Shortlisted Proposal 1

Conceptualising and evaluating the impact of policing drug markets

Research Team		
Name	*Role*	*Organisation*
Matt Bacon	Senior Lecturer in Criminology	Sheffield Uni
Xavier L'Hoiry	Senior Lecturer in Criminology	Sheffield Uni
Becs Horsfall	D/Supt - Head of Analytical, Crime Management and Digital Capabilities	SYP
Chris Singleton	SOC Coordinator	SYP

Academic and practical significance *Potential for future research & impact on policy and practice.* **150 words**

Policing drugs markets is a priority of the Government's *Beating Crime Plan* and drug strategy. However, little is known about the outcomes of different types of enforcement beyond the output measures (e.g. arrests and seizures). This project will examine police perceptions of harms associated with drug markets, how they define success and evaluate the impact of their interventions. It also seeks to improve and increase performance indicators so that they incorporate a wide range of drug-related harms. Exploring the concept of 'harm reduction policing' across the supply chain will advance theory and provide original empirical data. Developing a new framework for informing and evaluating police interventions will have operational and evidential impact. Conceptual impact is anticipated through critical reflection on the purpose and consequences of drugs policing in various contexts. Future research plans are a pilot of the harm reduction framework and a study of public perceptions of drugs policing.

Project Plan *Brief description of methodology and deliverables.* **200 words**

The project has a multi-method design and consists of five phases: (1) *Documentary analysis* – (a) policy documents and analytical products will be analysed to identify recognised harms and the aims of policing drug markets; (b) case files of drug market operations will be analysed to identify the aims, approaches and outcomes of specific policing interventions; (2) *Interviews* - key police actors will be interviewed about their understandings of harm reduction policing and views on how best to evaluate the impact of drug market interventions (e.g. NCA, YHROCU and [police force] SOCU); (3) *Focus groups* – police officers/staff involved in tackling drug markets will discuss the various ways police define success and evaluate the impact of their interventions, using scenarios based on real operations to encourage critical reflection and innovative thinking; (4) *Harm reduction policing framework* - working with the [police force] analyst recruited for the project, the research team will develop a drug-harm matrix and guidelines that can be used for operational planning, implementation and evaluation; (5) *Workshop* – the research team will receive feedback from experts in the field on the harm reduction policing framework and how it might be implemented in practice. *Deliverables* – harm reduction policing framework, practitioner report and journal articles.

Expertise of the researcher/research team *Knowledge and experience relevant to project delivery.* **150 words**

Matt Bacon is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise in policing, drug policy and qualitative methods. His recent research is on innovation and reform in drugs policing, especially harm reduction measures at the interface between law enforcement and public health.

Xavier L'Hoiry is an expert in serious and organised crime, and policing responses to this phenomenon. He has considerable experience of qualitative methods and delivering co-production activities alongside police practitioners.

Becs Horsfall is D/Supt within Crime Services at [police force] and Head of the Analytical, Crime Management and Digital Capabilities portfolio. She is thematic lead for SOC and responsible for Operation Fortify, [police force's] partnership approach to serious violent crime and organised criminality.

Chris Singleton retired his warranted powers as D/Supt and Director of Intelligence. He is currently [police force's] SOC Coordinator. The role was borne out of a multi-force Home Office pilot to identify and share best practices in tackling SOC.

Shortlisted Proposal 2

Examining the sexual offending patterns of the 5000 registered sexual offenders in Greater Manchester, to understand risk and recidivism between online and contact offenders.

