

# Policing Network

The Policing Network is a partnership between the University of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Police. It was launched in September 2021, with this blog post concentrating on four literature reviews which were undertaken between January-May 2023.

## The Policing Network has the following strategic objectives

- ➔ To work collaboratively across the University and with Lincolnshire Police to identify areas of policing which require challenge-led research.
- ➔ To work collaboratively across the University and with Lincolnshire Police to make applications for funding.
- ➔ To work collaboratively across the University and with Lincolnshire Police to carry out research with impact.

Funding from the Lincoln Policy Hub was awarded to the Policing Network to undertake four literature reviews in areas that Lincolnshire Police had identified as priorities for themselves. The money enabled the Network to recruit four master's students from the University to undertake this work. So not only did the Police get some valuable research, but the funding also provided our students with an opportunity to liaise with the Police and produce a report which had practical value.

The four areas as identified by Lincolnshire Police were:

1. The Great Outdoors: A literature review into the positive impact being outdoors can have on our mental health.
2. Going Coastal: A Literature Review of Crime Patterns and Prevention Associated with Seasonal Tourism
3. What Makes People Feel Safe? A Literature Review of Public Perceptions of Street Based Safety.
4. Seldom Heard or Seldom Asked: Exploring the Efficacy of New Community Engagement Methods.

Each student was provided with an academic supervisor from the University.

### **The Great Outdoors: A Literature review into the positive impact being outdoors can have on mental health.**

Researcher: Edward Ingram  
Supervisor: Rachael Mason  
Police lead: Andrew Morrice

#### **Key findings:**

- There are a number of key health benefits of being exposed to nature. These include attention restoration, stress reduction, encouraging physical activity and social facilitation.
- Despite this, there were no studies found that have directly investigated the use of nature-based volunteering as a return-to-work strategy for mental health related sickness.
- There is some evidence that volunteering in an outdoor setting reduces stress.

### **What Makes People Feel Safe? A Literature Review of Public Perceptions of Street Based Safety.**

Researcher: Rajeswari Ramachandran  
Supervisor: Kay Ritchie  
Police lead: Ian Richardson

#### **Key findings:**

- Feeling unsafe on streets and fear of crime can lead to a sedentary lifestyle, increased carbon footprint, social isolation, reduced business, decreased use of public spaces, and negative perceptions of safety.
- This can lead to a cycle of fear and crime, straining community relationships.
- There is a need for a multifaceted approach to address safety concerns, including tackling social, economic, and environmental factors as well as engaging with local communities.
- On an immediate stakeholder level, practical solutions would involve improved lighting and design, increased monitoring, and enhanced community partnerships.

### **Going Coastal: A Literature Review of Crime Patterns and Prevention Associated with Seasonal Tourism**

Researcher: Emily Neale  
Supervisor: Lauren Smith  
Police lead: Lee St Quinton

#### **Key findings:**

- People who commit offences during travel to the coast during the summer season have different dispositions to those who reside in the local area.
- The factors which affect one's risk of victimisation are identifiable and preventable.
- Tourists have very different perspectives of the East Lindsey district, and this is largely dependent on age.
- Crime figures during the pandemic have interesting implications for the policies which Lincolnshire police use.
- Some tourists display negative attitudes towards refugees.

### **Seldom Heard or Seldom Asked: Exploring the Efficacy of New Community Engagement Methods**

Researcher: Maisy Fincham  
Supervisor: Carina O'Reilly  
Police lead: Colin Clarkson

#### **Key findings:**

- Formal meetings are useful in many ways but can be unrepresentative and are poor ways of accessing harder to reach communities.
- Outreach - whether roadshows or engaging through faith communities and schools - can be an effective way of contacting harder to reach groups.
- There is a very limited literature on how best to engage some specific hard to reach communities, such as Roma, where language barriers and literacy levels can raise issues.
- Gatekeepers have been identified as a useful way of accessing hard to reach communities.

If you are interested to hearing more about the Police Network contact Professor Todd Hogue – [Thogue@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:Thogue@lincoln.ac.uk)

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