

## Introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Consultation Board literature review, compiled by Researcher Fiona Pink. The themes of this literature review includes communications with the public and how to best engage with them, knife crime and county lines and the public perceptions of policing.

**Public Perceptions of Policing in England and Wales 2018** provides an in-depth insight into local policing and the public's perceptions. It covers themes such the public's satisfaction with local policing, the public's confidence of the police, the police visibility, and also engagement with the public. The different attitudes from the public are explored.

When looking at the best ways to engage with the community, **Improving Community Relations through Law Enforcement's Use of social Media** explores how the police now have a new opportunity to communicate with the public and to educate them on various matters. It reveals how social media can be used to improve the relationship between the police and public and also increasing public confidence.

The **Force management statement summary** by Humberside Police provides an example of how they effectively engage with the public. Their statement summary demonstrates their use of Independent Advisory Groups and their methods of communicating local with the members of the public to maintain a good relationship between the police and public.

**Marsh (2018)** raises awareness of the level of violence occurring across the country with knife related crimes. They provide statistics which demonstrate the demand put on hospitals due to violence linked with the drug trade.

The National Crime Agency provide a report on **County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug supply** which discusses how there is a slight change with the way county lines are operating. The report suggests that there are changes in the rural areas.

The **Knife Crime in England and Wales** report shows the trends and patterns of knife crime and how they have changed since 2011. It presents data which suggests that there is an increase in the number of offences taken place in the year 2017/18 due to people having sharp objects on their possession.

A news story by the Home Office, **Home Secretary announces new police powers to deal with knife crime**, informs that the Home Secretary will be enhancing police powers by amending the Offensive Weapons Bill to introduce Knife Crime Prevention Orders. This has the aim of having more of a focus on young people getting involved in knife crime.

If you find articles to include within the review or for discussion, please email them to Fiona ([fiona.pink@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fiona.pink@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)).

Anja Kimberley, Consultation Board Chair.

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## 1. Public Perceptions of Policing in England and Wales (BMG Research, 2018)

**Method** This was a large scale study consisting of a sample of 17,043 being conducted through online and face-to-face surveys during June and July in 2018.

**Satisfaction with local policing** There has been a rise from previous years of the number of people who are more satisfied than dissatisfied with their local policing (61% v 12%). However, more respondents believe that the service provided has got worse (22%) compared to those who feel it has improved (8%). Those who claimed they were dissatisfied provided reasons such as: police do not take action; perceptions of minimal or non-existent police presence; inadequate response times; and negative personal experiences with the police. When looking at the demographics of the respondents there is a higher level of satisfaction in the 25-34 age group and BAME groups.

**Confidence in policing** Respondents are mostly confident that the police would be effective in dealing with an emergency (74%). However, they are least confident in the police when they have to deal with a non-emergency. 78% of respondents who have interaction at least once a month are confident in the police compared to 62% who have had no interaction in the past year.

**Police visibility** Police presence within the community is believed to be an expectation of the respondents where 78% of respondents felt it is either 'very important' or 'fairly important' to see the police out on foot. However, there is a low satisfaction rate with on foot police presence where half of the respondents (47%) felt either 'fairly dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with the level of police on foot within the community.

**Police engagement** The majority of participants do not feel that they are informed about what the police are doing in their local area where 58% feel either not very or not at all informed. 85% of respondents states that in the past 12 months they had not been asked their views on crime and ASB. A high proportion of respondents (69%) also say they have not been made aware how their local police are tackling crime and ASB. When the participants were asked what they were interested in knowing about 66% said they want to know what the local people are doing or have done to prevent issues such as crime.

Research Report:

[https://www.bmgresearch.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/1578-HMICFRS-Public-Perceptions-of-Policing-2018\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.bmgresearch.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/1578-HMICFRS-Public-Perceptions-of-Policing-2018_FINAL.pdf)

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## **2. Improving Community Relations through Law Enforcement's Use of social Media (Phillips, 2018)**

Using social media as a method of communication and as a way to share information has transitioned from a concept to a reality. Using social media allows the public to understand how the police is combating crimes presented through Facebook and could lead to a reduction of fear and an increase in confidence. In Texas (where this report is taken from), there is an increased desire from the public to be able to see what is going on through the use of social media. It is reported that it will create a better relationship between the police and the public.

Social media is the largest community in the world where society is provided with opportunities to voice their opinions and to make their concerns on various subject matters heard. The most popular sites are platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Facebook alone has over 1.78 billion users who remain active on a monthly basis.

Previously, community policing to build public confidence in policing and to engage and educate the public was through foot patrols. However, it has now moved forward to a cyber method of communication.

Policing has the opportunity to use this tool as a method of educating the public, demonstrating a response to their consultation and to engage with different communities.

