



College of  
Policing

[college.police.uk](http://college.police.uk)

# **What Works for Crime Reduction: Linking Research to Policing**

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# Our objectives

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Setting standards of professional practice

Identifying, developing and promoting practice based on evidence

Supporting the professional development of those working in policing

Supporting police forces and other organisations to work together to protect the public and prevent crime

Identifying, developing and promoting ethics, values and standards of integrity



**Outcome** The public from all communities have a high level of trust in the integrity and professionalism of the police. People working in policing have confidence that the decisions they and their colleagues make are guided by sound ethical principles.

# What does it mean?

'Using the **best available** evidence to inform decisions about practices and policies'

**ASK**

- Reflect on practice, build hypotheses

**TEST**

- Seek to answer the question through rigorous testing (e.g. experimental trials, systematic reviews)

**LEARN**

- Learn about 'what works?' (or doesn't...)

**ADAPT**

- Adapt policy/practice to reflect findings

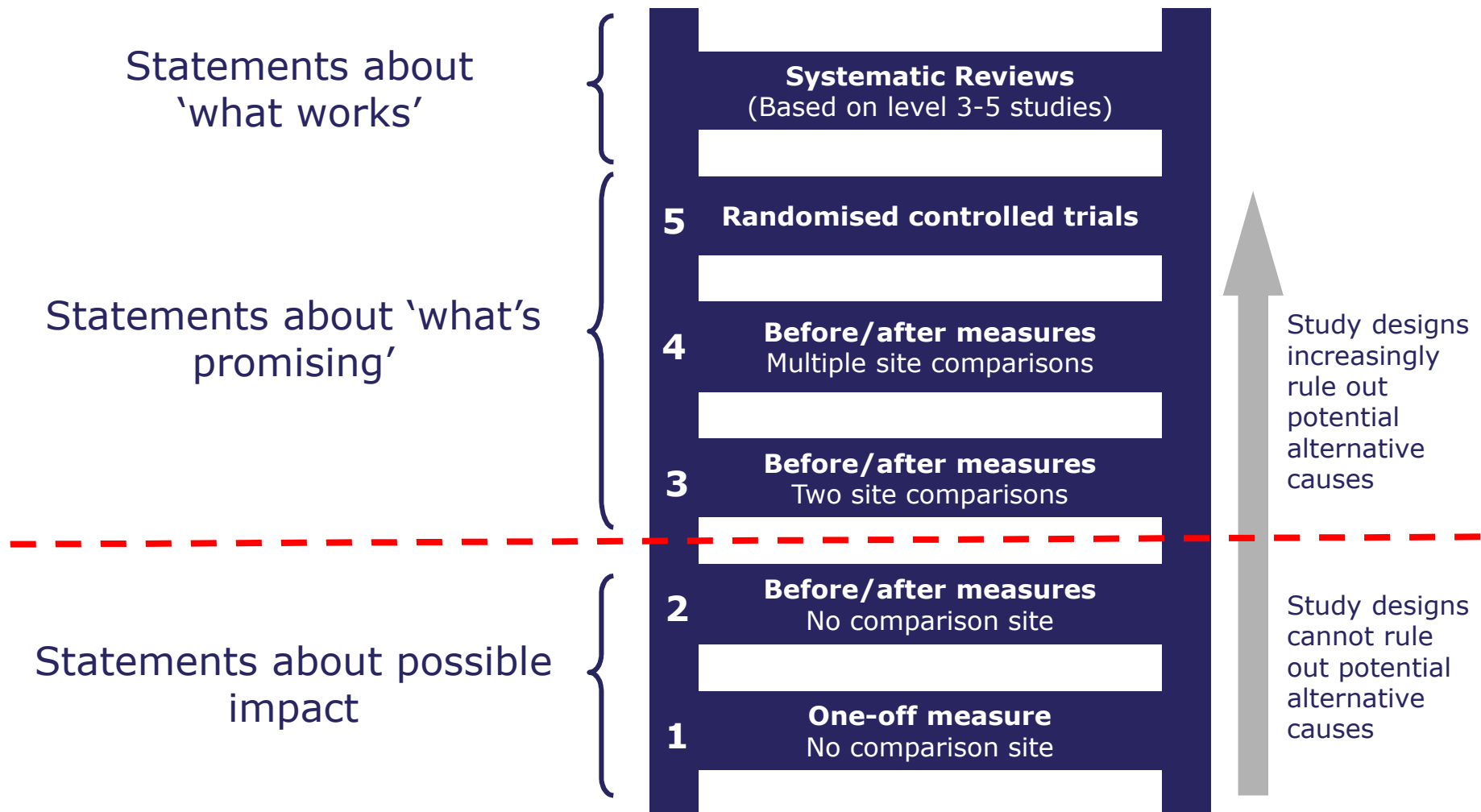


Scientific models – POP, systems thinking, National Decision-Making Model

