and knife carrying are odds with public policy, media and public perceptions. The full report is available online at www.kcl.ac.uk/ccjs.

Jonathan Jackson and Jason Sunshine (2007) 'Public confidence in policing', British Journal of Criminology, vol. 47, no. 2, 214-233.

Public confidence in policing has received much attention in recent years, but few studies outside of the United states have examined the processes that underpin trust and support. This study, conducted in a rural English location, finds that trust and confidence in the police are shaped not by concerns about risk and crime, but by evaluations of the values and morals that underpin community life. Furthermore, to garner public confidence, the police must be seen first to typify group morals and values and secondly to treat the public with dignity and fairness.

Jeanine Baker and Samara McPhedran (2007) 'Gun Laws and Sudden Death: Did the Australian Firearms Legislation of 1996 Make a Difference', British Journal of Criminology, vol. 47, no. 3, 455-469.

Mass murders in Dunblane, Scotland, and Port Arthur, Australia, provoked rapid responses from the governments in both countries. Major changes to Australian laws resulted in a controversial buy-back of longarms and tighter legislation. This study, conducted by researchers from the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia and the University of Sydney, evaluates the effect of these measures in a country with relatively secure borders. It concludes that there was a lack of effect of the buy-back and of the associated legislative changes in the requirements for obtaining a firearms licence or legally possessing a firearm. It also argues that there is insufficient evidence to support the simple premise that reducing the stockpile of legally held civilian firearms will result in either firearm or overall sudden death rates.

Brian Renauer (2007) 'Is neighbourhood policing related to informal social control?' Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management. Vol. 30., no.,1.,61-81

This research paper examines the relationship between public and informal social control through an investigation of neighbourhood policing and its effects on informal social control. The study contrasts the influence of the police attendance at community meetings and police accessibility on informal social control with general perceptions of police effectiveness and legitimacy. The findings strongly suggest that a community style of policing may not be enough to overcome deeply entrenched attitudes towards the police in the most disadvantaged communities and in some instances, may discourage informal social control.

Dr R. Lombardo and Dr T. Lough (2007) 'Community Policing: Broken Windows, Community Building and Satisfaction with the Police'. The Police Journal vol. 80., no.2 117-140

This article looks at the debate between social scientists, who are concerned about the 'broken windows' model of policing, and the law enforcement community, which argues that sociologists are tied to the idea that crime is caused by the structural features of capitalist society, such as economic inequality, racism and injustice. The article aims to bridge the gap between these two positions.

Mike King and Doug Sharp (2006) 'Global Security and Policing Change: The Impact of 'Securitisation' on Policing in England and Wales' Police Practice and Research vol. 7, no.5 379-390

This paper begins by looking at the concept of 'securitisation' with reference to current theoretical perspectives. It then considers the impact of this process on contemporary police structures and policing trends. The central argument is issues of global security have influenced policing change at the European level; led to the formation of SOCA at the national level; and are evidenced in the central political determination of policing priorities at the local level.

Paul Johnson and Robin Williams. (2007) 'Internationalizing New Technologies: Forensic DNA Databasing and Datasharing in the European Union. Policing and Society. Vol. 17, no. 1, 103-118.

The automated comparison of DNA profiles obtained from individuals suspected of involvement in criminal activities is regarded by many observers as the most important development in investigative technology since the adoption of fingerprint comparison in the early nineteenth century. This paper describes some recent efforts to influence both the growth of national DNA databases, and also to extend the exchange of genetic information in support of transnational policing. The paper also discusses significant legal, policy and ethical issues that arise from these issues.

Aidan Wilcox and Richard Young (2007) 'How Green was Thames Valley?: Policing theImage of Restorative Justice Cautions'. Policing and Society, vol 17, no. 1, 141-163

In 1994, restorative justice cautioning initiatives were piloted in the Milton Keynes area. The then Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Sir Charles Pollard claimed that re-offending rates had declined from 30% to 4% in Aylesbury as a result of these pilot programmes. This claim was instrumental in persuading key individuals, both within and outside Thames Valley Police, that greater use should be made of restorative methods within criminal justice. This paper challenges that claim on the grounds of empirical evidence and goes on to explore what this episode reveals about the nature of relations between the police and the media.

