

**WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**17 JULY 2015**

**WEST YORKSHIRE FOR INNOVATION (WyFi) UPDATE**

1. **Introduction**

The creation of West Yorkshire for Innovation (WyFi) recognised the priority of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire to innovate and invest in the communities of West Yorkshire, now an integral part of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018. The commitment to innovate, raise income and invest in communities was made manifest by the *3i Strategy* (income, innovation, investment) launched on 21st January 2014 by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire and the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police.

The *3i Strategy*is designed to explore new ways to raise income, encourage innovation and to invest in communities. *3i* ensures that the Police and Crime Commissioner explores all avenues of revenue; maximises the community benefits from assets held on behalf of the communities of West Yorkshire and explores opportunities for encouraging innovation and increasing investment in communities, which is vital at a time when pressures on policing and community safety services have never been greater. To drive, develop and deliver the *3i Strategy*, WyFiwas formally established on 1st April 2014, bringing together teams engaged in grant-funded security research with income development to create a unique innovation team under the auspices of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

1. **Our ethos**

The development of a small, nimble, multi-disciplinary team dedicated to innovation is timely, being set against a back drop of significant institutional change, governmental reform and increasing complexity of the threats and risks to neighbourhood safety and national security. Recognising the holistic challenges to community safety, WyFi has developed a victim focused approach which is grounded in delivering advancements in community safety through increased collaboration with partners. Acknowledging that we are stronger when we work together, WyFi seek to bridge the **‘gap’** between the primary stakeholders for delivering safety and security which includes **g**overnment departments, **a**cademia and **p**rivate industry. By bridging this gap, the combined effect of increased collaboration ensures all parties bring their expertise to bear in concert with one another to deliver the priorities and outcomes of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018.

To ensure all collaborative activities of WyFi are focused and grounded in the operational realities of delivering improvements to community safety, our efforts are guided and measured by their **IMPACT** which includes;

**I***nforming operational policing policy, practice and procedure*

**M***aking a positive contribution to community safety with partners*

**P***ushing community safety practices beyond the current state of the art*

**A***nticipating new and emerging threats and risks to community safety*

**C***ontributing to the priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan*

**T***ackling the most pressing threats and supporting victims of crime*

1. **Innovation in policing**

WyFi understands that innovation in policing is defined as possessing three key qualities:

* **change** - involving some alteration to methods, delivery or outcomes;
* **original** - possessing some element of ‘newness’ in terms of the change introduced and;
* **programmed** - being purposeful with a defined objective.

Innovation in policing aims to realise a result and leads to solutions for problems or making use of new opportunities. Innovation can increase the effectiveness, the efficiency or the simplicity of our colleagues and partners work for the benefit of the communities we serve. Innovation also belongs to everyone: to the Police Community Support Officer working in the community, to the police officer on patrol or the crime investigator, analyst and to management and all partners. Innovation can arise within Neighbourhood Policing Teams, through interaction between colleagues in regional or national roles and may be top-down and subject to a strategic programme of change, or through technological or social developments, and may arise after the renewed consideration of an existing idea. Innovation may mean borrowing, adopting and adapting an idea, or the result of a long search for a solution to a particular challenge. Wherever innovations emanate, they are the responsibility of and a challenge for all police colleagues and partners but the development of WyFi now provides a dedicated team who can bring innovative ideas to operational reality.

Innovation in policing is a joint endeavour and requires creativity, which includes at least the ability to abandon certainties, to leave the familiar landscape behind and daring to question and to do things differently. For this reason, innovation in policing requires courage and confidence and the support of all leadership to encourage an environment where innovative ideas are heard, captured and are allowed to grow and flourish.

1. **Driving innovation**

Established as an engine room to drive innovation in policing, WyFi recognise that it is not just our outputs that must be innovative but the very way in which we conduct and carry out our business. To deliver efficiencies, reduce bureaucracy and invest in our people, WyFi form part of the agile working arrangements of West Yorkshire Police and embrace new communications technologies to enhance remote team-working. As WyFi is a small team, operating flat lines of governance and reporting directly to the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, our streamlined approach ensures we can dynamically respond and fully exploit new and emerging opportunities to drive income, innovation and investment.

