The Scottish Institute for **Policing Research**

SIPR & the role of research in policy & practice

SCSN, 27th May 2019

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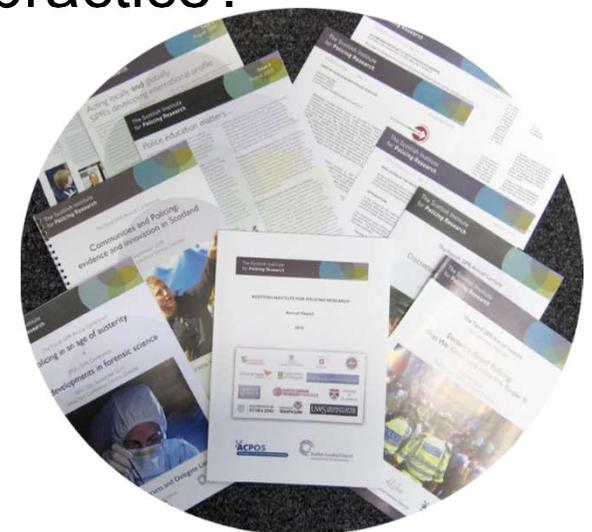
L.Aston@napier.ac.uk   t.Heilbronn@napier.ac.uk
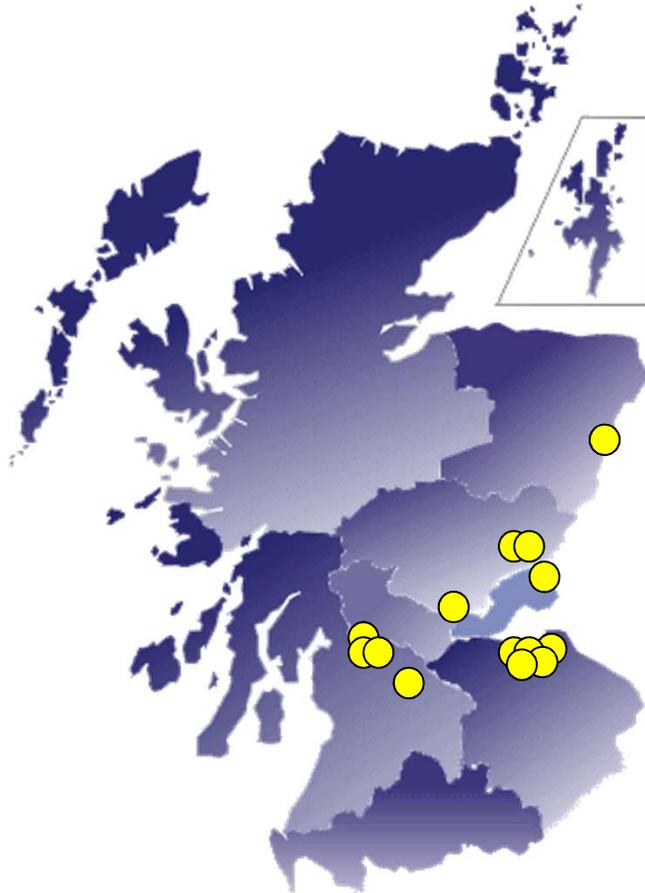
www.sipr.ac.uk

@AstonLiz   @TheSIPR

Outline

- What is SIPR?
- Key areas SIPR is involved in
  - research examples
- *How can research help* to make the case for community safety?
- What works in linking research, policy & practice?
  - opportunities & benefits
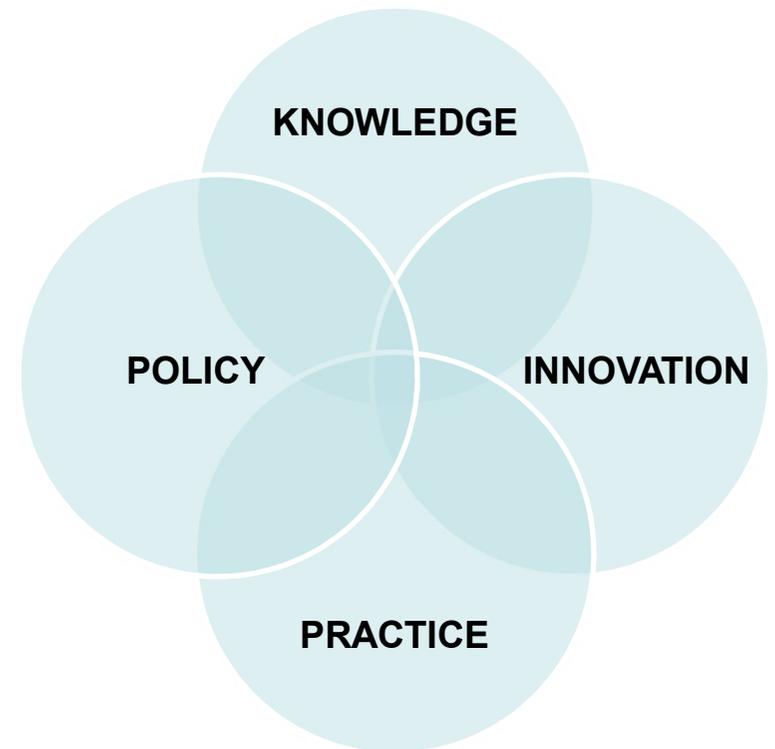- Challenges, next steps & call for action