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-learn-adapt-developing-public-policy-with-randomised-controlled-trials>



# What does 'good' evidence look like?





## What works... causal links

- systematic review
- randomised controlled trials
- quasi-experimental approaches

## Why... advancing understanding

- understand a specific problem and its causes
- existing (secondary) or new data (primary)
- surveys, administrative data, observations, interviews, focus groups

## How... practice-based expertise

- shared practice
- systematically distilled by police professionals into checklists, guidance, training or lessons learned

## Common features – transparency, peer review

# The challenge for policing...

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THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®

## Cochrane Collaboration

- Medicine/ Healthcare
- Over 5,000 systematic reviews
- Focus on specific interventions for specific illnesses



THE CAMPBELL  
COLLABORATION

## Campbell Collaboration

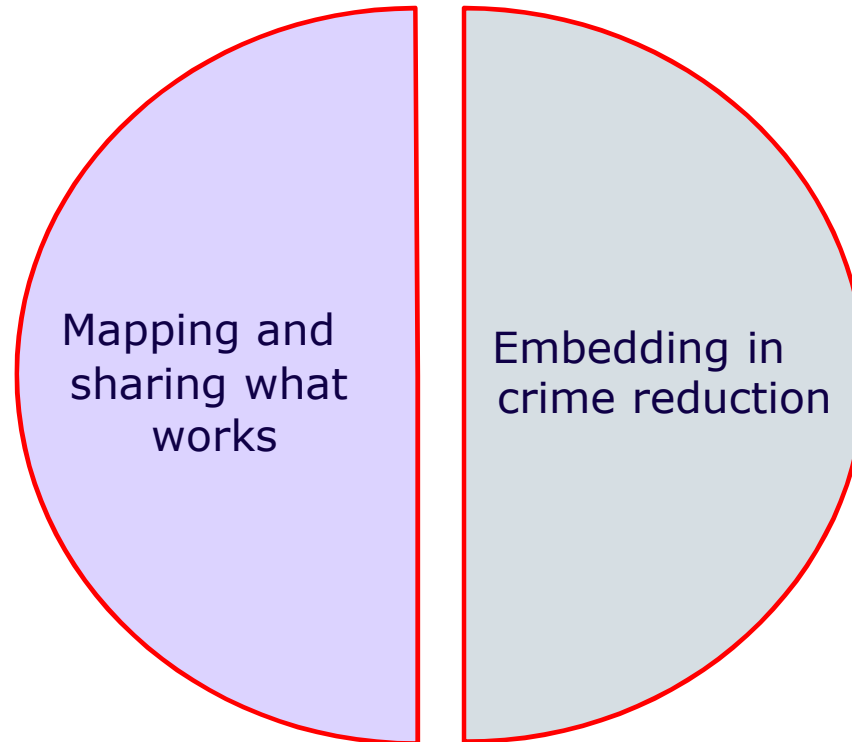
- Crime and Justice area
- Only 58 systematic reviews
- Focus on broad intervention strategies (hot spots, problem solving), not specific tactics

...there are lots of things we don't know about how to respond to and prevent particular types of crime...



...introducing the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction...