Presenter and Research Lead (if different)		
Name	*Role*	*Organisation*
Sandra Flynn	Lecturer in Psychology and Mental Health	N8 University
Polly Turner	Registered Forensic Psychologist and Clinical Senior Lecturer	N8 University
Kate-Louise Allen	Inspector, Sex Offender Management Unit	Police Force

Academic and practical significance *Potential for future research & impact on policy and practice.*   ***150 words***

There are 5000 Registered Sexual Offenders (RSOs) within [region], and the register grows each year. To match the demand, SOMU needs a staff uplift every year. It is estimated that online offenders account for over 75% of the cohort. However, research is currently unclear what risks are posed by offenders who access online material, and there is limited evidence that the current OM model is effective. This project would analyse the current RSO cohort to understand patterns of offending and risk levels. This would provide data to enable future research into effective interventions and rehabilitation. Developing a new offender management model within [police force] would significantly improve practice. By understanding the management needs of the different offenders, further research can be conducted into offender typology and appropriate management approach, which could reduce risk of harm to the public locally, but also nationally and worldwide. It would also ensure maximum value and utilisation of police resources.

Project Plan *Brief description of methodology and deliverables.*   ***200 words***

The study proposes using existing Police data from the Oasys / Visor database to identify individuals currently on the register who present (1) online only; (2) contact only; or (3) online and contact risk. This data is not readily accessible to the SOMU. Coding the cohort this way will firstly establish the prevalence and nature of the offences committed by offenders on the register. Secondly, it will allow regression analysis against available risk assessment data, socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics, recidivism data and current management plans. This analysis will enable the research team to measure the effectiveness of current management practice within GMP for each of the three offence types.

Deliverables: This research would (1) provide [police force] with a detailed breakdown of the current RSO population in [region]; (2) evaluation of the current management approach against recidivism and risk B; (3) create a mechanism by which future Offender Managers could identify patterns of offending and use this information to tailor their management approach; (4) enable [police force] to maximum value and utilisation of police resources and have benefits beyond the local level.

Expertise of the researcher/research team *Knowledge and experience relevant to project delivery.*   ***150 words***

Sandra Flynn is an experienced researcher and Lecturer in the field of forensic mental health within the Centre for Mental Health and Safety. Her work has centred on improving safety in mental health and criminal justice settings.

Polly Turner is Registered Forensic Psychologist and Clinical Senior Lecturer in the field of forensic mental health within the Centre for Mental Health and Safety. Her clinical experience in low and high secure psychiatric services included assessment and treatment of personality disorders, habitual aggression and sexual offending behaviour.

Kate-Louise Allen has recently completed the Cambridge Centre for Evidence Based Policing course on policing to reduce serious violence, for which she received a distinction, and she hopes to continue her interest in policing research through further academic study.

Shortlisted Proposal 3

Securing victim-focused policing in the use of body-worn video cameras at domestic abuse incidents

Presenter and Research Lead (if different)		
Name	*Role*	*Organisation*
Stuart Lister	Professor of Policing and Criminal Justice	University of Leeds
Pam Davies	Professor of Criminology	Northumbria University
Mike Rowe	Professor of Criminology	Northumbria University
Jamie Daniels	Superintendent, Public Protection Division	Greater Manchester Police

Academic and practical significance *Potential for future research & impact on policy and practice.*

Many forces require police officers to activate body-worn cameras (BWCs) when attending domestic abuse incidents. Whilst this policy appears to be driven by high rates of victim attrition from the criminal process, little is currently known about the effects of BWCs on:

(a) the attitudes, behaviours and experiences of victims when interacting with attending police officers;
(b) the decisions of victims whether to initiate, and then sustain, a formal complaint against the assailant;
(c) the satisfaction of victims with how police respond to and deal with their calls for service.

This study will explore each of these interrelated issues to generate evidence to inform:

i. police policy (i.e. aligning BWC policy with 'victim-focused' approaches)
ii. police training and practice (e.g. such that officers remain victim-focused in their responses to unfolding situational circumstances);
iii. police investigation/charging procedures (i.e. ensuring the use of BWCs in investigation and charging processes is alert to and reflective of victim-focused concerns)

Project Plan *Brief description of methodology and deliverables.*

This collaboration, between [Police Force], the [N8 University] and [non-N8 university], is framed by (a) the dramatic growth in police deployment of BWCs over the last decade; (b) the particular focus in the use of BWCs at domestic abuse incidents; (c) the need to develop and maintain a victim-focused policing response to 'vulnerable' groups, inclusive of domestic abuse victims.