J. Moran and M. Phythian (2005) 'Police, intelligence and war on terror in the UK'Crime, Law and Social Change: An Interdisciplinary Journal vol. 44, 327-489

There are several articles in this special issue address which look at civil liberties, the use and evaluation of intelligence, the effectiveness of certain policing strategies and the impact of legislative change with regard to investigating terrorist offenses. The focus is primarily from a UK perspective and the contributions are introduced and summarized by Moran and Phythian.

G. Hay and M. Gannon (2006) 'Capture-recapture estimates of local and national prevalence of problem drug use in Scotland.' International Journal of Drug Policy vol. 17, no. 3., 203-210

This study presents results from the first national capture-recapture study on the illicit use of opiates or benzodiazepines in Scotland. Data were collected from sources such as, the Scottish Drug Misuse Database, Social Enquiry Reports data and police data on individuals who had been detained under the Drugs Misuse Act. Other sources include social work departments, general practitioners and drug treatment services. Statistical techniques were applied to the collated data to obtain an estimate of the hidden population, which when combined with the known data, provided an estimate of the total prevalence of drug use. This work demonstrates that it is possible to use the capture-recapture method to obtain national prevalence estimates of illicit drug use.

P. McCrystal., A. Percy and K. Higgins. (2006) 'Drug use patterns and behaviours of young people at an increased risk of drug use during adolescence'. International Journalof Drug Policy vol.17, no. 5., 393-401

This longitudinal study, based in Belfast, examines the drug use patterns and behaviours of 90 young people who reported cannabis use from the age of 11 to 12 years when they entered secondary schooling and continued to report its use until the age of 15. The findings of the study suggest the existence of a hidden high-risk group of adolescents who continue to attend school regularly. The study questions the extent to which their needs are being met by existing school-based drugs education and prevention initiatives that are often delivered through a standardized strategy for all school-aged young people.

M. Orr and D. West (2007) ,Citizen evaluations of local police: Personal experience or symbolic attitudes? Administration & Society vol. 38., no.6., 649-668

This (US based) research studies attitudes about local police to examine whether public assessments are linked more to people's direct experience with crime and the police or whether such impressions are associated with more abstract attitudes about politics and law enforcement. They find that personal experience mattered more than symbolic attitudes when it came to views about police courtesy and fairness. However, both personal experience and symbolic attitudes were important in regard to opinions about crime seriousness and assessments about overall police performance.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Some of the official publications coming from the Scottish Government
which are relevant topolicing include:

The Report on the Consultation Responses. The Draft Children's Services (Scotland) Bill
Published October 2007

2006 Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey: Main Findings
Published September 2007

Drugs Misuse in Scotland: Findings from the 2006 Scottish Crime and Victims Survey
Published September 2007

The Crerar Review: The Report of the Independent Review of Regulation, Audit, Inspection and Complaints Handling of Public Services in Scotland
Published September 2007

Crime and Justice Research Findings no 97/2007: Use of Antisocial Behaviour \Orders in Scotland
Published September 2007

Impact of Aspects of the Law of Evidence in Sexual Offence Trials: An Evaluation Study
Published September 2007

Analysis of the Statutory Victim Notification Scheme – Research Findings
Published September 2007

Electronic Monitoring in the Scottish Crime and Youth Justice Systems: Statistical Information –
1 April 2007 – 30 June 2007
Published September 2007

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland: The Conditions and Treatment of Prisoners Under Escort
Published September 2007

An Evaluation of the Use of Electronic Monitoring as a Condition of Bail in Scotland
Published June 2007

Sectarianism: Update on Action Plan on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland
Published February 2007

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:
Proposed Sentencing of Offences Aggravated by Prejudice (Scotland) Bill
Lodged 2 October 2007

FOR FURTHER DETAILS VISIT:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Search

CONTACT THE CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE STUDIES

For further information on or any enquiries concerning the Police Research Bulletin contact:

Geraldine O'Donnell
The Centre for Criminal Justice and Police Studies
School of Social Sciences
University Campus, Hamilton
Almada Street,
Hamilton
ML3 OJB
Telephone: 01698 283100 ext. 8615
E-mail: g.odonnell@bell.ac.uk

For information on the University's full-time and part-time provision contact
University Direct on 0800 027 1000 or email uni-direct@paisley.ac.uk
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