# What Works Centre for Crime Reduction





# Partnership work is critical

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**Surveys show officers rely on and prefer professional experience rather than research**

BUT

The more they know about research the less they believe the police alone have enough information about crime and what to do about it

AND

The more they are exposed to research the more likely they are to be willing to do experiments

SO

**When research is part of their professional experience - they will be much more likely to use it!**

# College support

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## Building partnerships

Policing Knowledge Fund



# Police Knowledge Fund

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**To support the development of sustainable education & research collaborations between police forces & academic institutions.**

- 1** Build sustained capability amongst officers and staff to understand, critique and use research
- 2** Embed or accelerate understanding of crime and policing issues, and evidence based problem-solving approaches
- 3** Demonstrate innovation in building the research evidence base and applying it through knowledge exchange and translation across all levels of policing.

# Successful PKF Bids 2015-16



Enhancing  
police  
responses to  
child sexual  
exploitation

Memory  
evidence in  
rape &  
serious sexual  
offences

Developing  
Restorative  
Policing

14 bids  
representing 39  
forces & BTP

Public  
Protection &  
Crime  
Prevention

Improving  
Investigation  
of Cyber  
enabled  
crime

Policing Hate  
Crime

Mental  
Health



CITY UNIVERSITY  
LONDON

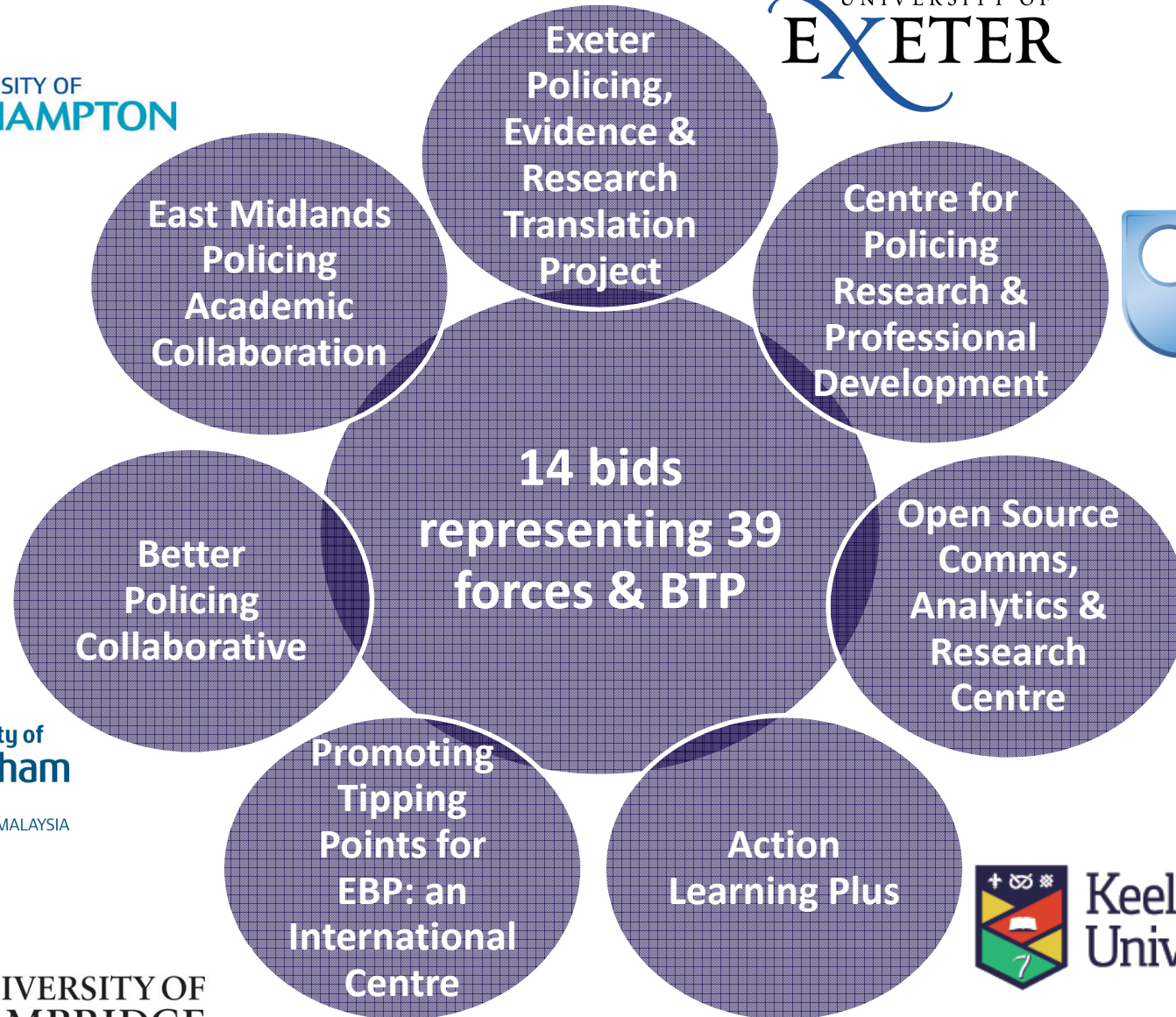


The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



THE UNIVERSITY of *York*

# Successful PKF Bids 2015-16



# College support to forces

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## Building partnerships

Policing Knowledge Fund

Research Fairs and Cafes



Mapping & supporting regional collaborations/networks

Research Framework and templates/protocols

National Research Programme





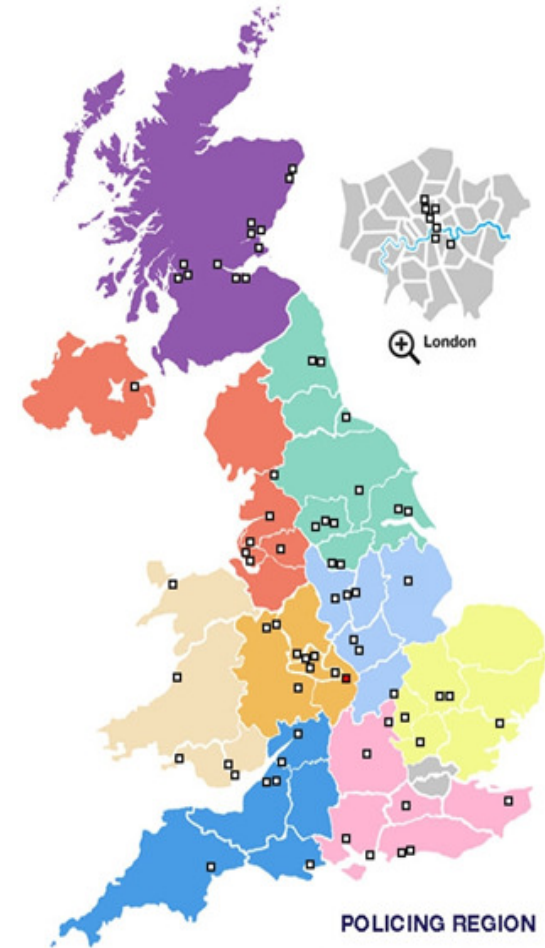