Research design – [police force] will serve as the unit of analysis, where all officers are mandated to use BWCs when responding to domestic abuse incidents.

Data collection - in order to shed light on the research questions and issues (as identified above) – data will be collected from:

- Domestic abuse victims – survey to collect data of their views, attitudes and experiences of BWCs, to be disseminated via charitable bodies, providing support and services;
- Police managers of specialist units – interviews (approximately five) with those who have responsibility for relevant policy and practice areas (e.g. domestic abuse/safeguarding; the BWV programme)
- Police Officers (response teams) – focus groups (approximately three) to collect data on their experiences of using BWCs when dealing with domestic abuse

The applicants would be very willing to consider options for bringing other forces into the research design.

Expertise of the researcher/research team *Knowledge and experience relevant to project delivery.*

Stuart Lister - Professor of Policing and Criminal Justice with expertise in a range of policing issues, who has previously led an N8PRP study on police use of BWCs - https://tinyurl.com/2nxtt6ad. This study will complement the previous work as it centres the experiences and views of victims regarding the use of BWCs.

Pam Davies - Professor of Criminology who has undertaken multiple empirical studies into various aspects of criminal justice and victimisation, with particular expertise in victimology and the links between gender, crime, victimization, and justice.

Mike Rowe - Professor of Criminology with an international reputation for policing research, focusing on policing, culture and reforms, race and racism, police culture, and policing domestic violence.

Jamie Daniels - has an MSt in Applied Criminology and Police Management, University of Cambridge, and has commissioned/supported several research projects to support evidence-based decision making in policing.

Shortlisted Proposal 4

The harassment of women runners: perceptions, fear, and experiences of harassment and police response

Presenter and Research Lead (if different)		
Name	*Role*	*Organisation*
Caroline Miles	Senior Lecturer in Criminology	University of Manchester
Rose Broad	Senior Lecturer in Criminology	University of Manchester

Academic and practical significance *Potential for future research & impact on policy and practice.*   **150 words**

The focus of this project will be to explore women's experiences of harassment whilst running; a hidden harm that is currently undocumented in academic literature and in administrative data on the abuse of women in public places. In 2021, UK magazines Runners' World and Women's Health reported survey findings (n=2000 women), revealing that 60% had experienced harassment whilst out running, and 25% regularly experienced unwanted sexual advances or comments. An associated Instagram campaign using the #reclaimyourrun (building upon the Reclaim the Night marches across many national and international cities instigated in the 1970s as a response to women's fear of violence in private and public spaces) has led to thousands of women recounting their experiences of harassment whilst running, with some giving up the sport altogether as a result. This project will enhance police awareness of and responses to this form of gender-based abuse, and inform a subsequent larger project.

Project Plan *Brief description of methodology and deliverables.*   **200 words**

Through generating understanding of women runners' experiences of harassment and its impact on their behaviour, this project aims to develop policy and practice, through enhancing recognition of and support for women who experience harassment, and making recommendations for prevention strategies.

Research questions:
1. What are women runners' experiences of being harassed?
2. How do women perceive the risk of being harassed whilst out running?
3. What changes do women make in response to their fears and/or experiences?
4. What are women's experiences of support-seeking or reporting harassment to police?
5. What counter measures are necessary?

Methods:
1. Analysis of police data covering a one-year period, capturing reports of harassment by women runners;
2. Online survey (n=400) administered to women about their experiences of being harassed whilst out running, and their responses to these experiences and/or fear of harassment.
3. Audio-diaries recorded by female runners (n=30) about their experiences, fear of being harassed, decisions around running routines and any reporting, over a one-month period.