1. **Neighbourhood to nation**

WyFi understands that threats and risks to community safety begin at the most local level and our support for victims of crime, developing safer communities and opportunities for local community engagement are the most important aspects of our activity. But in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, many new hazards have a trans-national dimension, being amplified by the Internet, online social networks and smarter mobile communications. To tackle contemporary community safety challenges, WyFihave adopted a local to global approach to ensure we engage in the co-production and knowledge exchange with national bodies and international partners to address challenges which impact upon community safety in West Yorkshire but which emanate from beyond our borders.

1. **Horizon scanning**

While WyFi dedicates itself to keeping communities in West Yorkshire safe today, we believe to provide safety for the public tomorrow we must better understand the threats and risks of the future in order to prepare and equip ourselves to meet the challenges which lie ahead. To avoid strategic surprises, WyFi actively engage in horizon scanning activities, providing a longer term radar seeking to identify new and emerging threats and risks by conducting ground-breaking applied research with multi-disciplinary partners.

Evidence of our local to global approach and collaborative ethos are woven through the very fabric of the projects and activities detailed in our first Annual Review which reflect the highlights of our achievements and progress thus far. The projects and activities contained within this review directly contribute to the priorities and outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan of West Yorkshire 2013-2018 by innovating and investing in the communities we serve.

1. **Supporting safer communities**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire established the Safer Communities Fund to help voluntary, community groups, charities and partners make their communities safer and feel safer. Grants are awarded to those applicants who reflect the priorities and outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018.

The Safer Communities Fund is financed from monies recovered by West Yorkshire Police under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002. POCA legislates for the police to confiscate or recover the proceeds of crime from a criminal. Money seized from criminals by West Yorkshire Police is fed into the Safer Communities Fund exclusively for local community safety initiatives. There has been unprecedented interest in the fund, with hundreds of groups from across West Yorkshire applying to receive a share of the confiscated proceeds of crime.

WyFi support the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire in administering and coordinating the activities of the Safer Communities Fund. WyFi provide screening and evaluation of the submitted proposals to ensure they meet the criteria of the grant fund and liaise with West Yorkshire Police to assess the impact of proposals on a local level in line with the priorities and outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018.

The Safer Communities Fund has provided support to local initiatives that are making a positive impact upon community safety.

**IMPACT:** The efforts of WyFi to support the Safer Communities Fund contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; preventing crime; safeguarding people against crimes; reaching out to people at risk; improving the quality of support provided to victims; and innovating and investing in our communities.

1. **Developing youth engagement**

To provide police officers, police community support officers and police volunteers with important youth engagement opportunities, WyFi have developed partnerships with Sport England and West Yorkshire Sport to support the development and submission of proposals to Sportivate who provide funding for groups of 11-25 year olds to take part in a 6-8 week course encouraging participation in sport, play and volunteering. Working with partners, WyFi has secured Sportivate funding for West Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams to undertake various projects across West Yorkshire providing valuable opportunities to address health, social and wider community engagement issues for young people and they include;

**Life Savers Project**

The Life Savers Project was led by Knottingley Neighbourhood Policing Team for the Wakefield district. A number of young people aged between 11-16 took part in 12 swimming sessions at the Knottingley Sports Centre. The sessions were delivered by a qualified swimming and life saver instructor, supported by police officers from Pontefract and Knottingley Neighbourhood Policing Team.

**Boxcercise**

In the Kirklees district funds were secured to deliver Boxercise classes delivered by a qualified boxing coach. The weekly 2 hour sessions were held over an 8 week period focusing on basic fitness and Boxcercise skills with input on diet and nutrition such as diabetes. A

**Exercise to Music**

In Boothtown, funding was secured to offer exercise to music instruction to young people in the local area. The aim of the initial course was to offer one individual the opportunity to progress towards obtaining a qualification in Exercise to Music from a sports provider. Now completed the course has helped an individual achieve a qualification in Exercise to Music through which further opportunities into exercising to music within their community beyond this initial course can be progressed.

