



Intervention Evaluation—MutualGain in Durham Constabulary

Durham University has, in conjunction with Durham Constabulary, evaluated the MutualGain Programme (Cohort One) which commenced in 2014.

An initial evaluation carried out after the first intervention demonstrated a statistically significant increase in residents' perceptions of the “potency” of their local area; the confidence that their local community can solve problems themselves, and achieve high quality outcomes doing this.

The main driver for the significant changes appears to be the increase in social capital achieved ($p=.010$) This was evaluated using measurements that relate to communication and cooperation of residents to engage in collective action, and overcome problems in their community.

Comparison to control sites revealed the following reductions of ASB and Victim Crime:

	Area 1	Area 1 Control site	Area 2	Area 2 Control site
Changes in Victim Crime	-31%	+5%	-14%	+39%
Changes in ASB	-11%	+2%	-22%	-2%

Further longitudinal evaluation has now taken place on the two intervention sites. Headline results show:

- Incidents of anti-social behaviour reduced in both intervention areas – this reduction was not observed in either of the control sites; Statistical analyses of the survey data revealed several positive increases in project-crucial measures, i.e. social capital, social potency, police engagement and confidence. Positive increase occurred in both intervention sites
- Whilst several positive increases were found to have occurred in the control site for intervention 1, (K1Ec), the timings (i.e. positive results achieved at time3 to time4) for such increases were suggestive of intervention seepage or control site contamination rather than intervention failure within the intervention sites
- To summarise, the reductions in anti-social behaviour in conjunction with improvements in critical measures of the publics' attitudes and behaviours in both intervention sites, is suggestive that MutualGain was a success.

Some erosion of positive outcomes is indicated at time4 in both intervention sites; whilst this would be expected with a project of this nature, it is recommended that a refresh of the MutualGain training and/or philosophy takes place in both sites

References

- Ritchie, S (2015) Community Engagement, Democracy and Public Policy: A Practitioner Perspective. *Police Services*.
- Fisher, A; Phillips, J (2015) Quo Vadis: A New Direction for Police Leadership Through Community Engagement? *Police Services*.
- Ritchie, S; Fisher, A (2015) A functional shift: Building a new model of engagement. *Policing*. 9 (1): 101-114. doi: 10.1093/policefpav001

MutualGain in Policing

A New Approach to Learning

MutualGain brings the best of training, learning, and delivery together. Unlike traditional training where you might forget the difficult and challenging details of what you were taught when you go to put it in practice, we support you throughout and provide bespoke solutions to each area that you choose to focus on. So whether you want to better engage a geographical area, a community of lifestyle or background, or engage on a given topic (e.g. recruitment or victims), the process will be the same, but the support and knowledge taught, different.

What do participants say?

“As a former trainer at the Scottish Police College I can be fairly critical but I can't fault this. Good blend of facilitative teaching methods, knowledgeable instructor and a good level to pitch at”

“My personal view of MutualGain is it's a great opportunity for frontline police officers and staff to learn about and experiment with the delivery of new ideas of community engagement.”

“The inspirational manner of the speaker was motivating. I can see clear benefits to my day job”

“Many officers have engagement in their title or job description, but very few people have a sound understanding of the processes involved. More often than not, people do what has been done before as it is easy or what has always been done by an organisation.”

“We need this in recruitment training, and continued professional development – I've never had training like this – it's what policing is about.”

“We spend a lot of money on response policing after an incident, but it could be better spent in the long term to work on preventing it happening in the first place. I'm now working with people I didn't know to help reduce crime and ASB. I need to be doing this all the time”

For more information on our work with the Emergency Services, please contact our Lead Associate for Emergency Services, Dr. Andrew Fisher:

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