Deliverables:
1. Briefing paper summarising key findings.
2. Recommendations relating to the identification of and responses to women who report harassment whilst out running.
3. Workshop with key stakeholders to co-develop policy and practice.

Expertise of the researcher/research team *Knowledge and experience relevant to project delivery.*   **150 words**

Caroline Miles's research expertise includes a number of gendered forms of violence and abuse, including child to parent violence, honour-based abuse, and parricide, as well as the broader phenomenon of homicide. Much of this research focuses on social and criminal justice responses to violence, using a mixed methodology approach incorporating analysis of statistical data, police case file data, fatal violence reviews, and interviews with professionals, victims and perpetrators of violence.

Rose Broad's research experience has involved collaborative research with police and gender-abuse focused NGOs for over five years, including close collaboration with Greater Manchester Police and GMCA. Inv.2's research focuses on modern slavery and human trafficking and the law enforcement and regulatory responses to this activity. Inv.2 has undertaken research using a range of methods including quantitative analysis of police data, in-depth interviews and documentary analysis of case files and court transcripts.

[Police Force] have indicated they are supportive of the project and likely to act as a research partner.

Shortlisted Proposal 5

Domestic Violence and Abuse against women and Girls (VAWG): Understanding the impact of Outcome 16 on women and girls' experience of the CJS and participation in DV investigations.

Presenter and Research Lead (if different)		
Name	*Role*	*Organisation*
Hayley Alderson	Senior Research Fellow, Population Health Sciences	Newcastle Uni
Ruth McGovern	Senior Lecturer, Population Health Sciences Institute	Newcastle Uni
Will McGovern	Senior Lecturer, Social Work, Education and Community Wellbeing	Northumbria Uni
Eileen Kaner	Professor of Public Health & Primary Care Research	Newcastle Uni
Michelle Addison	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology	Durham University
Victoria Cubby	T/DCI – VAWG Lead	Durham Police

Academic and practical significance *Potential for future research & impact on policy and practice.* 150 words
In cases of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) research shows that it is common for victims/survivors to withdraw support for police action for a complex matrix of reasons: retraumatisation, reprisals from the perpetrator and/or their family, revictimisation, secondary victimisation, repeat victimisation, being disbelieved, stigmatised, lack of confidence in the criminal justice system, procedural justice, and normalisation. Between March 2019-2020, 54.8% of DVA cases were discontinued in England and Wales, recorded as Outcome-16 (used by the police to describe the finalisation of an investigation where the suspect was identified, but the victim did not support police action). Our research will build on collaborative processes, taking a trauma-informed approach to policy and practice design to help the police improve their understanding of i.) why Outcome-16 occurs, and ii.) inform a better response to victims/survivors; and iii) understand what needs to stop/start/continue to support a prosecution in cases of DVA investigations and avoid Outcome-16.

Project Plan *Brief description of methodology and deliverables.* 200 words
The aims of our project are (i.) to develop an understanding of how effectively police investigating officers support adult victims/survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) in relation to reporting crime connected to Outcome 16 cases; (ii) to understand what changes are required in professional practice to reduce the number of outcome 16 cases; (iii) to identify best practice and recommendations that will increase the likelihood of adult DVA victims/survivors supporting criminal investigations.

This will be achieved by conducting interviews to examine the views/experiences of victims/survivors who have withdrawn support regarding a DVA investigation and police officers (varying in role and rank) regarding current practice relating to DVA investigations and a survey DVA victims/survivors who have withdrawn support to identify why they withdraw support regarding a DVA investigation (outcome 16).

Findings would be synthesised to make recommendations to improve DVA practice and policy.

The findings of this proposed research would be presented within an end of project report. We will also produce one peer reviewed publication, lay summaries, presentation at one National conference (i.e., the British Society of Criminology) and at local events with relevant partners (i.e., N8 Policing Research conference) and via extensive NIHR ARC and SPHR/Fuse networks.