Report:

[http://scholar.google.co.uk/scholar\\_url?url=https%3A%2F%2Fshsu-ir.tdl.org%2Fbitstream%2Fhandle%2F20.500.11875%2F2486%2F1798.pdf%3Fsequence%3D1&hl=en&sa=T&oi=ggp&ct=res&cd=6&d=4618116779281073854&ei=XL1SXJuSIZKemQH0wZm4Dg&scisig=AAGBfm30ycROmq3FoQhgnXBsi2ohFQ9eDQ&nossl=1&ws=1280x907&at=Improving%20Community%20Relations%20through%20Law%20Enforcement's%20Use%20of%20Social%20Media](http://scholar.google.co.uk/scholar_url?url=https%3A%2F%2Fshsu-ir.tdl.org%2Fbitstream%2Fhandle%2F20.500.11875%2F2486%2F1798.pdf%3Fsequence%3D1&hl=en&sa=T&oi=ggp&ct=res&cd=6&d=4618116779281073854&ei=XL1SXJuSIZKemQH0wZm4Dg&scisig=AAGBfm30ycROmq3FoQhgnXBsi2ohFQ9eDQ&nossl=1&ws=1280x907&at=Improving%20Community%20Relations%20through%20Law%20Enforcement's%20Use%20of%20Social%20Media)

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## **3. Force management statement summary (Humberside Police, 2018)**

Humberside Police provide an example of how they effectively engage with the public. They use a place based model and work in collaboration with partners and communities to share data and understand the public demand.

Hate crime represents 1% of all reported crime in Humberside but has a greater impact on the community. Therefore they run four Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) which are aligned with four local authority areas. The purpose of the IAGs is to monitor the data and identify good practice and any needed development. They also proactively maintain relationships with the community to encourage reporting and to provide a visible presence.

Their local neighbourhood teams have their own local accounts of Facebook and Twitter which are used to share information with local residents about local issues, crime prevention, events and appeals. When they launched the Community Alerts system they had over 10,000 people signed up to it. They do face-to-face engagement through foot patrol, attendance at local events, and through their local contact points based in police stations, shared accommodation with other services and out at community locations such as village halls, schools and supermarkets.

Report:

<https://www.humberside.police.uk/sites/default/files/HumbersidePolice-Force-Management-Statement-Summary%202018-Booklet.pdf>

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#### **4. Charities and doctors sound alarms over county lines knife crime injuries (Marsh, 2018)**

Hospitals in rural areas are experiencing a growth in the number of young people going to major trauma units and A&E due to violence linked to the drug trade. Young people's engagement with county lines in urban location has been linked with the increase in violence, in particular knife crime, across the country.

Those working in urban hospitals recognise that they are 'dealing with it more and more' and are now asking for help to support the rise in victims. Figures from nine of the NHS's 11 regional major trauma centres in England show that the number of stabbing victims with life-threatening injuries increased by more than 34% between the years 2015/16 – 2017/18. Cases involving children have risen by 24.4%.

This article also suggests that the level of violence with knife crimes has also increased. This article states that previously doctors would see one or two wounds per victim whereas now they are more frequently seeing five, or sometimes 10, stab injuries.

Article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/nov/07/county-lines-drug-trade-puts-rural-hospitals-on-knife-frontline>

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### **5. County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug supply (National Crime agency, 2017)**

This report highlights that there is an increase in the number of incidents of phones being held closer to the rural marketplace, compared to the urban. There is evidence of some phones being moved between the two market locations.

Although cuckooing is still the dominant method of obtaining access to chosen locations to operate and deal from, 23% of forces report that county lines groups are using accommodation other than that acquired by cuckooing in the rural marketplace. This indicates that county lines gangs are starting to move away from the traditional method of cuckooing in rural locations. Another change in the rural area is a move away from having a particular stash house and keeping product with various people at different locations.

Report:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/832-county-lines-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2017/file>

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### **6. Knife Crime in England and Wales (House of Commons, 2018)**

The number of offences involving knife crime is at its highest since 2011 where over the previous four years the number of offences have significantly risen. The police recorded 41,884 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the year ending June 2018. The Metropolitan Police had the largest rise in number of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. This rise of offences recorded by the police is also witnessed by the NHS. Hospitals in England and Wales experienced 4,986 admissions for assault by a sharp object in in the year 2017/18 which was a 15% increase from the previous year.

There is also a rise in the number of offences where a person is in 'possession of an article with a blade or point'. The number has risen by 21% to 18,838 offences in the year ending June 2018.

Report:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingjune2018#some-weapons-offences-are-rising-but-this-type-of-crime-remains-rare>

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## **7. Home Secretary announces new police powers to deal with knife crime (Home Office, 2019)**

The government will seek to amend the Offensive Weapons Bill to introduce Knife Crime Prevention Orders. It can impose on any person aged 12 and over in order to prevent vulnerable young people from being involved in knife possession and knife crime. This amendment fills the gap which is not covered by current orders such as gang injunctions and criminal behaviour orders. The new orders will restrict behaviour by placing curfews and geographical restrictions on individuals as well as limiting their social media usage.

The Home Secretary will also be taking further action against retailers found to be selling knives to those under the age of 18. A new £500,000 prosecution fund will help Trading Standards teams to secure the prosecution of retailers who repeatedly sell knives to children.

The Home Office will further launch the next phase of #KnifeFree in the spring which is a campaign aimed at young people to inspire them to pursue positive alternatives.

The Serious Violence Strategy is also being backed by £40million worth of funding which puts more of a focus on deterring young people away from a life of crime.

News Story:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-police-powers-to-deal-with-knife-crime>

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