

All Wales Analysis Network (AWAN)

Newsletter –December 2008

Welcome

Welcome to the All Wales Analysts Network (AWAN) newsletter. The newsletter contains news of events, projects, regional activities, and other information beneficial to Network members.

Home Office Regional Research and Analysis Team news

The Regional Research and Analysis Programme has undergone a period of restructuring which has resulted in significant changes to the way in which the regional teams operate. We now have one Regional Research Team covering both Wales and the South West, the team comprises 4 staff and our current contact details are below.

Newsletter contributions

- Are you in the process of devising a piece of research or analysis and would like to share your experiences or ask other members advice?
- Have you recently set up a new website or found an interesting one that you think others in the Network would be interested in hearing about?
- Do you know of any innovative pieces of work happening in the region that would be interesting to others?
- Have you heard of any new or exciting research or analytical techniques that you would like to share with the Network?

We would like to hear more from AWAN members about the work you do. If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the newsletter, or if you have any suggestions for future topics, please contact the Research Team.

Contacts

Home Office Regional Research and Analysis Team (Wales and the South West)

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News

Evaluation of iQuanta training

In response to demand the Home Office Regional Research and Analysis Team recently held three iQuanta refresher training sessions, two in the Merthyr Tydfil Welsh Assembly Government Offices and one in Rhyl, for analysts and Community Safety practitioners. The sessions were designed to provide delegates with an update of recent changes made to iQuanta (since April 2008), and provided a step by step guide to the most frequently used performance monitoring charts in addition to the newly developed Diagnostic Data report (used by the Home Office to monitor PSA 23 performance). Feedback from these events was received from 24 of the participants and sessions were viewed positively with 16 attendees very satisfied and 8 attendees satisfied with the training they received.

If you are an analyst or practitioner working in the field of community safety and crime reduction and would like to set up an iQuanta account, or if you would like a copy of the slides used during the training, please contact members of the Wales Research Team using the contact details above.

Strategic Assessments

Following the completion of the first round of Partnership strategic assessments, the Home Office Crime Team held four Strategic Assessment Review days across the four police force areas in Wales. These events were facilitated by Geoff Berry, Home Office Regional Research and Analysis Programme advisor. The aim of the workshops was to provide CSPs with the opportunity to reflect on how they felt the strategic assessment process went in their CSP, to identify their strengths and also to highlight any gaps in order to improve the process for the second round. A summary of the issues raised during the workshops has been circulated to all delegates. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact one of the research team (see contact details above). Feedback received was very positive with 27 attendees very satisfied and 26 attendees satisfied with the event.

Additionally, the team has undertaken a review of the first round of strategic assessments from CSPs across Wales, and developed a feedback document to assist those involved in the second year of assessments. The paper, "The 2008 Strategic Assessments by Community Safety Partnerships in Wales: Feedback Document" has already been circulated to partnerships, but if you have not yet seen it, you can request a copy Wales research team. Two other guidance notes, drafted by research team colleagues based in Government Offices in the West Midlands and SEEL (South East, East and London regions) have also been circulated via AWAN, and are available on request.

Code of good practice for public access to local crime information for Police Forces and Authorities in England and Wales

This code of good practice sets out the minimum standards all forces will be expected to meet. Find out more at: <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/community-policing/code-good-practice-local-crime?view=Binary>

Crime Reduction Discussion Forum

The Crime Reduction discussion forum enables Community Safety Practitioners to exchange ideas and share expertise. More information can be found at: http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/discuss_index.htm

News

Health and crime data project

There is a statutory requirement under the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships for agencies to share certain sets of depersonalised data on a regular basis. One of these data sets is records of various categories of hospital admissions, specifically relating to the following relevant admissions:

- A) Assault
- B) Mental or behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use
- C) Toxic effect of alcohol
- D) Other entries where there is evidence of alcohol involvement

For each record, whatever information held about the admission date, sub category of admission and the outward part of the postcode (this includes the first part before the space) must be shared. Additionally records of admissions to hospital in respect of domestic abuse must also be shared (this includes whatever information is held in relation to the admission date and the outward part of the patients address).

This information is needed to inform the strategic assessments that Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) undertake on an annual basis. In order to facilitate the sharing of Accident and Emergency (A and E) data between CSPs and Local Health Trusts the Home Office Crime Team in Wales offered all CSPs and corresponding Health Trusts in Wales the opportunity to take part in a health and crime data-sharing initiative to reduce crime, particularly violence. Part of the process is to make available suitable anonymised data from Accident and Emergency Departments that may inform the work of Community Safety Partnerships in reducing crime. Five areas chose to take part (Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Merthyr, Bridgend and Swansea).

Funding has been provided to each of the Health Trusts to enable them to amend their existing IT systems so that the necessary data can be collated at the time patients are booking in to A & E. and training has been provided to A & E reception staff responsible for collating the data, and Community Safety Partnership analysts responsible for analysing and disseminating the results. Much of this work has been informed by the model currently in use in Cardiff, University Hospital of Wales overseen by Professor Jonathan Shepherd.