**Karate for Inner City Kids (KICK)**

WyFi secured funding to establish 8 KICK projects across all 5 districts in West Yorkshire. KICK is a martial arts organisation focuses on reducing knife crime and gang membership through martial arts. KICK provide nationally accredited training and those delivered in West Yorkshire included elements of gang resistance education, advance martial arts and modules on drugs, and weapons awareness. The KICK projects have seen young people engage in 16 hours of sport and 8 hours of a nationally-accredited courses over an 8 week period.

**Futsball**

Futsal is a form of indoor 5 a-side football approved and endorsed by FIFA, UEFA and the FA. WyFi have secured funding to deliver two Futsal sporting activities for 8 weeks with young deaf adults and children and are the very first of their kind to be held in West Yorkshire.

**IMPACT:** The efforts of WyFi to deliver youth engagement opportunities contribute to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; safeguarding people against crimes; reaching out to people at risk; collaborating and delivering in partnership; engaging with young people; involving our communities and innovating and investing in our communities.

1. **Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. CSE is largely a hidden problem that can manifest itself in different ways, including the threat from opportunistic or organised online predators. There is a clear need for every agency with responsibility for children to work together to tackle this serious problem but also to understand more about the extent of CSE exploitation in our communities, its long term impact on victims and the effectiveness of prevention and intervention measures.

To develop our collective understanding of online CSE, and to provide tools to tackle online predators, WyFi have been successful in the submission of a multi-disciplinary research project to combat CSE online. Engaging Users in Preventing and Fighting Cyber Crime (UINFC2), is a two-year project which commenced on 1st December 2014, funded by Directorate General (DG) Home Affairs of the European Commission. The strategic aim of UNIFC2 is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among all major European Union stakeholders, Nation

**Supporting victims of human trafficking**

The trafficking in human beings is an international organised crime, with the exploitation of people at its heart. It is an abuse of basic rights, with organised criminals preying on vulnerable people to make money. In most cases, victims are brought to the UK from abroad, but we know that trafficking also occurs within the UK. Human trafficking is a significant emerging threat nationally and in West Yorkshire, especially around forced labour. The identification and support of victims, and the pursuit and prosecution of offenders requires a partnership response, with the police, local authorities, health, housing providers and third sector organisations playing a key role.

To support the victims of human trafficking in West Yorkshire, WyFi developed and designed the submission of a proposal to create a West Yorkshire Anti-Trafficking Network (WYATN) with the anti-human trafficking organisation Hope for Justice. Included in the proposed project was the provision of training for police and partner agencies designed to raise awareness of the early signs and indicators of human trafficking.

The WYATN proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Justice Competed Fund which provided Police and Crime Commissioners with an opportunity to bid for funding to support priority categories of victims of crime to help them cope with the immediate impacts of crime and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced. Bids covering specialist and innovative approaches to service provision were encouraged. The WYATN proposal was one of just a handful of proposals nationally that was successful and granted funding.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire has now joined forces with Hope for Justice to create and lead the WYATN which has brought together statutory agencies, including West Yorkshire Police, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to helping victims of trafficking in line with the Victims Code of Practice and the EU Directive on the rights, support and protection of victims.

Essential awareness training has also been provided by Hope for Justice to partner agencies, including to those working with victims. A specialist team is also being created to establish how victims can recover from trafficking, providing practical information such as advice on benefits, housing, educations, jobs and training.

WyFi continue to support the operational response to human trafficking, offering advice on the successful application and development of cross-border Joint Investigations Teams (JITs) across Europe, and facilitated and coordinated the specialist training delivery from national experts for sixty police officers and staff of West Yorkshire Police.

**IMPACT:** The efforts of WyFi to support victims of human trafficking contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; preventing crime, safeguarding people against human trafficking and modern slavery, reaching out to people at risk; tackling local, regional, national threats, risks and harm.

al Authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies and related bodies through the provision of a structured, analysed and correlated information process. UNIFC2 shall specifically seek to;

* Build and strengthen the capabilities of Law Enforcement Agencies to strategically combat CSE online
* Assist Law Enforcement Agencies in automatically detecting online illegal data from social media to determine investigative priorities
* Introduce the latest achievements of ICT in data mining, intelligence, correlation, classification, automatic monitoring, and decision making,
* Facilitate the formal exchange of information produced by intelligent analysis of online data to enhance collaboration and effectively counteract cybercrime
* Strengthen the mission of the European Cybercrime Centre by producing strategic reports on online sexual exploitation trends and emerging threats

The project proposes the design, build and pilot study of a multi-lingual software platform that supports Law Enforcements Agencies in combating online CSE through four primary methods.