The Scottish Institute
for **Policing Research**

Abertay University

University of Dundee

The University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Napier University

University of Glasgow

GCU Glasgow Caledonian University

HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY·ABERDEEN

University of St. Andrews

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

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UWS UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST of SCOTLAND

Queen Margaret University EDINBURGH

The Open University Scotland

*Supporting independent, multi-disciplinary policing
research to enable evidence informed policy & practice*
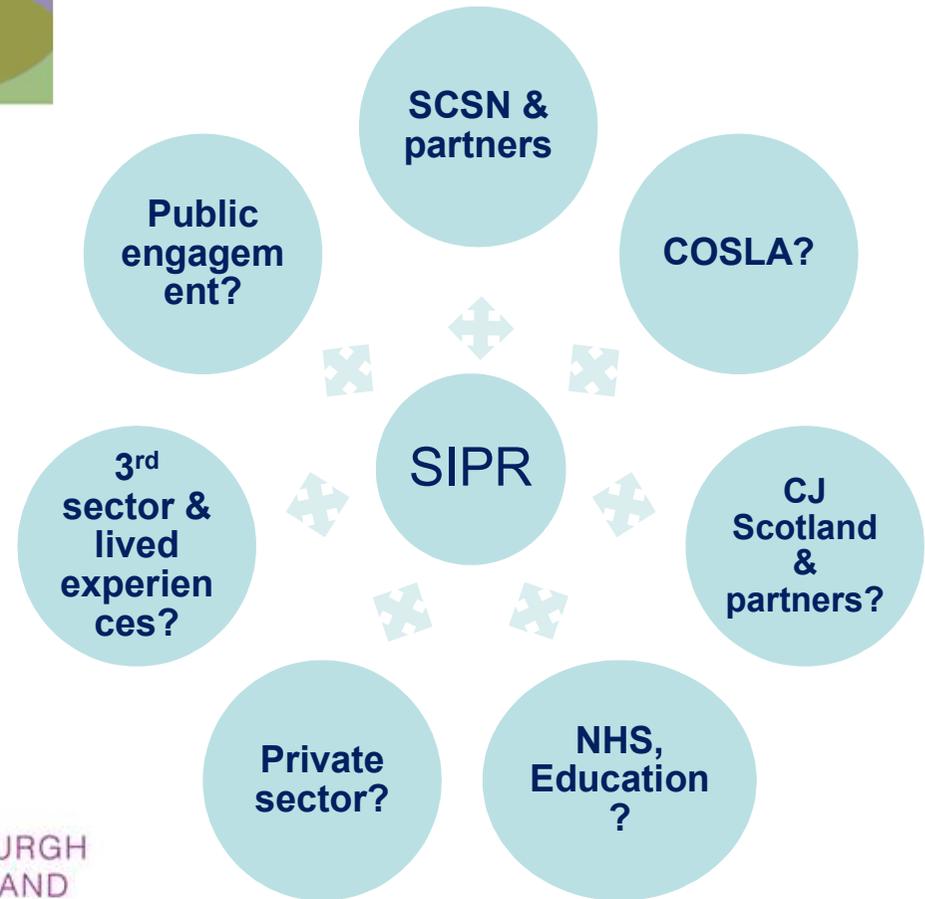
Aims to:

- Facilitate excellent, independent
  research of relevance to policing;

- Engage in a range of knowledge
  exchange activities to strengthen the
  evidence base on which policy and
  practice are developed;

- Nurture a culture of learning &
  innovation;

- Promote the development of national
  & international links with researcher,
  practitioner and policing communities.

KNOWLEDGE

POLICY   INNOVATION

PRACTICE

PARTNERSHIPS

The Scottish Institute for **Policing Research**

College of Policing

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

The Scottish Government

HMICS

SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

LEPH 2019 / EDINBURGH SCOTLAND 21-23 OCT
The Fifth International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health

SCSN & partners

Public engagement?

COSLA?

3rd sector & lived experiences?

SIPR

CJ Scotland & partners?

Private sector?

NHS, Education?

Key areas SIPR is involved in

➤ Networks: 'Police-community Relations', 'Evidence & Investigation', 'Education & Leadership' 'Public Protection'

➤ E.g. PCR Local Approaches to Policing grants 2018-2019: Adverse Childhood Experiences; Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse; Drug Related Deaths; Special Constabulary

➤ Scottish International Policing Conference on Digital Policing 2019 –intersect between online & community safety?

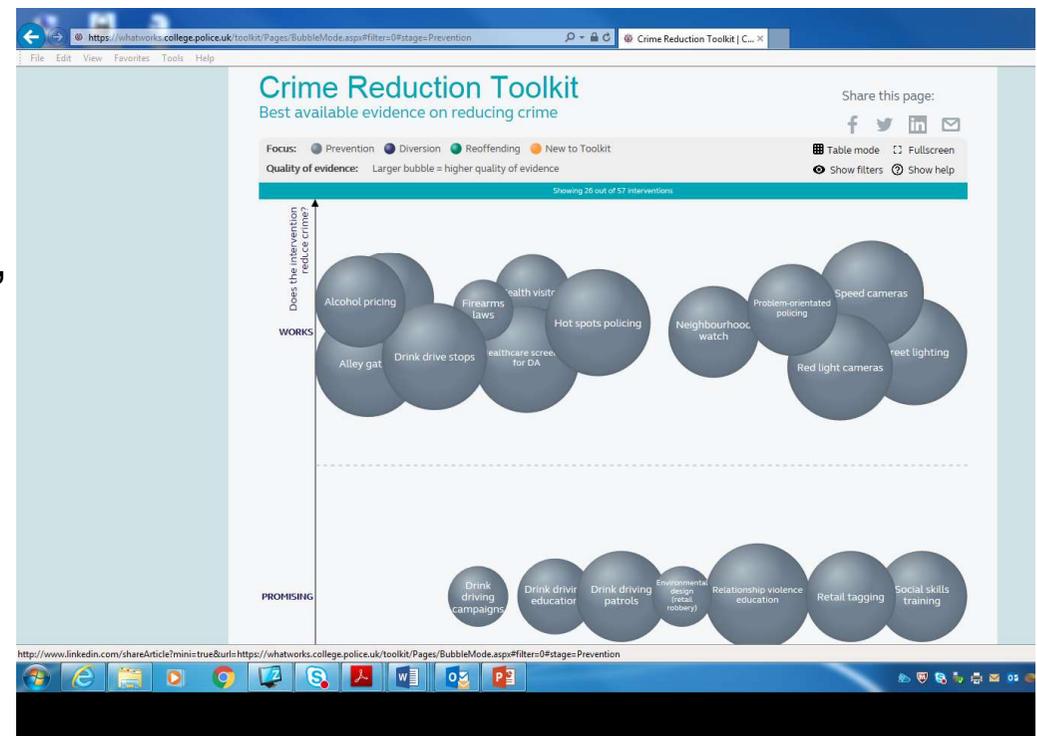➤ Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference, October 2019 – wellbeing & safety

Research examples

- Evaluation of Stop and Search Pilot (O'Neill, M. Aston, E. & Krause, A.)

- Review of Public Confidence & Police Visibility (Hail, Y. Aston, E. & O'Neill, M.)

- 'Prevention First' Strategy in Ayrshire (Smith, R., Frondigoun, Martin, Campbell & Thomas)

- Local solutions to local problems: innovation in public participation (Bland, Escobar et al.)

Crime Reduction Toolkit

https://whatworks.college.police.uk/toolkit/Pages/Toolkit.aspx

How can research help to make the case for community safety?

➢ Legislation: P&FRS (Scotland) Act 2012 'to improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland' – working in collaboration. Accessible to & engaged w local communities. Measures to prevent crime, harm and disorder.

➢ Engagement (& enforcement); *safety* not just crime reduction; prevention requires a partnership approach:

  ➢ Crime Reduction Toolkit examples: neighbourhood watch, health visitors, alcohol pricing, drink drive stops, alley gating /street lighting, CCTV, speed cameras, problem-oriented & hot-spots policing

What works in linking research, policy & practice?

- Dissemination – communicating findings in 'user-friendly' ways.
- Social influence – using influential others to persuade and champion use of research.
- Facilitation – actively helping to use research, create conditions to support its use.
- Incentives and reinforcement
- ➢ Interactive approaches that strengthen links between research, policy & practice communities as most effective way to improve the use of research by public services (Nutley, Walter, Davies 2007)
    - ✓ encourages a two way flow of information
    - ✓ practitioners gain better knowledge of the latest research & helps academics to understand their needs

Opportunities /benefits SIPR offers researchers and practitioners:

- **Infra-structure** for engagement;
- **Investment** in research and knowledge exchange;
- **Innovation** in connecting evidence and practice
- **Interdisciplinary** community of researchers
- **International** networks of researchers and practitioners;
- (Pathways to) **Impact** …

Mailing list, 'People' section on website, KE events, research dissemination, tenders & research support, make links…

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Challenges & next steps

- Values: *independent* & analytical, collaborative, transparent, inclusive, innovative, supportive

- Capacity, funding & sustainability?

- *Informed* public debate
  - ➢ How to engage communities?

- ➢ Strategic partnerships & shared learning

Call for Action?

- ➢ Consider how research might be of use & how best to engage with it?

- ➢ Call for action: engage with research(ers) /Universities?

- ➢ *Informed* public debate - challenge public /media /political opinion?

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THANK YOU!
Any Questions?

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