



## Reducing the Impact of Serious Organised Crime in Local Communities

The Police Foundation and Perpetuity Research have recently begun a two year research project exploring the impact of organised crime on local communities. The project has been endorsed by the Association of Chief Police Officers, the National Fraud Authority (now part of the new NCA) and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

Information and knowledge about organised crime is hindered in particular by its difficulty to define, along with high levels of under reporting and the relative absence of data from victimisation surveys. Most importantly, little is known about the impact of organised crime on vulnerable people and local communities.

The project aims in particular to address this knowledge gap and help the police and its partners develop innovative and effective practice, which responds to local circumstances and addresses local challenges. The research is taking place in two separate police force areas, **Avon and Somerset** and **West Midlands**, who will act as case studies in this project. The key issues and main aims of the project are to:

- Assess and measure the harms caused by organised crime in local communities
- Evaluate the current enforcement model for tackling identified criminality, with a view to identifying effective new methods for reducing the harms
- Explore the process of how 'organised' crime and organised crime groups that impact locally are identified
- Assess the efficacy of current intelligence, its application and potential for improvement
- Explore the balance between enforcement, prevention, disruption and asset recovery efforts in tackling organised crime
- Consider the responsibilities of different partner agencies locally, regionally and nationally
- Gauge public awareness and involvement

Amongst other methods, the project will draw on a detailed analysis of local and national data, a national survey of police forces and interviews with key stakeholders, police officers, victims and offenders. Within our two case study areas, we are specifically looking to use existing datasets and information to inform our understanding of the scale and harm of organised criminality within these areas. Sources we wish to consider are local police force intelligence and crime data, information held by local authorities and other third sector agencies, and national enforcement, regulatory or victim support agencies.