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# College support to forces

## Sharing knowledge

### What Works Crime Reduction Toolkit

POLICING AND CRIME REDUCTION  
**RESEARCH MAP** V.7



POLICING REGION	
North East	East Midlands
North West	West Midlands
South East	Eastern
South West	London
College of Policing	Institution



# Crime Reduction Toolkit

About the Crime Reduction Toolkit

Our effect scale

Our quality scale

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Key

Quality of evidence

- No information
- Limited quality
- Moderate quality
- Strong quality
- Very strong quality

Filters

Impact on Crime  
(select a range using the markers below)

XX

-

✓✓

Search term... Go

- Violent Crime Off On
- Property Crime Off On
- Offender Based Off On
- Victim Based Off On
- Location Based Off On

Reset filters

Clear pins

## Crime Reduction Toolkit

Intervention <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▲▼</span>	Impact on crime <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▲▼</span>	How it works <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▲▼</span>	Where it works <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▲▼</span>	How to do it <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▲▼</span>	What it costs <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▲▼</span>	
Effect	Mechanism	Moderator	Implementation	Economic cost		
"Scared Straight" Programmes	XX <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Multisystemic Therapy	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Alcohol ignition interlock	✓✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
CCTV	✓✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
CPTED (Robbery)	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Drink driving (DWI) courts	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Electronic monitoring	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Increased police patrol	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Mass media campaigns	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	
Multisystemic Therapy	✓ <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	 <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">■</span>	