* Providing intelligent analysis of the collected and maintained data regarding cybercrime events at EU level
* Performing automated monitoring and inspection of online content in social media and underground communities
* Producing automatic reports that give guidelines and evidences to Law Enforcement Agencies in preventing, investigating and fighting cybercrime
* Exploiting the databases of Law Enforcement Agencies and enabling users to report online cybercrime events

The UINFC2 multi-disciplinary consortium is coordinated by the Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA). As an end-user in the project, WyFi are to lead the police service requirements to inform the research. The first end-user requirements workshop has been conducted which validated and identified additional requirements of both citizen's and Law Enforcement Agents for effective reporting of online CSE.

**IMPACT:** The efforts of WyFi to tackle online CSE contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; preventing crime, safeguarding people against violent and serious crimes, collaborating and delivering in partnership, responding to national threats, understanding cybercrime, reaching out to people at risk; engaging with young people; and involving our communities.

1. **Tackling cyber-crime and cyber terrorism**

The growing role of the internet in society has opened up new threats and a growing number of criminals are using cyberspace to steal, exploit vulnerable citizens and compromise or destroy critical data. Cyber criminals can operate from anywhere in the world, targeting large numbers of people or businesses across international boundaries. There are crimes which only exist in the digital world, in particular those targeting the integrity of computer networks and online services but cyberspace is also being used to commit age-old crimes such as fraud on an industrial scale. The internet has provided new opportunities for those who seek to exploit children and vulnerable adults, providing new ways in which to exchange indecent images across the world. The internet has also changed – and continues to change – the very nature of terrorism.

WyFi recognise that cyber crimes are growing and to support our collective understanding of online threats we are actively engaging in a ground-breaking research project called COURAGE (Cybercrime and cyberterrOrism EUropean Research AGEnda), a European Commission research project funded under the 7th Framework Programme (Topic SEC-2013.2.5-1). The aim of COURAGE is to develop a Cyber Crime and Cyber Terrorism research agenda for the European Commission to significantly improve the security of citizens and critical infrastructures and support crime investigators. The COURAGE approach builds on three primary pillars as follows;

1. **User-centric methodology** to identify gaps, challenges and barriers based on real-world needs and experiences
2. **Analytical and semantic approach**, to deliver a taxonomy and create a common understanding of the subject with all stakeholders.
3. **Competitive and market oriented approach** to foster practical implementations of countermeasures using effective test and validation solutions.

COURAGE will obtain accurate, robust and validated user requirements which will be reflected on the research agenda and improve the participation of citizens in the sharing of information and by sustained focus against cyber criminals and cyber-terrorist activities. This agenda will be elaborated through a progressive and collaborative approach, consolidating contributions from the legislative, law enforcement, research and industrial communities represented by the COURAGE consortium.

Coordinating this two year project from 2013-2015 is the European Organisation for Security (EoS) who lead an internationally recognised team of experts and organisations who are able to draw together their insights into cybercrime and cyber-terrorism through established foundations of research and scholarship. The consortium partners represent leading centres of academic and industrial research as well as unique high-level security agencies tasked with securing cyber space.

WyFi have supported COURAGE by designing and delivering expert workshops to capture user-requirements and have presented COURAGE by invitation to the Director of the National Crime Agency Cyber Crime Centre and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead for cyber crime. The network of COURAGE cyber experts are providing advice and guidance to build police cyber crime capability and expertise.

**IMPACT:** The participation of WyFi in delivering project COURAGE contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; preventing crime, understanding cyber crime, tackling hate crime, safeguarding people against crimes; fighting serious and major crime, collaborating and delivering partnership and responding to national threats.

