The Hampshire Experiment

Chief Constable Alex Marshall
Robin Jarman
Supt Scott Chilton
Jo Rowland
Role of Chief Officers in EBP

• Minimise crime levels and protect the public through ‘evidence-based’ practices
• More effective use of resources, cost effective strategies
• Evidence of success reassures the public
Role of Chief Officers in EBP

• Hampshire ‘generations’ of MSt students delivering evidence to better inform policing
• EBP should be an integral part of policing in the future
• Challenges in both funding and appetite for risk
Domestic Abuse in the UK

- Estimated that UK police receive a DA call every minute
- Estimated social cost = £23 billion per annum
- Between 1 and 2 women are murdered by their male partners every week
- Approx 23% of all reported crime
  BUT considerable Scale & Reporting concerns...
CJS & DA Today

- Positive Action Policy
- Prosecution – now seen as holy grail
- Victim Withdrawals: 2009 = 10,176
- Increasing use of Simple Police Cautions
- Lenient sentences
- No early intervention
- Victim dissatisfaction
Conditional Cautions

• Introduced in 2007
• Divert minor cases away from court
• Conditions such as reparation, rehabilitative treatment or restrictions must be complied with.
• Flexible tailoring of conditions
• …but DA offences specifically NOT included
• Letter to DPP January 2011
DPP Approved This Question:

Could Conditional Cautions be used as a suitable intervention for certain cases of Domestic Abuse?
DPP Approval

“…the objective of the pilot should be to improve justice outcomes for victims by *addressing offender behaviour*… I would also seek assurance that the pilot seeks to achieve a reduction in the use of *simple cautions* rather than in the number of prosecutions…”

8th July 2011
What is Project CARA?

- Randomised Controlled Trial
- Domestic Abuse cases involving Conditional Caution
- Comparison of reoffending between offenders subject to offending workshops and those not subject to this condition
Concept to Reality – The Implementation of a RCT

• The concept: utilisation of the existing conditional caution scheme for Domestic Abuse cases

• Providing an enhanced service that could reduce repeat victimization

• Hypothesis:
  – “Offenders subject to additional conditions in the form of workshops will be less likely to reoffend compared with those without this condition”
Engaging Partner Organisations

- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
- Women’s Aid, RESPECT, CAADA
- Communications
Project Area: Western Hampshire
Building a Team

- Research Manager
- Custody Investigation Team (CIT)
- Corporate Communications
- Public Protection & Safeguarding
- Field Researcher
Defining Research Methodology

- Caseflow
- Criminal Justice Processes (CPS, Courts)
- Safeguarding
- Cambridge Randomizer (Gateway)
- Eligibility Criteria
- Data collection
Offending Workshops

- Selection of Provider
- Workshop Content
- Funding
- Males/Females (victims or offenders?)
- Management of Public Perceptions
Phase 1 - Development

- Training of relevant staff
- Production of user guide
- Feedback – Research Manager
- Weekly data collection
Workshops

- 35 offenders have currently completed at least 1 workshop
- Only 6 offenders have failed to attend without good reason (17%)
Where are we now?

• Phase 2 presently being adopted
  – Randomisation to both control and experimental groups
  – Randomisation to take place after/during contact with CPS
  – Breaches
  – Project governance/lead
Future Work

- Strategic engagement with partner agencies & 3rd Sector organisations
- Governance – LCJB
- Peer Review Panels
- Service Provision
- Communications
- Succession Plan
- Consideration of project area and timescales
Analysis

• Treatment Outcome Analysis (RCT):
  – Rates of Reoffending between control and experimental groups in terms of total offending and DA-specific offending

• All-Population Analysis (all cases)
  – Demographic investigation (age, gender and ethnicity)
  – Investigation into other Criminal Justice outcomes (charge/NFA)
  – Pipeline study and victim feedback
Summary – RCTs within Police Organisations

- RCT is possible within police organisations
- Low-cost
- Requires key staff
- Strategic support
- Long-term commitment