If you would like further information on the Health and Crime data project please contact Anna Clancy.

Passport to Evaluation

“Passport to Evaluation” provides guidance in relation to carrying out the evaluation of programmes and initiatives. It is available in hard copy or on-line at www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/passport_to_evaluation.htm.

The original guide was produced some years ago and it has recently undergone a re-write to bring it up to date with recent developments, to include additional examples and to broaden the subject matter. The final draft is currently being reviewed and it is hoped that the new version will be available before the end of the year.

The Effective Practice Database

Check out the Crime Reduction Website Effective Practice Database. This is a database can be searched in order to identify projects that have been tried elsewhere around the England and Wales. Find out more at:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/cgi-bin/epd/index.cgi

Analytical Networks

Association of Crime and Intelligence Analysts

The Association of Crime and Intelligence Analysts (ACIA) is a new resource for crime and intelligence analysts and researchers in both the public and private sector. ACIA aims to help its members to develop their analytical skills by providing a variety of networking, professional development and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Annual membership is £25 and members have the opportunity to:

- Become part of a wider analytical community
- Interact with other analysts with a wide variety of specialist knowledge
- Receive details of analytical vacancies with a variety of employers
- Enter national and international awards processes
- Receive advice from experienced analysts on specific problems
- Have their own knowledge and expertise recognised within the analytical community
- Receive information about the types of analytical roles that exist in other fields
- Access a members only area of the website, including interactive fora
- Receive and contribute to reviews of specialist literature
- Receive information about relevant training courses

Planned developments for the future include:

- Conferences, workshops, seminars and masterclasses
- An analytical journal
- Guidance on professional development, career paths and accreditation
- A searchable database of specialist resources
- An online library
- An option for personalised web space

ACIA is led by a Board of 30 UK practitioners including 12 Principal Analysts/Heads of Analysis from UK Police Forces & NPIA as well as private sector representatives. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.acia.org.uk>

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee

The Welsh statistical liaison committee (WSLC) promotes liaison and consultation between public sector organisations in Wales concerning data sets and statistical issues. The committee meets four times a year and includes members from across the public sector. It is jointly run by the Welsh Assembly Government's Statistical Directorate and the Local Government Data Unit. More information can be found on the Local Government Data Unit website <http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/WSLC.asp>

Social Research Association Cymru

This network supports social research practitioners and trainees from all sectors in Wales, as well as others with an interest in social research. Its objectives are to provide a forum for people working in a diverse range of settings to form wider contacts, exchange views and information, and pursue issues of common concern. More information can be found at: http://www.the-sra.org.uk/sra_cymru.htm

Conference Announcements

Stop Traffick 09: How can we tackle human trafficking?

4th March 2009
Central London

A one day policy conference: What does the Government's human trafficking strategy mean for you?
Register at: <http://www.connectpa.co.uk/conferences/humantrafficking/>

The Final Conference: 'Governing through Anti-Social Behaviour' ESRC seminar series

22nd April 2009
Kings College, London

This national conference will bring together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to explore and reflect upon the development, impact and future direction of anti-social behaviour interventions and the Respect agenda.

Newport Centre for Criminal and Community Justice fifth one day conference: 'Are There Links Between Drugs, Alcohol and Violent Crime?'

Friday 24th April 2009
University of Wales, Newport
Caerleon Campus

The conference will provide an opportunity to hear presentations and attend workshops by academics, policy makers and practitioners in this important field.

British Society of Criminology Annual Conference 2009: A 'Mirror' or a 'Motor'? What is Criminology for?

29th June – 1st July 2009
Cardiff City Hall
Conference website: <http://bscconference2009.glam.ac.uk/>

European Society of Criminology: 9th Annual Conference

9th – 12th September 2009
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Conference website: <http://www.esc-eurocrim.org/conferences.shtml>

Recent research

Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey: Supplementary Volume 1 to Crime in England and Wales 2007/08

John Flatley (Ed), Sian Moley and Jacqueline Hoare

This bulletin presents findings from additional analyses on perceptions of anti-social behaviour based on the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS). The full report is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1508.pdf>

Home Office Research Report 9: National and regional estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and/or crack cocaine use 2006/07: a summary of key findings

Gordon Hay, Maria Gannon, Jane MacDougill, Tim Millar, Kate Williams, Catherine Eastwood and Neil McKeeganey

This report summarises the results of the third and final sweep of a study to estimate the prevalence of 'problem drug use' (defined as opiate use and/or crack cocaine) nationally (England only), regionally and locally. The full report is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr09.pdf>

Home Office Research Report 10: Business Views of Organised Crime

Nick Tilley and Matt Hopkins with the assistance of Adam Edwards and John Burrows

This report presents the findings of a study commissioned to look at the harms caused by organised crime to businesses located in high crime residential neighbourhoods, and methods of measuring them. The report is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr10c.pdf>

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 14/08: Crime in England and Wales Quarterly update to June 2008

This publication provides a quarterly update to June 2008 of Crime in England and Wales, which provides the reporting of police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey (BCS) results. The report is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1408.pdf>. Also available is a statistical explanatory note on the principles for police recording of Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1408gbh.pdf>

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/08: Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales 2006/07

Kevin Smith

This publication presents figures for drug seizures made by law enforcement agencies in England and Wales in 2006/06. The full report is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1208.pdf>

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 13/08: Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey

Jacqueline Hoare and John Flatley

This annual statistical bulletin examines the prevalence and trends of illicit drug use among 16- 59 year olds (with a particular focus on young people aged 16- 24) resident in households in England and Wales. The report is available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1308.pdf>

You can register for email updates of the latest Home Office research publications at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/whatsnew1.html>

Research

Ministry of Justice Research Series 18/08. Early evaluation of the Integrated Domestic Violence Court, Croydon

Marianne Hester, Julia Pearce and Nicole Westmarland

This study provides a snapshot of the progress of the Croydon Integrated Domestic Violence Court pilot after 12 months exploring emerging issues and offering recommendations for policy and good practice. The full report is available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/evaluation-court-croydon.pdf>

Ministry of Justice Research Series 19/08. Piloting Penalty Notice for Disorder on 10 to 15 year olds: results from a one year pilot

Dr Juliana Amadi

This report provides an overview of the use of Penalty Notices for Disorder for 10- to 15- year-olds in six pilot forces between July 2005 and June 2006. The report is available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/piloting-penalty-notices.pdf>

Reducing re-offending- the Voluntary and Community Sector Contribution in Dyfed-Powys

Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services in Partnership with three County Voluntary Councils (Carmarthenshire CAVS, Ceredigion CAVO and Powys PAVO), supported by Dyfed-Powys Probation, Dyfed Powys Police and the four Community Safety Partnerships and funded by the Welsh Assembly Government New Ideas fund (2008).

This research project investigated the current contribution of voluntary and community sector organisations in Dyfed-Powys to the reduction of crime and explored the potential for this contribution to be further enhanced. The full report is available at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/dsjlg/research/reducingreoffending/report.pdf?lang=en>

Community leadership approaches to tackling street crime

Jenny Lynch (2008)

A review of whether the approaches taken to tackling street crime by a social enterprise in Manchester might be relevant to similar neighbourhoods in other areas. The full report can be downloaded at: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2203-crime-community-neighbourhoods.pdf>

Street policing of problem drug users

Stuart Lister, Toby Sedden, Emma Wincup, Sam Barrett and Peter Traynor (2008)

This report presents the findings of a study of street policing of problem drug users. The full report is available at: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2170-policing-drugs-crime.pdf>

Closing the gaps: crime and public perceptions

Bobby Duffy, Rhonda Wake, Tamara Burrows and Pamela Bremer (2008)

This report brings together the key evidence of the nature and causes of the gaps between actual crime trends and public perceptions. The full report is available at: <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/assets/reports/closing-the-gaps.pdf>

Upcoming events and training

Social Research Association Cymru training course: Questionnaire Design

ONS Newport, 11th March 2009

This one day course aims to provide participants with an understanding of the principles of good question and questionnaire design. It is specifically focused on paper self-completion questionnaires. The course is aimed at those relatively new to questionnaire design and also for more experienced researchers wanting to refresh existing skills.

Social Research Association Cymru training course: Quality in Social Research

Location TBC, 25th & 26th March 2009

This course is designed for mid-career and senior researchers and is intended to give participants a better understanding of what makes good quality research. If you would like to book this course, or for more information, then please email mark.roche@the-sra.org.uk

Social Research Association Cymru evening seminar: An update on 'A time to interview' survey contact data – a rough diamond

3rd February 2009, Ed Swires-Hennessey and Huw Jones, Local Government Data Unit

This seminar is an update of an earlier work entitled 'A time to interview'. This paper, originally written in 1992 illustrated the economic benefits to the research organisation from structuring the calling pattern of interviewers in household surveys and the difficulties it found arising from self-employed interviewers who chose their own working hours, regardless of the benefits that changing calling patterns would bring. This seminar updates on the earlier work and looks at additional information available on calling patterns from similar surveys undertaken in Wales.

Social Research Association Training Course: Approaches to Evaluation

22nd & 23rd of January 2009, London.

£330 for members, £390 for non members

This course will examine and criticise the main approaches used in evaluation, their relevance and applicability to different areas of policy and practice, and their implications for methods.

More information: <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/training/training2223012009.htm08>

UCL Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science one day course 'Understanding Hotspots'

January 20th 2009

UCL, Second Floor, Brook House, 2 - 16 Torrington Place, London, WC1E 7HN

This GIS-based course introduces intelligence/crime/community safety analysts and researchers to techniques for identifying and understanding hotspots and other geographic patterns of crime.

More information: http://www.jdi.ucl.ac.uk/teaching/short_courses/analyst_courses/neighbourhood_analysis_course.php

Future Events

Do you know of any conferences or seminars that you are attending or organising that you think may be of interest to other members? If so, please let the Research Team know and we'll add them to the Upcoming Events in the next Newsletter.

Also if you have any suggestions for topics to be covered at future AWAN events please get in touch.