

'Hidden' Crime Workshop with Victim Service Providers PCC for Merseyside



Overview

This event was organised jointly by MLR and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Merseyside - to provide a voice to service providers who work with victims and to gain an understanding of emerging issues of 'hidden crime' and the associated needs of service users and victims not in the system.

What we did

The half day event combined group work, pan-Merseyside perspectives (via presentations), and a networking lunch.

The workshop format was designed to:

- Reach services covering all aspects of victims' lives - not only those within the Criminal Justice System but a much wider group.
- Assess the needs of all victims, by including agencies dealing with victims who do not report their crime, to understand what might stop them reporting the incident.
- Consult organisations supporting victims from all walks of life, including at all levels of the organisation, to gain a full understanding of the strategic picture and reality on the ground.

The focus of the event was on what's hidden from commissioners eyes and crimes that are emerging – hidden crimes and emerging demand. This is particularly relevant given the recent HMIC '[State of Policing](#)' report, released in April 2017.

Outcomes & added value

The group work was structured around three rounds of questioning:

- From your perspective what are 'hidden crimes' at present? (and why are they hidden?)
- Where are the biggest gaps in service provision for victims of hidden crime?
- Who should be filling the gaps in service provision in future?

Themes that emerged include:

- The under-reporting of domestic abuse affecting male victims.
- A rise in financial exploitation / fraud affecting the most vulnerable, including the elderly.
- 'Cyber' / online crime provides unique and constantly evolving challenges.
- Causal threads include the 'toxic trio' of mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse.
- Gaps remain in cross-service communication, awareness and research.
- A need for more co-commissioning, co-funding and collective responsibility exists.

A 30 page report / Appendices brings together workshop feedback and post-event comments.



Taking this insight further requires a systematic review of both qualitative and quantitative local evidence. Feedback provided by over 50 attendees at the event is a valuable intelligence resource – to revisit in coming months, particularly when building a business case for service commissioning.

The presentation slides and supporting materials have been uploaded onto an MLR microsite [here](#)

More information

Contact **Michael Lloyd**,
Principal Researcher / owner.
michael@researchMLR.co.uk
www.researchMLR.co.uk

MLR>>

Michael Lloyd Research
& Associates