*To learn more about the COURAGE please visit the* [**www.westyorkshire.police.uk/smartcv**](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/smartcv)

1. **Preventing online radicalisation**

Of critical concern for the security of our nation and the safety of our communities is the way in which citizens are being influenced by the extreme single narratives of violent ideologies promoted by terrorist and extremist groups and individuals. This narrative, when combined with a complex malaise of social and economic factors, serves to manipulate some individuals towards extremist perspectives cultivating a home-grown terrorist threat which presents a clear and present danger to our free and democratic way of life. Understanding how and why people in our communities move towards extremist perspectives, and creating an alternative to allow them to resist adopting such views, remains the key challenge in countering the contemporary threat from terrorism and violent extremism.

The internet has changed – and continues to change – the very nature of terrorism and social media has unwittingly become a powerful ally for extremist organisations wanting to spread their message and build their following. High profile terrorist events can shift the dynamics of a community and may be used to fuel grievances and encourage support for terrorist or extremist ideologies but utilising the potential of social media to counter these negative influences is the primary aim of a new training exercise developed by WyFi with partners across Europe.

To tackle online radicalisation WyFi have led the design, development and delivery of SMART CV *(Social Media Anti-Radicalisation Training for Credible Voices),* an interactive community consequence training exercise for all police, partners and the public. Developed by law enforcement agencies across European Member States with the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme, European Commission – Directorate – General Home Affairs (Internal Security European Commission (ISEC), SMART CV seeks to share best practice and increase awareness of the use of social media to combat the radicalisation of individuals.

SMART CV is designed to utilise the potential of social media to counter negative online influences following a terrorist event, demonstrating how a network of online ‘Credible Voices’ within a community can help to prevent the radicalisation of others by combating misinformation and extremist messaging.

Following thirty pilot sessions in the UK and across EU Member States, and the European launch of SMART CV at Bramshill, College of Policing in June 2014, the WyFi team are now preparing for a national roll out of SMART CV to police and partners including charities and local community groups. Further afield, SMART CV is being adopted by other EU Member States and will be delivered globally by Hedayah, the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism as part of an international programme of preventative tools to prevent radicalisation.

**IMPACT:** The contribution of WyFi in developing and delivering SMART CV contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; preventing crime, safeguarding against violent and serious crimes, tackling hate crime, fighting serious and major crime, collaborating and delivering in partnership and responding to national threats.

1. **Tackling serious and organised crime**

Visible uniformed policing can tackle many forms of crime and offending but serious and organised crime requires a different response. Serious and organised crime is planned and coordinated by people working together on a continuing basis. The number of people acting together to commit serious crime and the links these crime groups have to drugs, firearms, fraud, human trafficking, and in some cases sexually exploiting children, makes serious and organised crime a real threat to community safety.

To tackle serious and organised crime, and to ensure police investigators have the cutting edge tools and technologies to detect emerging crime trends, WyFi are a primary police partner in project ePOOLICE (*early Pursuit against Organised crime using envirOnmental scanning, the Law and IntelligenCE systems).* ePOOLICE is a three year research project funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme security themed research (Topic SEC-2012.6.3-1), designed to meet the requirement of *“Developing an efficient and effective environmental scanning system as part of the early warning system for the detection of emerging organised crime threats”.*

ePOOLICE seeks to;

* Identify end-user needs and requirements by sharing tools and processes used in assessing emerging organised crime threats
* Develop an efficient and effective environmental scanning system as part of an early warning system, defining processes for the identification and prioritisation of indicators
* Develop dynamic scenarios based on end-user needs and requirements to validate real-world performance
* Evaluate trends and factors driving ‘future crime’ in order to identify potential ‘weak signals’ in emerging organised crime trends

Central to the ePOOLICE solution is the development of a system for the scanning and analysis of a stream of information from all relevant sources, including open source, police sources and public and government databases. The system will be capable of effectively analysing a diverse range of data, taking into account the expected reliability of the source, compatibility of information, traceability of the source and supporting a common, unified data model of ‘weak signals’ from the environmental scanning.

The ePOOLICE project is coordinated by Isdefe (Spain), who lead a strong consortium of organisations working within the organised crime domain across European Union Member States including the United Nations Interregional Crime & Justice Research Institute (Italy), Guardia Civil (Spain), the Study Department of Bavarian Police, (Germany) and EUROPOL.