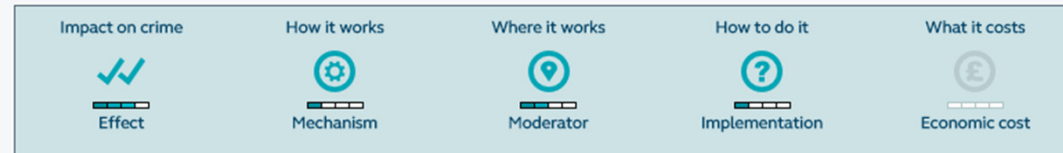
# Intervention page

About the Crime Reduction Toolkit

Our effect scale

Our quality scale

## Neighbourhood watch



### What is the focus of the intervention?

Neighbourhood watch schemes aim to reduce crime by directly involving the community in activities that promote safety or assist with the detection of crime. They actively seek the greater involvement of local people in crime prevention activities. The first schemes were seen in the US in the late 1960s and they are now very common in both the US and the UK. They are known under a variety of names including home watch, block watch and community watch (Review 1).

This narrative is primarily based on one systematic review covering 18 studies.

### EFFECT

#### How effective is it?

Overall, the evidence suggests that neighbourhood watch can reduce crime. There are however some important considerations, such as variation in practices across schemes, and large differences between countries in terms of observed reductions.

The review estimated that overall, for every 100 crimes, an average of 26 crimes were prevented with Neighbourhood Watch (based on 18 studies). There was no evidence of a backfire effect (where crime increases) across the evaluations reviewed.

#### How strong is the evidence?

The review was sufficiently systematic that many forms of bias that could influence the study conclusions can be ruled out.

This evidence is taken from a systematic review covering 18 studies. The review demonstrated high quality in terms of having a transparent and well-designed search strategy, featured a valid statistical analysis and considered the validity of the way outcomes are measured and/or combined. The review did not quantify an overall effect for unanticipated outcomes such as displacement caused by the intervention and, whilst it considered publication bias, it did not consider bias introduced by coder subjectivity or statistical outliers.

### MECHANISM

#### How does it work?

The authors note that: "it is ... difficult to determine from current research how neighbourhood watch works". However, they go on to suggest that Neighbourhood Watch might reduce crime by:

- (a) Deterring offenders through increasing their awareness of a great propensity of residents to look for and report suspicious activity;
- (b) reducing perceived opportunity via increasing signs of occupancy in vacant homes (moving bins, removing newspapers);

# Why would you use the Crime Reduction Toolkit?

Help to identify what works for frontline PCs  
(Response Officer)

Inform our work with young people and help us to write funding bids  
(Charity Worker, Prince's Trust)

To save money and time  
(Sergeant)

Encourages police partnership  
(Trading Standards Officer)

Better accountability for decisions  
(Inspector)

Helps to identify research gaps  
(Local Authority Researcher)

Horizon-scanning and resource allocation  
(Neighbourhood Sergeant)

## Sharing knowledge

What Works Crime Reduction Toolkit

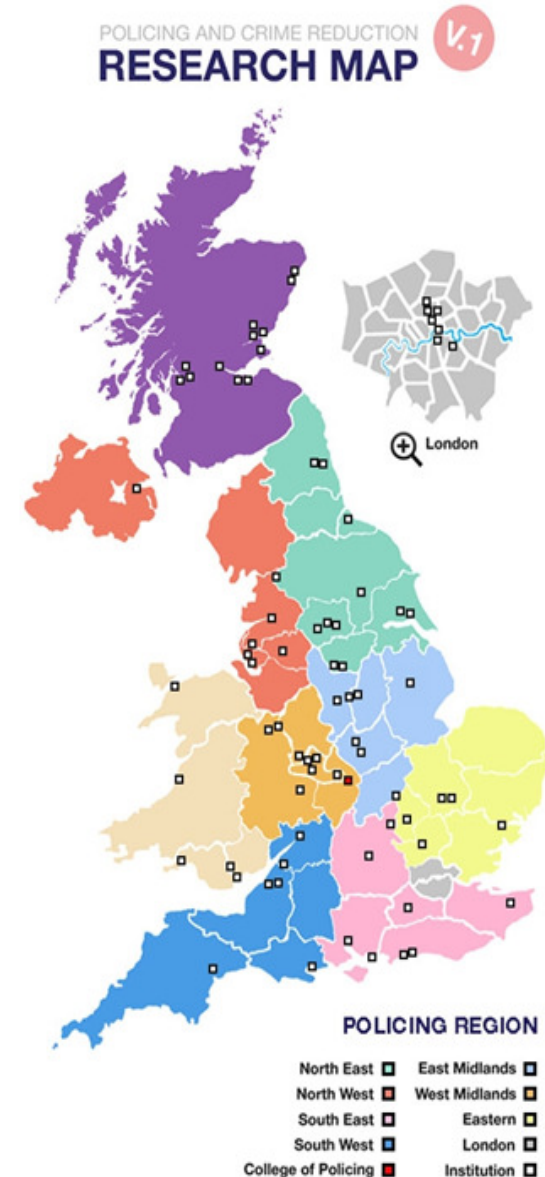
Research Map and RCT register

Evidence Champions network

What Works Systematic Reviews

Global Policing Database

EBP master classes





## Building capability

Randomised trials

Learning events



# Evidence Base Camp

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60 delegates from across the service – 5 priority areas mapped!!!

Area	Abstracts returned	Available for synthesis	Useful Studies
Acute Mental Health Crisis	1,408	38	18
Barriers to career progression	1,205	46	23
Reducing theft from the person	844	58	25
Supporting mental well-being	1,229	72	41
Responding to prostitution	979	48	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,665</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>107</b>



## Evidence Base Camp

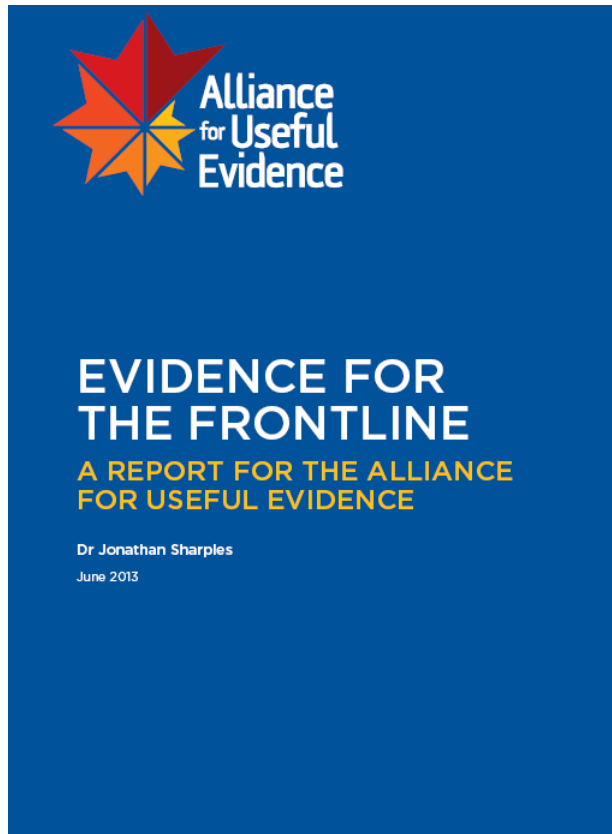
*"Evidence base camp has already started to have a positive impact on how we approach problems within force - making us think about what evidence is out there before bringing in new approaches to tackling crime."*

*"This event has shown what can be achieved when forces **work together** and build on each other's work to improve the knowledge of the entire service. It is surprising how little evidence there is about what works within policing and **there is now a real opportunity for all of us - officers and staff - to help build the evidence base** by employing the techniques learnt at this event."*





# Working together



Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the College of Policing is the opportunity it creates to link research evidence directly to professional standards





# Any Questions?

Contact: **[Nicky.Miller@College.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nicky.Miller@College.pnn.police.uk)**

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<http://whatworks.college.police.uk/About/Pages/default.aspx>