Expertise of the researcher/research team *Knowledge and experience relevant to project delivery.* 150 words
The research team has extensive experience of working with vulnerable families and undertaking qualitative research. They have many years of experience conducting research on alcohol and substance use, which can be drivers of DVA, including in police and other criminal justice system contexts. The research group consists of senior managers within [police force], early career researchers as well as senior academics and individuals with a wealth of practice experience in statutory social work and emergency duty teams (Alderson & R. McGovern); specialist domestic violence projects (R. & W. McGovern) including work with victims and survivors (R. McGovern) as well as perpetrators (W. McGovern); voluntary sector (R. & W. McGovern, Kaner); public health (Kaner) and teaching on the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship, and health research in police custody (Addison). The team has secured £92 million in research funding. Cubby is the Violence Against Women & Girls Lead at Durham and has collaborated on developing the research idea and methods of data collection.

Shortlisted Proposal 6

Domestic Violence and Abuse against women and Girls (VAWG): Understanding the impact of Outcome 16 on women and girls' experience of the CJS and participation in DV investigations.

Presenter and Research Lead (if different)		
Name	*Role*	*Organisation*
Geetanjali Gangoli	Associate Professor – Department of Sociology	Durham University
Lee Berry	Supt VAWG Lead	West Yorkshire Police

Academic and practical significance *Potential for future research & impact on policy and practice.*	*150 words*

VAWG is high on the national and local agenda. Improving victims' experience and confidence in policing and the CJS are key outcomes. There is a lack of available research around victim engagement and race disparity in VAWG. Bringing all these elements together, which are key issues for policing legitimacy would reflect an original focus. This research will examine:

- Racial disparities in VAWG cases where the victim no longer wishes to support a police investigation
- Whether these investigations could be re-opened by re-engaging with the victims
- Victim autonomy in terms of reasons for disengagement
- Victim confidence and satisfaction and the volume of perpetrators being brought to justice.

As the key elements of this research have focus nationally and across all forces in the N8, there is likely to be support for this proposal with the potential for a broader collaboration with other forces.

Project Plan *Brief description of methodology and deliverables.*	*200 words*

This project will investigate whether racially minoritized women and girls are more likely to disengage from police investigations in VAWG cases, particularly Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences.

Aims:

- Assessing qualitative and quantitative data to look at differences between different racially minoritized women and girls
- Looking at specific experiences and reasons for disengagement based on ethnicity, race intersecting with other inequalities such as age, immigration status, education, religion
- To investigate intersectional vulnerabilities that complicate the experience of women experiencing these offence types such as immigration status or travelling communities
- Identify gaps in data recording

Methods:

- Analysing police databases
- Interviews with victims
- Interviews IDVA, ISVAs and other support services
- Interviews with initial responders, investigators of offences and Witness Care Officers

Deliverables:

- Understand the scale of any disparity between racially minoritized women and girls and other groups in VAWG Outcome 16 cases
- Determine the reasons for lack of victim engagement or disengagement throughout a VAWG investigation
- Creating Good Practice Guidelines based for data collection and practice
- Determine the best time to re-engage with VAWG victims, if appropriate, and who should lead on this engagement (Police or Support Service)

Expertise of the researcher/research team *Knowledge and experience relevant to project delivery.*	*150 words*

Geetanjali Gangoli has researched and published on policing racially minoritized communities, particularly in the areas of VAWG and exploring intersectionality around ethnicity, faith, immigration status, sexuality and gender. We are exploring the involvement of Professor Aisha Gill (University of Roehampton) and Dr Nikki D'Souza (Northumbria University) who are experts in the area of racially minoritized women and girls and policing. **Lee Berry** is the Force lead for VAWG and was for a period of time seconded onto the national NPCC VAWG task force. Also involved in this research will be DCI [name] who leads on Victims and Investigations and Supt [name] who heads the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit.