



## What is an Effective Intervention Review?

The Safer Communities Scotland (SCS) website's Effective Intervention Reviews (EIRs) are only available to SCS members and their purpose is to mobilise and share **knowledge, perceptions** and **understanding** from practitioner, independent and academic research across the website's community safety themes. Each EIR presents research findings from across the UK and summarizes the ways in which information was collected and analysed to form conclusions.

The reviews are devised to support the development of effective community safety interventions by providing an evidence base of findings from well conducted research that implemented clear rationale and evidence to underpin research findings and conclusions. Accessing information like this is a useful approach to consider the recognised advantages and challenges that face different aspects of community safety and may be useful to develop individual understanding on certain community safety topics or inform organizational strategic decision making.

## How to work with the SCS Effective Intervention Reviews

The SCS EIRs have been designed to be used independently or, more constructively, alongside other data and information available on the SCS website in the form of **Practice Notes** and **Thematic Reviews**. The topic headings found throughout the website are also used to categorise these materials, so information about similar topics can be quickly drawn together.

Topics and themes for EIRs on the Safer Communities Scotland website are suggested by community safety peers to best support the interests and needs of practitioners and decision makers. The EIRs are exclusively drawn from research that has demonstrated a rigorous evaluation methodology: a set of criteria for this exercise has been designed by the University of Glasgow. Please note the SCS criteria are not part of the pdf. download but are freely available upon request.

If you have any queries about the Effective Intervention Reviews, please contact [info@scsn.org.uk](mailto:info@scsn.org.uk)

## A glossary of SCS Effective Intervention Review terminology

Whilst some terms may be familiar to you, their interpretation and meaning and what practice these entail within social science research may differ from the everyday norm. This glossary highlights a few specialist terms that are sometimes used in describing the effective interventions:

- **(Research) Methodology**  
*All of the techniques, methods and procedures adopted in a project to carry out the desired research.*
- **Qualitative research** *usually emphasizes words rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data.*
- **Quantitative research** *usually emphasizes numbers and statistics in the collection and analysis of data.*
- **Mixed methods research or ‘triangulation’**  
*Describes research that combines the use of both quantitative and qualitative research. The term can be employed to describe research that combines just quantitative research methods or that combines just qualitative research methods. However, in recent times, it has taken on this more specific meaning of combining quantitative and qualitative research methods.*
- **Literature review**  
*This term describes two stages: 1) a process of an extensive search for published knowledge (from books, journals and other printed materials) available on a given topic/s, and 2) to review it and produce a substantial written summary and explanation of key studies relevant to the proposed study.*
- **Primary research**  
*Is research you have carried out yourself. It will result in collecting new and original data to answer a research question. It may have either or both a qualitative or quantitative focus.*
- **Secondary research or analysis**  
*Is the analysis of data by researchers who will probably not have been involved in the collection of original data. This means findings may be used by others for reasons different from what was originally intended in primary research. It may have either or both a qualitative or quantitative focus.*
- **Sample**  
*The segment of the population that is selected for research. It is a subset of the population. The method of selection may be based on probability sampling or non-probability sampling.*

- **Case study**  
*A research design that entails the detailed and intensive analysis of a single case. The term is sometimes extended to include the study of just two or three cases for comparative purposes.*
- **Data**  
*A collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn. It may have either or both a qualitative or quantitative focus.*
- **Official statistics**  
*Statistics compiled by or on behalf of state agencies in the course of conducting their business.*
- **Validity**  
*A concern with the integrity of the conclusions that are generated from a piece of research.*
- **Likert scale**  
*A widely used format for asking attitude questions. Respondents are typically asked their degree of agreement with a series of statements that together form a multiple-indicator-item measure. The scale is deemed then to measure the intensity with which respondents feel about an issue.*
- **Focus Group**  
*A form of group interview in which: there are several participants (in addition to the moderator/facilitator); there is an emphasis in the questioning on a particular fairly tightly defined topic; and the emphasis is upon interaction within the group and the joint construction of meaning.*
- **Survey research**  
*Data are collected predominantly by self-completion questionnaire or by structured interview on more than one case (usually quite a lot more than one) and at a single point in time, in order to collect a body of quantitative or quantifiable data in connection with two or more variables (usually many more than two). Data is then examined to detect patterns of relationship between [given] variables.*

*(Definition source: Bryman, A. (2008) Social Research Methods, 3rd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.)*