

The Hampshire Experiment

Project **CARA**
Conditional Cautioning and Relationship Abuse



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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



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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



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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...



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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



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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



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DPP Approved This Question:

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



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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



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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



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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”



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Engaging Partner Organisations

- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
- Women's Aid, RESPECT, CAADA
- Communications



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Project Area: Western Hampshire

Hampshire Constabulary AREAS

WESTERN AREA 1

- Southampton District
- Eastleigh and Romsey District
- New Forest District

EASTERN AREA 2

- Havant District
- Fareham and Gosport District
- Portsmouth District
- Isle of Wight District

NORTHERN AREA 3

- Andover District
- Basingstoke and Deane District
- Hart and Rushmoor District
- Winchester and East Hants District





Building a Team

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



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Defining Research Methodology

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



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Offending Workshops

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



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Phase 1- Development

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



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Workshops

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



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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



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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



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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



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Summary – RCTs within Police Organisations

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