**IMPACT:** The engagement of WyFi in project ePOOLICE contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; preventing crime, safeguarding against violent and serious crimes, fighting serious and major crime, collaborating and delivering in partnership and responding to national threats.

1. **Empowering citizens during crisis**

The public are under-utilized crisis responders; they are often first on the scene of major incidents, they vastly outnumber the emergency first responders and are also creative and resourceful. In a crisis, the public self-organise into voluntary groups, they adapt quickly to changing circumstances, emerge as leaders and experts and perform countless lifesaving actions; and they are increasingly reliant upon the use of smart mobile communications and online social media.

To empower citizens engaged in crisis events, WyFi are leading the coordination of project ATHENA, funded under the European Commission 7th Framework Programme security themed research (Topic SEC-2012.6.1-30), which shall explore how the huge popularity of new communication media can be harnessed to provide efficient and effective communication and enhanced situational awareness during a crisis for citizens and first responders.

ATHENA shall deliver two major outputs;

* A set of best practice guidelines for first responders and citizens for the use of new and emerging communications media, tools and technologies during crisis situations
* A suite of prototype software tools to enhance the ability of first responders and citizens in their use of new media in crisis situations.

ATHENA will help citizens by joining their conversations and adding an enabling voice, giving them the information they ask for in a way they can understand. ATHENA will assist the public in targeting their actions, by directing them to the places they need to be and away from danger while identifying emergent behaviour that is beneficial to the provision of support through emergency agency resources. ATHENA will create a fundamental and permanent shift in the way crisis situations are managed.

WyFi are leading a global consortium of fourteen partners during this three year project which provides a multi-disciplinary approach from across government, academia and the private sector and includes the United Nations International Organisation for Migration (Belgium); Epidemico, Childrens Hospital Corporation, Harvard University (US); Critical Incident Analysis Group (CIAG), University of Virginia (US), Research in Motion, Blackberry (Canada) and the Centre of Excellence for Terrorism, Resilience, Intelligence and Organised Crime Research (CENTRIC).

**IMPACT:** The coordination of ATHENA by WyFi contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; innovating and investing in our communities, collaborating and delivering in partnership and responding to national threats.

1. **Supporting innovation in policing**

The Home Office Police Innovation Fund invites Police and Crime Commissioners and Police Forces to apply for funding for projects which meet four essential criteria including:

* transforming policing through innovation;
* enhancing collaboration;
* delivering efficiencies; and
* being locally owned and monitored.

To support the development, coordination and submission of proposals which meet the essential call criteria, WyFi manage the bid development process, providing expert advice and guidance to ensure a suite of innovative and collaborative proposals are submitted in line with the priorities and outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-15.

During the period covering this review WyFi have supported the successful submission of sixteen projects to the Home Office covering a range of activity across the landscape of policing. A number of West Yorkshire proposals have been granted funding by the Home Office and they have included the following;

**Chemical Profiling of Fingermarks**

The *Chemical Profiling of Fingermarks* - *method refinement for operational deployment in casework* project was submitted by Yorkshire and Humber Regional Policing Scientific Support Unit, Sheffield Hallam University and the Home Office, Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST). The aim of the project is to translate laboratory and pseudo-operational profiling and imaging methodologies applied to fingermark analysis into protocols for operational use in casework. By deploying a proven and validated technology to operational casework for offender profiling, this project seeks to improve capabilities and operational effectiveness, increase the confidence of investigators and create a more robust Criminal Justice System.

**IMPACT:** The role of WyFi in supporting and coordinating the submission of proposals to the Home Office Police Innovation Fund contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; innovating and investing in our communities, collaborating and delivering in partnership and responding to national threats.

1. **Developing evidence-based policing**

To develop an increased evidence-based approach to policing in West Yorkshire, WyFi have supported the development of the N8 Police Research Partnership (N8 PRP) with University of Leeds to establish a northern hub of academic research excellence as part of a network of regional academic hubs to promote police and academic collaboration and innovation. N8 is a consortia of the eight research intensive universities in the north of England, established in 2007, incorporating the universities of Durham; Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Newcastle and York. To develop the N8 PRP WyFi have supported the University of Leeds in two key projects related to building capacity and knowledge exchange as follows;

**College of Policing - Building Capacity Project**

During 2014 the N8 PRP received grant funds from the College of Policing and WyFi has supported the University of Leeds in developing N8 PRP to provide a platform for sustained collaboration between universities, police forces, Police and Crime Commissioners and other agencies within the N8 region. As part of the initial project development, 8 thematic priorities were identified for research including:

* Cyber-crime
* Drugs and alcohol
* Serious and organised crime
* Domestic violence
* Public order & crowd management
* Critical incidents decision-making
* Partnerships
* Community Engagement

Evidence reviews and workshops for all thematic areas were conducted, culminating in a final conference at the University of Leeds. All learning materials from the project were reviewed by WyFi and can now be viewed on the N8 PRP webpage at [www.n8research.org.uk/research-themes/policing-research](http://www.n8research.org.uk/research-themes/policing-research)

**Economic and Social Research Council -** **Knowledge Exchange Project**

To build upon the foundations of the learning gained from the College of Policing Building Capacity Project, WyFi supported the development of a 1-year Knowledge Exchange project led by the University of Leeds. The proposal was submitted under the Knowledge Exchange Programme of the 2014 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and is a collaboration between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, West Yorkshire Police and the University of Leeds. The project proposal gained support from ESRC and commenced during November 2014. This collaborative project shall focus upon four key themes;

• Partnerships as dynamics of culture change

• Spatial analysis of burglary and shoplifting

• Community engagement

• Public order

Each of the four areas of research has police and academic co-leads and shall produce regular feedback and policy briefings outlining key findings. WyFi continue to support and contribute towards research projects with N8 PRP partners and the University of Leeds, including unique opportunities for student placements and scholarships.

**IMPACT:** The coordination of ATHENA by WyFi contributes to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; innovating and investing in our communities, collaborating and delivering in partnership and responding to national threats.

1. **Investing in people and partnership**

To develop a collaborative approach to address policing challenges of the future, WyFi have supported the development of the Centre of Excellence in Terrorism, Resilience, Intelligence and Organised Crime Research (CENTRIC) at Sheffield Hallam University. CENTRIC is a multi-disciplinary and end-user focused research network, located within the Cultural, Communication and Computing Research Institute (C3RI) at Sheffield Hallam University, providing a ‘think-net’ of experts across the world to address all manner of contemporary security hazards. The global reach of the CENTRIC network now links both academic and professional expertise across a range of disciplines providing unique opportunities to progress ground-breaking research. The initial research foci for CENTRIC includes:

* Applied knowledge management research in the security and intelligence domains with specific focus on terrorism and serious and organised crime
* Use of communication technologies, from surveillance systems to the use of social media, in the promotion of public order, and the avoidance and resolution of crisis situations
* Development of networks of expertise across Europe in issues of cybercrime, cyber terrorism, prevention of radicalisation and online Child Sexual Exploitation
* Opportunities for continued professional development, learning, knowledge exchange and investing in practitioners applied research skills for Law Enforcement Agencies and other security stakeholders

To develop the collaborative approach between police and academia, CENTRIC and WyFi co-produced a 6-month project proposal submitted to the Sheffield Hallam University Strategic Investment Funding (SIF). The successful proposal was designed to increase collaboration in police and security research between CENTRIC, West Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.An integral part of the project included the unique opportunity for police officers to be embedded within CENTRIC to progress an innovative programme of work and knowledge exchange.

The programme of positive outputs included the development of online content for public order and advance detective training; the development of university credited PG.Dip and MSc on public order; the submission of two European Commission security multi-disciplinary research projects covering community policing and the protection of critical national infrastructures; and the development of a business plan based on increasing capacity and capability of the police use of social media. The part-time secondment of police officers who worked within the CENTRIC team provided excellent professional development opportunities to coproduce research.

**IMPACT:** The contribution of WyFi in developing CENTRIC and progressing the Strategic Investment Fund project contributed to the outcomes and priorities of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 by; working together; investing in our people, collaborating and delivering in partnership and responding to national threats.

1. **International innovations in policing**

Innovation in policing is a joint endeavour and requires creativity, which includes at least the ability to abandon certainties, to leave the familiar landscape behind and daring to question and to do things differently. For this reason, innovation in policing requires courage and confidence but most importantly it requires collaboration with partners who share in the challenges of keeping communities safe.

In our increasingly interconnected and interdependent world many new hazards have a trans-national dimension and no one single police force can tackle the global reach or complexity of contemporary crime which impacts upon our communities. Reaching out to international police partners and sharing knowledge and expertise is therefore becoming increasingly essential to ensure innovations in policing in other jurisdictions is captured and where appropriate, are adapted and adopted to improve community safety closer to home.

To scan the horizon for new and emerging innovative approaches to policing, WyFi have developed a network of international police practitioners to support the delivery of the priorities and outcomes of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-18. These networks have yielded positive outcomes from two police innovation events as follows;

**Challenges and Innovations in Combating Urban Crime** - **United States**

A one-day conference, entitled “Challenges and Innovations in Combating Urban Crime” in Washington DC was comprised of an international group of government, private sector and academic leaders in the United States. WyFi were the only police team outside of the United States to be invited to contribute to the discussions and learning from this unique event. Participants included Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Assistant Director James Yacone of the Critical Incident Analysis Group (CIRG), Washington D.C. Chief of Police Cathy Lanier, Assistant Chief of Los Angeles Port Police Michael Hillmann, Governor and Senator Chuck Robb, Former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association Darrel Stephens. The meeting was coordinated by Critical Incident Analysis Group (CIAG) at the University of Virginia. The meeting’s mission was to develop an agenda of key issues in policing strategies that can be amplified by way of research projects, future conferences, and action programs. The discussion topics were identified using input from the participants and included; social networking in policing; human trafficking, safety and wellness of police forces and command and control during active shooter incidents.

**Police Innovation Coordination Conference - Netherlands and UK**

The genesis of the co-ordination conference held in November 2014 at the Home Office was the experiences of the Dutch National Police in transitioning from a number of regional forces, each with their own approach to innovation, to a joined up force with a common approach to innovation. The Dutch National Police had learned a great deal through this process and were now keen to extend the co-ordination they have achieved within the Netherlands to wider international co-operation with key partners including the UK. WyFi supported the Dutch National Police Innovation Brokers to establish attendees at the conference which included the National Crime Agency (NCA), Metropolitan Police Service, Kent Police, Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and the Centre for Applied Science & Technology (CAST) for the Home Office who hosted the event. The gathering of police innovators to exchange knowledge and expertise provides the foundations for a broader police innovation network.

The meetings of international police partners allowed police leadership to better understand the challenges currently faced by law enforcement agencies, to understand what work is currently being done in the area of police innovation, and to identify existing knowledge gaps in order to enhance law enforcement capabilities for the preservation of public safety.

**IMPACT:** The combined effect of the US and Netherlands police innovation forums ensures that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West and West Yorkshire Police have access to an international network of police innovators and subject matter experts to inform responses to current challenges. This work contributes to the priorities and outcomes of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plans 2013-18 by: working together, delivering together, tackling national threats, innovating and investing in our communities.

1. **Stronger together**

No single organisation can keep our communities safe form the complexity of contemporary crime, civil emergencies or other crises. We are stronger when we work together. Organisations working jointly with each other are a more powerful agent for change and we need to draw upon our collective strength to make a real difference to the lives of the people we serve.

This *Review* provides evidence of our innovative approach and collaborative ethos, reflecting the highlights of our achievements and progress thus far. The projects and activities contained within this review directly contribute to the priorities and outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan of West Yorkshire 2013-2018 by innovating and investing in the communities we serve. But it is not within the scope of this *Review* to raise awareness of all of WyFi activities and if you would like to learn more about WyFi, our current projects and future plans please contact the WyFi team. We welcome the opportunity to raise awareness of our activities, offer support, guidance and advice, share our knowledge and expertise and most importantly, identify new and innovative ways to work with partners to ensure that all of our communities across West Yorkshire are safer and feel safer in to the future.

To contact the West Yorkshire for Innovation team please e-mail: wyfi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk