

Victims' Taskforce – Research Work Stream

Current and new research of interest/relevance to the Victim's Taskforce

This short paper briefly sets out the research underway or planned as part of the Justice Analytical Services (JAS) programme that is of interest to the Taskforce.

1. Violence Research Programme

This programme is underway and will run to the end of 2020. A number of reports have already been published and a number are forthcoming or planned:

- **Recorded Crime in Scotland: Attempted Murder and Serious Assault, 2008-09 and 2017-18.** This research shows that the number of attempted murders and serious assaults recorded by the police is down by over a third. The driver of this change is fewer cases of violence between males in the west of Scotland, often involving relatively younger people (up to age 29) and the use of a weapon
<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781787818866>
- **Changes in the age and gender profiles of those convicted of different types of crime associated with violence between 2008-09 and 2017-18** This analysis shows that over the ten year period there has been a fall in convictions for all types of crime studied (including non-sexual violence, common assault and handling offensive weapons). In most cases the overall fall has been driven by a substantial fall in convictions for those aged 25 and under
<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/publications/agegenderprofiles>
- **Understanding the profile of violence in Scotland now, compared to 10 years ago - in terms of victims and perpetrators (forthcoming).** This report will bring together the latest data from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), police recorded crime, criminal proceedings and hospital admissions.
- **Taking Stock of Violence in Scotland (led by SCCJR)** - this report seeks to synthesise and present existing research knowledge about violence in Scotland, broadly defined, drawing on a range of quantitative and qualitative studies.
- **Mapping violence prevention interventions.** This report sets out the range of possible interventions identified in the research literature. This includes victims as one of the target groups, but not specifically related to victims' experiences of the criminal justice system
- **Qualitative research on repeat violent victimisation (to be commissioned)** - this qualitative study aims to developing our understanding of repeat violent victimisation that will provide an understanding of the short and longer term impact and help to improve service responses to support victims.

2. Restorative Justice

- JAS recently published a review of the uses of Restorative Justice (RJ) in other jurisdictions. Overall, the evidence shows that (RJ) can reduce the likelihood of further offending, assist people to recover from the harm of crime, and provide greater satisfaction with the justice process. It demonstrates that RJ can be, and is, applied broadly across different offences, offenders, and stages of the justice process.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/rapid-evidence-review-uses-restorative-justice/>

3. Rape and Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Pilots

- An improvement-focused evaluation of both these pilots will assist in developing a better understanding of how to obtain high quality, visually recorded evidence to improve rape complainers' and child witnesses experiences of the criminal justice process.

4. Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

The SCJS does have some data that might be of interest to the Taskforce. While the survey does not have lots of detail on victims' experience of each part of the justice system, it can provide data (broken down by victim/non-victims and by gender) on:

- the nature and prevalence of stalking, partner abuse and sexual crime
- police confidence and satisfaction
- confidence in the justice system, views on courts and sentencing
- experience of the criminal justice system, emotions, information and assistance
- some new questions in the survey on the work of COPFS
- civil justice
- why different types of crime are/aren't reported by victims

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2017-18-main-findings/pages/3/>

5. Second JAS grant call (2019-2021)

JAS developed a grant programme that ran from October 2017 to present. Two of the presentations on today's agenda were successful bids to that programme. JAS called for proposals from academics to grow the evidence base on people's experiences of the justice system. We have secured a modest amount of funding to run a *second* programme and are considering whether to develop this theme, or to choose another where we know there is a paucity of evidence. One option would be to develop the programme around any new research needs of the Taskforce.

Questions:

- What do members consider the research priorities to be for the Taskforce? And is new research required?
- Would members like to be involved in developing and delivering research for the Taskforce?
- Do members have research and/or analysis that the Taskforce would benefit from hearing, either from Scotland or other jurisdictions?

Justice Analytical Services
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