



MutualGain in Durham - Practice Note

This note summarises the findings from the MutualGain work carried out in Durham Constabulary during 2014. It highlights the benefits of a focused learning programme designed to improve levels of social capital in communities. The findings will be published by Durham University and will be shared with the Home Office and College of Policing to inform future evidence based practice (*it was a level four experiment on the Ladder of Evidence used by the College of Policing*).

Background to the programme

Using a three-year model, the programme is delivered in six-month blocks (two geographical areas per six months). This Practice Note refers to the first six-month block undertaken with Durham Constabulary, partners and active citizens.

The aim of the programme is to build a critical mass of practitioners who can act as a catalyst to increasing social capital in traditionally '*challenging*' areas, and to improve the way statutory agencies work with the public.

The Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (ODPCC) was specific in the challenge that was set for MutualGain and our programme with

“It is expected that Durham will see the benefits of the project within a three-year time frame.”

“The ODPCC wishes to adopt an approach which will encourage active citizenship and better relationships between our local teams and communities.”

Durham Constabulary.

Participants included a mix of police officers, PCSOs, partner agencies (Council and Housing), and active citizens from the two test areas. Each area had a control site to compare findings against.

All areas were selected by Durham Constabulary and the programme was independently evaluated by Durham University, who have been working with the force to better understand the drivers of confidence.

For more information on the intervention please contact susan@mutualgain.org or andrew@mutualgain.org. Our website has films which you may want to view at www.mutualgain.org



Results

What follows is a summary of the academic evaluation conducted using crime and ASB figures, and a survey of people in the areas where the MutualGain intervention took place (**and the areas where no intervention was delivered**). The survey secured a 12.7% response rate, which is considered slightly better than normal for the areas.

	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%

1. Residents views on the potency of their local area increased significantly ($p=.016$) which suggests that residents believe their area has higher confidence and can solve problems itself, and can also achieve high quality outcomes
2. Residents Voice behaviour increased between Time 1 and Time 2 ($p=.022$) which means they speak up and make suggestions to solve problems
3. The main driver for the significant changes appears to be the increase in social capital achieved ($p=.010$) This was measured using measurements that relate to communication and cooperation of residents to engage in collective action to overcome problems in their community
4. The measurements were:
 - a. Trust (feelings of trust, confidence and the ability to rely on other people – $p=.020$)
 - b. Information Sharing (levels of open and honest communication and willingness to share information ($p=.007$))
 - c. Vision (levels of shared vision and purpose and feelings of being partners in influencing the local area's direction ($p=.043$))
5. The evidence shows that when you increase social capital you will increase the '**area potency**' which will in turn positively influence NI21 indicators (Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police ($p=.019$))
6. The same can be said with performance: when social capital increases it drives the increase in area potency and has a positive impact on performance
7. Potency = 'voice', 'cooperation with police', 'life satisfaction' and 'fear of crime'